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## SUPREME COURT REJECTS APPEAL

## FROM CLERK WHO REFUSED TO REGISTER GAY MARRIAGE

Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis makes a statement to the media at the front door of the Rowan County Judicial Center in Morehead, Ky., in 2015. (AP Photo)

**James Esseks, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union said, "When you do a job on behalf of the government — as an employee or a contractor — there is no license to discriminate or turn people away because they do not meet religious criteria."**



## White supremacist group Proud Boys, overjoyed by presidential shoutout, rush to stamp Trump's remark on merchandise

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**W**hite supremacist group the Proud Boys pledged their loyalty to President Donald Trump after he told them to "stand back and stand by" during the first presidential debate Tuesday night.

During the debate against Democratic nominee Joe Biden, the president was asked by moderator and Fox News anchor Chris Wallace to denounce white supremacy, as Blavity previously re-

ported.

When attempting to respond to Wallace's question, Trump avoided denouncing white supremacist groups and instead gave a command to the Proud Boys, specifically, who have since embraced his comment.

Since Trump's command to the group, new apparel with the logo of the white supremacist group and "stand back and standby" are on sale at Amazon. According to Mediaite, the t-shirts appeared on the site Wednesday.



## CDC confirms that COVID-19 particles spread through the air

By Juan Ignacio Chávez  
Philadelphiaobserver.com

**T**he Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated on Monday that COVID-19 spreads through particles in the air and travels up to distances of six feet.

"CDC continues to believe, based on current science, that people are more likely to become infected the longer and closer they are to a person with COVID-19. Today's update acknowledges the existence of some published reports showing limited, uncommon circumstances where people with COVID-19 infected others who were more than 6 feet away or shortly after the COVID-19-positive person left an area," said the CDC.

This new guidance would have severe implications for political rallies, sports events, and concerts, especially "enclosed, poorly ventilated spaces that may contribute to the buildup of virus-carrying particles."

The fact that the same guidance was affirmed and then

disclaimed one month ago suggests tensions between Trump's administration and public health officials over how to address objective information to the public. At the time, a CDC spokesman had told the Wall Street Journal: "A draft version of proposed changes to these recommendations was posted in error to the agency's official website." Critics all around the country interpreted this action as the result of political pressure, which would be consistent with the policy shown thus far by the White House. The new guidance coincides with President Trump's hospitalization for COVID-19.

To this day, coronavirus has killed 210,000 people in the United States, as New York City sees a rise in cases. The CDC's new statement recommends caution and says that people "can protect themselves from the virus that causes COVID-19 by staying at least 6 feet away from others, wearing a mask that covers their nose and mouth, washing their hands frequently, cleaning touched surfaces often and staying home when sick."

## Most Americans say Trump acted irresponsibly, distrust White House on his health

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**T**wo-thirds of Americans say President Donald Trump handled the risk of coronavirus infection to others around him irresponsibly, according to a new CNN Poll conducted by SSRS in the days following the announcement that the President

Continued on page 7



## Sounding increasingly desperate, Trump attacks Black congresswoman at Minnesota rally

By Lauren Victoria Burke,  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

**A**s the 2020 campaign for the White House enters the final stretch, President Donald Trump is looking and sounding increasingly desperate.

After a debate performance featuring a call to supporters to go to the polls and observe followed by a backlash for not denouncing white supremacy, Trump's Republican supporters in the halls of Congress are increasingly concerned his presence at the top of the GOP ticket will impact the party down ballot.

The day after a debate he was roundly criticized for, Trump went to an old standby: Attacking African American women in positions of leadership.

During a rally in Minnesota on September 30, Trump said, "What is going on with Omar? I've been reading these reports for two years about how corrupt

and crooked she is. Let's get with it. Let's get with it."

Trump was referring to unverified claims linking the Congresswoman to a "ballot harvesting" scheme. A conservative website that traffics in conspiracies attempted to make the unverified information go viral on September 28.

Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.) said on Oct. 1st that she was not surprised by President Trump's attacks.

"This man is a white supremacist. It's no surprise that he has ideas of feeling that Somalis are worthless..."

We are very clear that in Minnesota, we are greater than hate. That is why he didn't win Minnesota in 2016," Rep. Omar said during an interview on MSNBC.

"Not only are Minnesotans welcoming of refugees, they have sent one to Washington to represent them. We are very clear that in Minnesota we are greater

than hate. That is why he didn't win Minnesota in 2016, and why he's not going to win Minnesota in 2020," he added.

Trump has attacked Omar before, along with Reps. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.) and Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.).

Polling in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Arizona shows that Trump is trailing Vice President Joe Biden. States such as Georgia and South Carolina, usually reliable for Republican victory, are in play with either Biden tied with Trump or only one or two points behind.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an independent journalist for NNPA and the host of the podcast BURKEFILE. She is also a political strategist as Principal of Win Digital Media LLC. She may be contacted at LVBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke

## Grand jury testimony from Breonna Taylor case released

Philadelphiaobserver.com

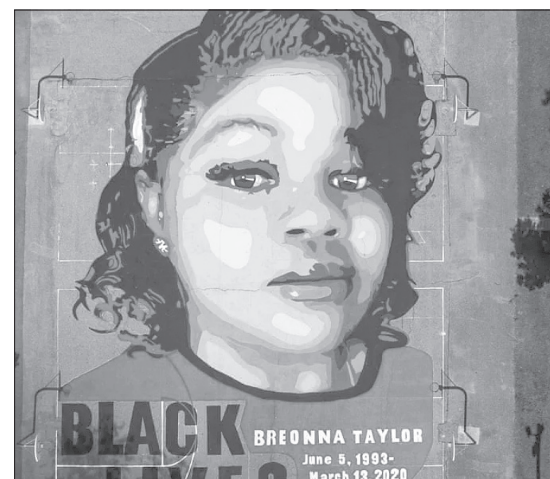
**A** court released more than 20 hours of recorded grand jury proceedings in the Breonna Taylor case Friday after a juror spoke out about the charges.

The juror, who prefers to remain anonymous, said Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron never asked the grand jury to consider murder charges in the case. Cameron announced last Wednesday that only one of the three officers who fired shots into Taylor's home would be charged.

Ahead of a noon deadline imposed by Jefferson Circuit Judge Ann Bailey Smith, Cameron's office filed a redacted version of the recording, blocking out personal information such as Social Security numbers. According to NPR, the redactions take up just under four minutes of the recording.

The recordings are sure to provide insight on what happened from a variety of different people who were at the scene the night of March 13. The recording will also provide insight into how Cameron came to his decision to charge only former officer Brett Hankison with three counts of wanton endangerment for shooting into the apartments of Taylor's neighbors.

The other two officers, Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly and Det. Myles Cosgrove, both of whom also opened



fire that night, were not charged. An FBI analysis determined Cosgrove fired the shots that killed Taylor, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron said on Wednesday.

Cameron said in a press conference Wednesday that his office believes the actions of the two officers "were justified in their use of force," because Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, was the first to fire. Walker told the police he fired first because he thought someone had broken into the apartment.

# Trump's Coronavirus arrogance, irresponsibility blamed for White House coronavirus infection of 15 people so far

By Hazel Trice Edney

**V**ice President Mike Pence meets with members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force, all unmasked, Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2020, in the White House Situation Room. (Official White House Photo by Delano Scott)

President Donald Trump has returned to the White House after being hospitalized at the Walter Reed Medical Center for Covid-19 infection.

Much focus has been placed on the Sept. 28 Rose Garden gathering where Trump announced Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his Supreme Court pick to succeed the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. A string of people who attended that event have been diagnosed with the coronavirus.

However, another event the very next day, hosted hundreds of people inside the White House East Room, might also have spread the virus from the Trumps to unsuspecting guests at the White House. A Black family, including the Gold Star mother of decorated Marine Capt. Jesse Melton, was in attendance alongside the unmasked Trump and First Lady Melania.

The mother, Janice Chance, chaplain and president-emerita of the Gold Star Mothers of Maryland, who attended the ceremony with other family members, declined comment in response to an emailed interview request from the Trice Edney News Wire. It is not clear whether they nor any of the families at that ceremony were notified about Trump's positive Corona test; nor whether anyone in attendance at the gold star ceremony were tested.

Since those gatherings, at least 14 people who either attended the Rose Garden event or have direct connections to Trump or the White House have tested positive for the virus. They include President Trump; First Lady Melania Trump; presidential aide Hope Hicks; White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany; presidential assistant Nicholas Luna; U. S. Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah); U. S. Sen. Thom Tillis (R-N.C.); U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wisc.); former counselor to the

president Kellyanne Conway; White House principal assistant press secretary Chad Gilmartin; assistant press secretary Karoline Leavitt; Trump Campaign Manager Bill Stepien, Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, and former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie.

As Trump left the hospital in the evening of Oct. 5 after a two-day stay, he sought to downplay the infection from the virus which has killed more than 200,000 people in the U. S.—disproportionately Black. Standing on the White House balcony, he appeared to ceremoniously peel off his mask and put it in his pocket. Despite his doctors saying he is “not out of the woods yet”, he later tweeted a video saying, “Don’t be afraid of COVID.”

Meanwhile, his re-election opponent Joe Biden continued to test negative for COVID-19. In a speech late Tuesday, he appeared to appeal to America to get back to sanity.

Reciting the opening words of President Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, Biden said, “He taught us this: A house divided could not stand. That is a great and timeless truth. Today, once again, we’re at a house divided. But that, my friends, can no longer be. We are facing too many crises, we have too much work to do, we have too bright a future to have it shipwrecked on the shores of anger and hate and division.”

Others were much stronger in their sentiments. In a video released Tuesday, former First Lady Michelle Obama referred to Trump’s “willful mismanagement of the COVID crisis.”

She accused him of “gaslighting the American people” and downplaying CDC guidelines for mask wearing and social distancing, “knowingly exposing his own supporters” to the deadly virus.

“Let’s be honest: Right now, our country is in chaos because of a president who isn’t up to the job,” Michelle Obama said in the approximately 20-minute video. “And if we want to regain any kind of stability, we’ve got to ensure that every eligible voter is informed an engaged in this electio



## Trump campaign wants ICE to prepare targeted arrests in ‘sanctuary cities’ before election

By Viviane Faver

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**A**ccording to three US officials who have described a plan with public messages that echo the campaign of law and order from the rhetorical president, US cities and jurisdictions that have adopted “sanctuary” policies may face an immigration blitz this October.

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation, known informally as the “sanctuary op,” could begin in California as soon as later this week. According to two of the officials, it would then expand to cities, including Denver and Philadelphia, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe sensitive government law enforcement plans.

Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, will travel to at least one of the sanctuary cities, which are places that do not cooperate with the federal government to deport undocumented immigrants.

This action would increase President Trump’s claims that the leaders of these cities have failed to protect residents from dangerous criminals,” according to two officials interviewed for the report.

Trump has inveighed against sanctuary jurisdictions throughout his presidency. He has expanded

those attacks to include Democratic mayors in cities convulsed by racial justice demonstrations and sporadic rioting after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. The immigration operation would sync with two themes of Trump’s reelection campaign: his crack-down on immigration and his push to vilify cities led by Democrats, whom he blames for crime and violence.

This action is just one of many Trump attempts to make arrests in sanctuary cities.

As the Post reports, the president once created a plan to transport immigrants from the border to cities like San Francisco and other Democratic-run cities.

And in another bold attempt to reach immigrant families, he struggled last year to run a “family operation” aimed at migrant parents with children, according to the Post. That plan ultimately did not yield the number of arrests that Trump hoped to achieve.

News of previous operations forced undocumented migrants in several cities to go underground, “fearing that they could be arrested and deported while their children – sometimes American citizens – will be left behind,” according to The Post.

Officials in sanctuary jurisdictions told the Post that their policies help “preserve community trust in immigrant neighborhoods.”

## Supreme court rejects appeal from clerk who refused to register gay marriage

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**L**GBTQ campaigners and legal experts have told of their fears and outrage on Monday after two US supreme court justices issued an “appalling” attack on the 2015 landmark decision enabling same-sex couples to marry.

It came as the court declined to hear an appeal in the case of former Kentucky clerk Kim Davis, who was jailed in 2015 after refusing to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, after gay marriage became legal.

Although supreme court justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito said they agreed with the decision not to hear the case, they said it was a “stark reminder of the consequences” of the court’s 2015 Obergefell v Hodges decision. Davis, they claimed, “may have been one of the first victims of this court’s cavalier treatment of religion in its Obergefell decision” and warned: “She will not be the last.”

In a scathing attack they said the court had “bypassed the democratic process” and left those with religious objections to same-sex marriage “in the lurch.”



“By choosing to privilege a novel constitutional right over the religious liberty interests explicitly protected in the First Amendment, and by doing so undemocratically, the court has created a problem that only it can fix,” they said. “Until then, Obergefell will continue to have ‘ruinous consequences for religious liberty.’”

Thomas and Alito, who are two of five conservatives on the nine-member court, also said it “enables courts and governments to brand religious adherents who believe that marriage is between one man and one woman as bigots, making their religious liberty concerns that much easier to dismiss.”

James Esseks, director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) LGBT and HIV Project denounced their comments.

“It is appalling that five years after the historic decision in Obergefell, two justices still consider same-sex couples less worthy of marriage than other couples,” he said.

“When you do a job on behalf of the government – as an employee or a contractor – there is no license to discriminate or turn people away because they do not meet religious criteria.”

He added: “We will fight against any attempts to open the door to legalized discrimination against LGBTQ people.”

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# Actor Thomas Jefferson Byrd, known for 'Clockers,' other Spike Lee films, dies in Atlanta shooting



**Philadelphiaobserver.com**  
**A**ctor Thomas Jefferson Byrd was killed in a shooting in Atlanta over the weekend. Byrd was 70.

The stage and film veteran was gunned down in a residential neighborhood on Atlanta's southwest side on Saturday, Oct. 3, Atlanta police said. Authorities responded to a call around 1:45 am Saturday to 2257 Belvedere Avenue on a report of a person injured. "Upon arrival, units located a male lying unresponsive at the location. Grady EMS responded to the scene and pronounced the male deceased from multiple gunshot wounds to the back. The victim was later identified as Thomas Byrd," the department stated.

Actor Thomas Jefferson Byrd — seen here in his best-known

role from the 1995 Spike Lee film "Clockers" — was shot and killed over the weekend in Atlanta. (Photo: @officialspikelee/Instagram)

"Homicide detectives responded to the scene and are working to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. The investigation continues at this time," a statement from the Atlanta Police Department read. A representative from the department also stated that all information is "preliminary in nature and could change as the investigation progresses or new information comes to life."

Fox News reported that they spoke with Byrd's friend and former agent Craig Wyckoff, who claimed that he was told by mutual friends that the actor got into an argument at a store before driving home. The person Byrd argued with allegedly followed the actor home and shot

him three times in the back.

Director Spike Lee paid tribute to the late actor on Instagram page over the weekend. Byrd appeared in countless movies from the Hollywood director, including "Clockers" and "Bamboozled."

"I'm So Sad To Announce The Tragic Murder Of Our Beloved Brother Thomas Jefferson Byrd Last Night In Atlanta, Georgia," Lee wrote alongside a still of Byrd in the film "Clockers." "Brother Byrd Also Did His Thang In My Joints-CHI-RAQ, SWEET BLOOD OF JESUS, RED HOOK SUMMER, BAMBOOZLED, HE GOT GAME, GET ON THE BUS, GIRL 6 And CLOCKERS. May We All Wish Condolences And Blessings To His Family. Rest In Peace Brother Byrd." Lee went on to share several more stills from "Clockers" featuring Byrd on Instagram.



## Attorneys for Breonna Taylor's family ask Kentucky governor to appoint new special prosecutor

**Philadelphiaobserver.com**  
**A**ttorneys for Breonna Taylor's family have asked Gov. Andy Beshear to appoint a new special prosecutor to reopen the case into Taylor's death.

Attorneys for Taylor's family also condemned Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron in a letter sent to Gov. Beshear, who they believe intentionally declined to charge the three white officers who fatally shot Taylor the night of March 13.

The letter was sent to Gov. Beshear a day after Cameron's office released 20 hours of grand jury testimony over three days on the incident. Cameron announced Sept. 23 only one of the three officers who shot at Taylor would be charged, but not for Taylor's death.

"Unfortunately, Cameron did not serve as an unbiased prosecutor in this case and intentionally did not present charges to the grand jury that would have pursued justice for Ms. Taylor," reads the letter addressed to Beshear and posted online by attorneys for Taylor's family.

In the letter, the Taylor family asks for 10,000 signatures in support of the request and as of Sunday afternoon more than 7,800 people have signed.

"It is past time for Louisville's and Kentucky's leaders to honor the value of her life by holding

those responsible for her death accountable," the letter states.

Beshear has not responded to the letter as of Monday.

Officer Brett Hankison has been charged with three counts of wanton endangerment in the first degree. Each count carries a maximum of five years in prison. The other two officers, Sgt. Jonathan Mattingly, who fired six shots into the apartment and Myles Cosgrove, who fired 16 shots including the fatal shot, were not charged because Taylor's boyfriend Kenneth Walker admitted he fired the first shot at officers, when he believed they were intruders who broke in.

Several organizations came out against Cameron's decision to only charge one officer including the NAACP, ACLU and Color of Change.

"When a Kentucky grand jury failed to charge Louisville officers for the murder of Breonna Taylor, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron was quick to absolve himself. Local and national activists demanded accountability and transparency from his office, but Attorney General Cameron insisted that the decision rested with the grand jury and was completely out of his hands," Scott Roberts, senior director of Criminal Justice Campaigns at Color Of Change said in a statement.

## Survivor of 1963 KKK church bombing seeks compensation from state, Alabama Governor apologizes

**Philadelphiaobserver.com**

**S**arah Collins Rudolph was 12-years-old when Ku Klux Klan members bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Alabama on Sept. 15, 1963, killing her sister, and three other Black girls.

Rudolph "never received an apology, support, medical care, counseling or any kind of help or acknowledgement from the state for her injuries," her lawyers said in a letter to Gov. Kay Ivey.

The letter notes that at the time of the bombing, state officials and segregationist Gov. George Wallace, "played an undisputed role in encouraging its citizens to engage in racial violence, including the violence that stole the lives of four little girls, and irreparably injured a fifth."

The letter adds that Collins Rudolph "has born the burdens of the bombing for virtually her entire life, and we believe her story presents an especially meritorious and unique opportunity for the State of Alabama to right the wrongs

that its past leaders encouraged and incited."

\*Sarah Collins Rudolph was 12-years-old when Ku Klux Klan members bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Alabama on Sept. 15, 1963, killing her sister, and three other Black girls.

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encouraged and incited."

On Wednesday, Gov. Ivey apologized to Collins Rudolph in a letter sent to her lawyers, and welcomed negotiations as Collins Rudolph seeks compensation from the state. Ivey offered a "sincere, heartfelt apology" for the "racist, segregationist rhetoric used by some of our leaders during that time."

Ivey acknowledged that Collins Rudolph and the four other girls "suffered an egregious injustice that has yielded untold pain and suffering over the ensuing decades."

"It would seem to me that beginning these conversations — without prejudice for what any final outcome might produce but with a goal of finding mutual accord — would be a natural extension of my Administration's ongoing efforts to foster fruitful conversations about the all-too-difficult — and sometimes painful — topic of race, a conversation occurring not only in Alabama but throughout America," Ivey wrote.



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# Editorial - Opinion

## Myths and lies about poverty



By Jesse Jackson

“The poor will always be with us,” say the cynics.

No doubt, some will always be wealthier than others. We wouldn't want to live in a society that forced all to be equal. But poverty isn't inevitable. The 30 million people in America who lived in poverty even before the

pandemic when unemployment was at record lows needn't exist in that state.

Too many myths and lies cloud our understanding of the poor. Most poor people are not Black. More are White than black, female than male, young than old. More have a high school education. Some graduate.

Poverty in America used to be far worse; about a third of Americans lived in poverty in the 1950s. Poverty was reduced, dramatically, by Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. The war on poverty was defeated not by poverty, but by the war in Vietnam, which sapped resources, attention and will. Most poor people work when they can. They take the early bus. They do the hardest jobs for the least amount of money.

They bear the most amount of stress. They care for the children of others. They tend to the sick. They serve food in restaurants. They sweep the streets. They clean bedpans beneath hospital beds that they cannot lie in when they get sick. Many are essential workers who are at greater risk in the pandemic.

When the pandemic forced the economy to shut down, millions lost their jobs — and their health

care at work, if they had any. Over 30 million still draw unemployment, with over a million new applicants each week as companies continue to lay off workers. Many more children are hungry. Public policy — the “stimulus checks,” the enhanced unemployment insurance, the expansion of food stamps (SNAP), the partial moratorium on evictions and foreclosures, the aid to businesses if they kept their employees on payroll — saved millions from poverty.

Now those benefits have expired, but the unemployment remains high. Many companies are declaring bankruptcy. Many are slashing payrolls with permanent, not temporary layoffs. Again, public policy could help. The House passed another rescue package — the HEROES ACT — that would provide another round of stimulus checks, sustain enhanced unemployment benefits, continue the expanded food stamps, extend the payroll protection subsidies and provide aid to states and localities to avoid the layoffs of millions of public employees. The Republican Senate refused to act — and refused to compromise. Senate leader Mitch McConnell put together a \$1 trillion alternative but didn't even try to get his members

to support it. Twenty Republican senators opposed doing anything.

The nonpartisan Urban Institute noted that a second round of stimulus checks alone would keep 8.3 million people out of poverty from August to December. The extension of enhanced unemployment benefits would keep 3.6 million out of poverty. The continuation of food stamp expansions would keep about 1.7 million out. If all three were enacted, 12.2 million people would be kept out of poverty for the rest of the year. Mitch McConnell refused to act.

Donald Trump, the great “deal maker,” refused even to get involved. After the benefits expired, McConnell finally decided to pass a bill out of the Senate, but his Republican colleagues would support only about \$300 billion in new money for a bill that did not include the stimulus checks, did not include the SNAP benefits and limited unemployment assistance to \$300 a week, half of what it was in the first rescue package. They voted to put millions of Americans into poverty. Public policy matters. We could eliminate poverty in this country with sensible policy.

Raise the minimum wage to a living wage; empower workers to

organize and negotiate a fair share of the profits they help to produce. Guarantee affordable health care for all. Provide affordable housing for all. Provide high-quality pre-K and quality education for all. Add a jobs guarantee, so that instead of forcing workers onto unemployment when the economy slows or their company goes belly up, they can move to a public job doing work that is necessary — from retrofitting buildings for solar heating to caring for our public parks to providing care for the elderly and more.

Let's not fool ourselves. America has millions of people in poverty because Americans choose not to demand the policies that would lift them out of poverty. Because corporate CEOs choose profits and bonuses over fair pay for their workers. Because small-minded legislators are more responsive to those who pay for their party than those who are in need. This isn't complicated. The recent decision to block action on a second rescue package is a decision to increase the number of Americans in poverty, the number of children who go hungry. The Bible teaches we will be judged by how we treat the “least of these.” We should shudder at that judgment.

## Campaign's “deterrence” strategy should motivate every Black American to vote in defiance



By Marc H. Morial

“Yet the harsh fact is that in many places in this country men and women are kept from voting simply because they are Negroes. Every device of which human ingenuity is capable has been used to deny this right. The Negro citizen may go to register only to be told that the day is wrong, or the hour is late, or the official in charge is absent. And if he persists, and if

he manages to present himself to the registrar, he may be disqualified because he did not spell out his middle name or because he abbreviated a word on the application. And if he manages to fill out an application, he is given a test. The registrar is the sole judge of whether he passes this test. He may be asked to recite the entire Constitution or explain the most complex provisions of State law. And even a college degree cannot be used to prove that he can read and write. For the fact is that the only way to pass these barriers is to show a white skin.” — President Lyndon Baines Johnson, 1965

Deterrence: the action of discouraging an action or event through instilling doubt or fear of the consequences.

In 2016, the Trump campaign sorted millions of voters in 16 key battleground states into categories, also described as ‘audiences,’

so they could then be targeted with tailored ads on Facebook and other platforms.

Black voters were sorted into a category titled “Deterrence.” These were the people the campaign wanted to keep from voting, according to Britain's Channel 4 News. Facebook was flooded with negative ads, targeted specifically at Black audiences, designed to keep them at home on Election Day.

Efforts to keep Black Americans from voting are nothing new, of course. For most of the century and a half since the Fifteenth Amendment declared the right to vote “shall not be denied on account of race,” the right to vote consistently has been denied on account of race.

Nor is it breaking news that social media was a key tool used to suppress the Black vote in 2016. The largest part of Russia's disin-

formation campaign was aimed at demoralizing and discouraging African Americans from voting, as the National Urban League's State of Black America® detailed last year.

But the Channel 4 investigation revealed that overt contempt for Black voters was not just an undercurrent in the 2016 presidential race, but a key component of a one campaign's official strategy.

The revelation should impel every Black American to vote with might and main.

“Deterrence” belongs on the same ash heap of history as the poll tax, literacy tests, and the “Southern Strategy,” along with other shameful voter suppression tactics still in use such as restrictive voter-ID laws, excessive purges of voter rolls, and the rampant shutdown of polling places in Black neighborhoods.

When President Trump urged

his supporters during Tuesday's debate “go into the polls and watch very carefully,” he was alluding to the expiration of a consent decree that has protected voters from intimidation at the polls since 1982. The decree was enacted after Democrats sued the Republican National Committee for sending off-duty law enforcement officers as “ballot security” to New Jersey polling places in Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. A Trump campaign official was recorded last year saying the expiration of the consent decree was a “huge, huge, huge, huge deal” for the campaign's election day operations in Wisconsin.

If you see intimidating behavior at the polls, report it (866-OUR-VOTE). Then vote. If you see a negative Facebook ad, research the truth. Then vote. Don't allow any campaign to put you in a box marked “Deterrence.”

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# Judge suspends TikTok ban in the US, for now

By Joséphine Li

Newyorkbeacon.com  
On September 27, Federal Judge Nichols partially granted the request from TikTok for a temporary injunction against a push by the Trump administration to ban the app in the US.

The court drama on September 27, with the ruling landing mere hours before the ban was to take effect, was a new chapter in a protracted saga still without a clear ending. But as things stand, TikTok will not be kicked off of US app stores, at least not yet.

The attorney representing TikTok, John Hall, said during an emergency hearing on the morning of September 27 that the ban would have been an "extraordinary action" at the very time when the need for open, free and accessible communication in America is at its peak.

Meanwhile, government lawyers argued at the hearing that TikTok is owned by a Chinese company and represented a danger to US national security. Due

to the fact that the app's parent company, ByteDance, is based in Beijing, China. The Trump administration has said the app's US user data could end up in the hands of the Chinese government. TikTok has denied this possibility and has claimed that it keeps US data stateside, with a backup in Singapore.

During the emergency hearing, Judge Nichols indicated that the Trump administration's ban could be considered a "fairly severe deprivation" of the company's due process rights. However, the situation still remains unclear since Judge Nichols's opinion was issued under seal.

On September 27, Judge Nichols asked both sides to propose a timeline for more detailed arguments. His exact reasoning for the order is not public, which means the courts could also ultimately side with the government and allow the ban to move forward.

The Commerce Department announced earlier this month that TikTok would be banned on September 20, and further restrictions

would be imposed on November 12 — a full ban rendering the app unusable for US users if an American deal for TikTok isn't completed by then.

The Commerce Department delayed the initial deadline last weekend after President Trump gave his preliminary approval to an agreement that involved TikTok, ByteDance, Walmart and Oracle. The pending deal was intended to address Trump's national security concerns about the app and give at least partial ownership of TikTok to American companies and investors.

TikTok said in a statement that it was pleased with the verdict — "We will continue to defend our rights for the benefit of the community and our employees." The company also expressed that it would continue to consult with the government on the matter.

The Commerce Department said on September 27 that it would comply with the ban, but adding that its order was fully in line with the law and promotes legitimate national interests.

## US ELECTION: 11/3

Donald Trump is literally on steroids and American life will not be that much fun before November 3. On 9/29, the night of the first Presidential debate, he invited The Proud Boys, an acknowledged white supremacist group "to stand back and stand by, polling sites" on 11/3! The debate was chaotic, its message shameful, an ill omen. That invitation came a few days before Trump learned that he was COVID positive, required hospitalization, and was officially put on steroids which most thought that he was on for decades. Back at the White House after a 3-day stay at the Walter Reed Medical Center, removed his face mask and he returned to work with a vengeance. He is ready for the Town Hall Second Debate with Joe Biden next week in Miami absence. He is still in COVID no man's land on steroids, usually assigned to people with serious COVID afflictions. Steroids often work on some people like psychotropics.

The COVID incubation period is 5 -7 days. Everyone believes that he bullied the doctors into discharging his. Yes, he is COVID spreader and White House staffers are succumbing to the dreaded virus. On January 20, 2009, Mitchell McConnell vowed to make President Barack Obama a one-term president. Now it's time to make Trump a one-term president even though he insists that he would contest a close election.

Will the South pivot blue in this year? It has been a while since the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. It takes 270 electoral college votes to win the US presidency.

The 15 battle ground states include AZ, FL, GA, IA, ME, MI, MN, NE, NV, NH, NC, OH, PA, TX, WI. The states African American voters will make a difference are FL, GA, MI, NC, PA and WI. Harris has an special appeal to Asian American voters.

US SENATE: Dems need three seats to flip the US Senate. In South Carolina, incumbent Senator Lindsey Graham faces stiff competition from Democratic opponent African opponent Jaime Harrison. Early October polls show them 48 -48%. Harrison, a Jim Clyburn mentee is a campaign money magnet. Mississippi-African American Mike Espy is in a close race (1%) with Senate GOP incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith who will not debate him. Espy campaign coffers are full. When he



Mike Espy

wins, he will be the first Black Senator from MI since Reconstruction.

The US Senate should be focused on approval of a new coronavirus stimulus package to provide immediate economic relief to millions of Americans. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is ready to make \$2+ trillion stimulus deal.

SCOTUS: The US Senate, however, is preoccupied with Supreme Court confirmation proceedings for Amy Coney Barrett, the late Justice Ruth Ginsburg successor. Two of the three GOP Senators, who are on the judicial committee, are in quarantine and unable to vote. Why the rush? Will SCOTUS be involved in post election challenges? Two of the three GOP Senators who are on the judicial committee, are in quarantine and unable to vote.

NY: The Wall Street Journal reports that Fri 10/ 9 is NY voter registration deadline and more than 430, 000 young eligibles have not signed up. It is part of a 2020 national trend owing to COVID19, eco crisis, and national protests. Most Americans register to vote with Dept. of Motor Vehicles ID. More than 700,000 New Yorkers do not have DMV- issued ID. Check with your non-campus bound college students about voter registration.

BLACK AMERICA: The Higher Heights For America, a Black PAC which works to support more progressive Black women to political office, has endorsed the Biden Harris ticket.....BET founder/serial entrepreneur Bob Johnson says that he will support Trump's re-election bid, allowing that he would "favor the devil he knows."

Americans' first October surprise was the story about Trump being infected by COVID. Media has no memory of his underlying conditions, hypertension, cholesterol and obesity. Hold on there's more surprises this October. Perhaps, Cassandra can predict the post 11/3 outcome. Do you remember a prediction in this column in 11/2016?

Stay tuned!

## Most Americans say Trump acted irresponsibly, distrust White House on his health

From page 2

had contracted the virus that has disrupted everyday life for millions of people for more than half a year.

With Trump hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, 69% of Americans said they trusted little of what they heard from the White House about the President's health, with only 12% saying they trusted almost all of it.

Disapproval of the President's handling of the coronavirus outbreak stands at a new high in the survey, with 60% saying they disapprove. Additionally, 63% say his own infection is unlikely to change anything about the way that he

handles the pandemic.

Questions about Trump's coronavirus diagnosis were added to a survey already in progress on Friday.

Overall, Trump's approval rating in the poll stands at 40% approve to 57% disapprove. Disapproval is up from 53% in early September.

About a third (32%) say they are concerned about the government's ability to operate while Trump is ill, with concern higher among Democrats (48% very or somewhat concerned) than independents (30%) or Republicans (15%). Most, 62%, say Vice President Mike Pence is qualified to handle the presidency should that become necessary, while 35% think he is not.

Those views are also sharply

divided by party. While 93% of Republicans consider Pence qualified to handle the presidency, only 38% of Democrats agree.

The view that Trump acted irresponsibly regarding the risk of coronavirus to others around him cuts across most demographic lines and is particularly strong among several groups whose support could be critical to Trump's re-election bid. Among women, 72% say Trump acted irresponsibly. That stands at 66% among those 65 and older as well as among independents, and 65% among Whites with college degrees. The President's supporters (79%) and Republicans (76%) are about the only groups among which a majority say Trump acted responsibly.

## Court orders Trump administration to extend census count through October 31

By JayJuan Jones

The Trump administration has been ordered to continue the 2020 Census count through October. The administration previously planned to end the count earlier than scheduled due to cited concerns about COVID-19 delays. However, on Thursday a federal judge in California ruled that the administration's revised plan would not solve any delays and instead would result in an inaccurate census count.

The U.S. Census Bureau, which is directed by President Trump's appointee, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, announced in an August 3 press release that it would

be ending the census count by September 30—a month earlier than originally scheduled.

"We will end field data collection by September 30, 2020. Self-response options will also close on that date to permit the commencement of data processing," said the press release. "Under this plan, the Census Bureau intends to meet a similar level of household responses as collected in prior censuses, including outreach to hard-to-count communities."

The revised plan would have closed census operations by September 30 and population numbers for apportionment of funds and resources would be sent to the President by December 31. Under

the Court's Order, the census count will now continue through October 31 and its data processing will continue under a timeline that will allow full counting and reporting of the total population to the President.

District Judge Lucy H. Koh issued her ruling after hearing the arguments in National Urban League et al. v. Wilbur L. Ross Jr. This lawsuit was filed by civil rights groups, civil organizations, and tribal and local governments on August 18 in order to block the administration's attempt to end census counting earlier.

According to the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the plaintiffs sought to stop the administration's revised plan

of the Census Bureau to shorten the 2020 count in the middle of a pandemic. The court had already issued a temporary restraining order to prevent the administration from shutting down its census operations until this ruling last Thursday.

Lawyers' Committee President/CEO Kristen Clarke issued a statement applauding the judges decision: "The court's decision ensures that our underrepresented and most vulnerable communities will not be disadvantaged by an unfair and incomplete census count. With this directive, the Trump administration was attempting to fan the flames of racial division, further divide our country and exclude communi-

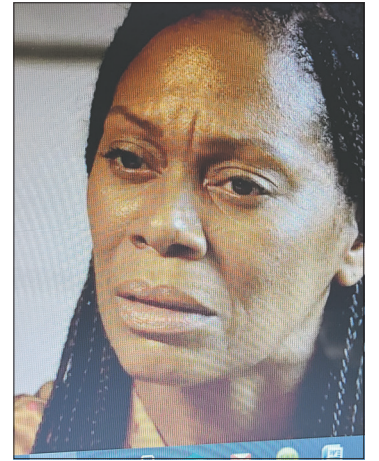
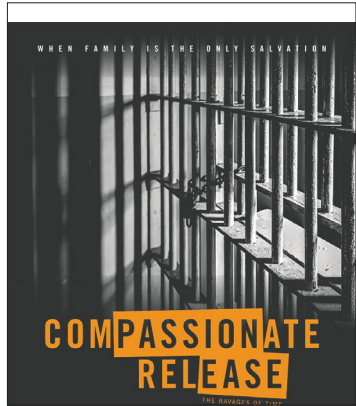
ties of color from the final enumeration. The court's decision repudiates the 11th hour actions of the Trump administration and makes clear that our democracy turns on achieving a full and fair count of all people across our nation."

Many in opposition to the administration's timeline revisions argued that such seemingly last minute changes were an attempt to fan the flames of racial division and further divide the country. Though that may be a potential result in some individual's view this ruling advocates for democracy and allows for, as any extensions to census counting could, full and fair count of all people across our nation.

# Folks!

By Audrey J. Bernard

## 'Compassionate Release' is a life changing must-see film



From Up The Road Films comes **Lynn Dow's** poignant film "Compassionate Release" about a program that enables elderly and terminally ill inmates to obtain parole. The objective is to expedite medical treatment that meets accepted standard of care in the community.

The story centers on Janet and Jasmine who are inseparable twin sisters raised in a loving home until their father dies. Their mother, Carol, is left with the responsibility of sole provider. Carol takes a part-time job to send Janet to a prestigious university, while her sister, Jasmine, falsely confesses to a petty crime she did not commit in order to spare her boyfriend the long sentence mandated

for a repeat offender. Rather than getting a slap on the wrist, Jasmine is charged, found guilty, and imprisoned. There, Jasmine develops rapidly progressing kidney failure and becomes terminally ill.

Carol and Janet fight to bring Jasmine home, so she can be surrounded by those who love her. Once self-involved and obsessed with her own path, Janet leans in and responds to

the inextricable bond between twins as she dedicates herself to freeing Jasmine.

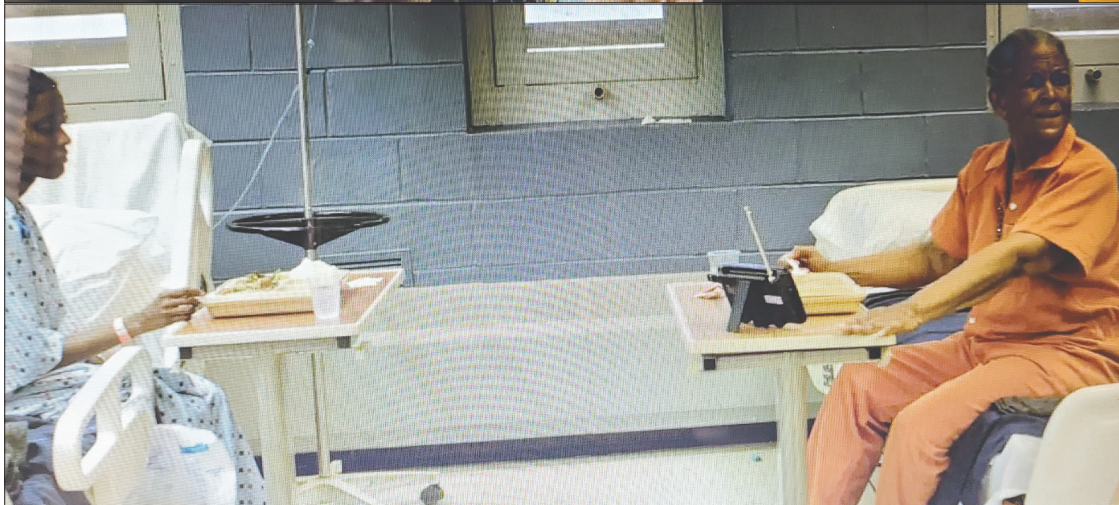
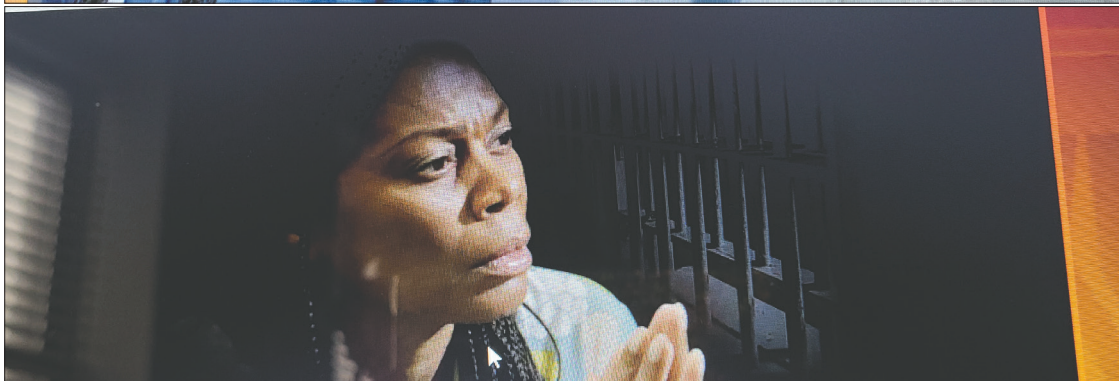
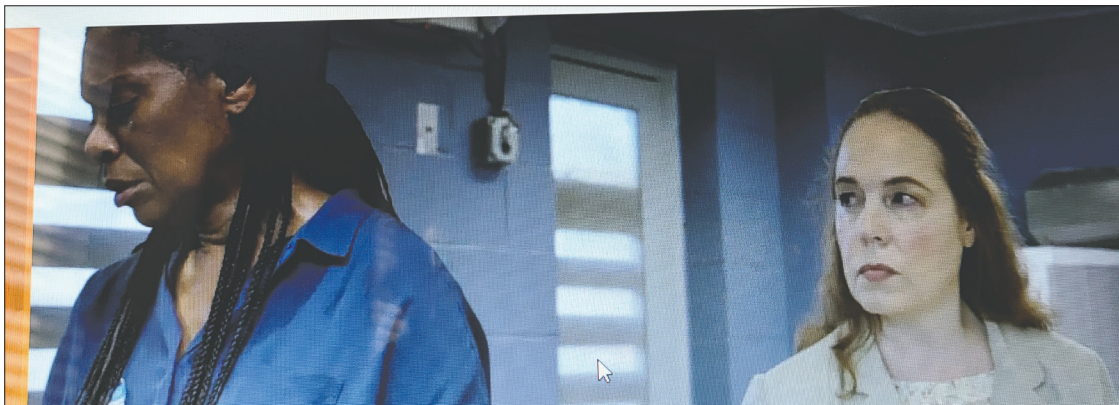
After the death of her husband, Carol is faced with raising her twin daughters alone and navigating the aftermath of tragedy. One daughter sees the world through the eyes of an elitist, while the other sees it as a defeatist.

Their journeys will be as life changing as the death that

set them on this unexpected and heartbreaking course.

"Compassionate Release" Cast and Crew: Stephanie Pope, Sasha Boykin, Kristina Latour, Sable Boykin, Marie Davis, Meiling Lee, Shuiling Lee, Shawn Marshall. Joyce Joseph, Jesse Tayeh, and Eric Rizk. Crew: Written, Directed & Produced By: Lynn Dow. Executive Producers: Mark Mitchell, Wendy Tannock, Lynn Dow. Director Of Photography:

-Michelle Clementine. Co Producers: Najma Nuriddan, Jamal Joseph. Production Designer: Cecily Coelho. Costumes Designed By: Letta Fox. Associate Producers: Cathie Murdaugh, Geneva Riley, Travis Pearson. Edited By: Marc J. Alcorn. Original Score By: Preston Vismala. Public Relations B.E. Leatherwood, Hummingbird Communications, Llc. Very Special Thanks: Dan Rosen, Gertrude Mitchell, Melba Wilson, Emily Yurberg, Carl L. Washington, Jr. New Mt. Zion Baptist Church, NYC Mayor's Office Of Media & Entertainment, Jeff Rosen and David Jon Walker. (Screen shots of "Compassionate Release" film)



### About Lynn Dow

**Lynn Dow** was born and raised in New York, New York. She became interested in filmmaking at an early age and is a graduate of Columbia University in New York. After graduating, she worked on Wall-Street before leaving to pursue her true passion, filmmaking. She has produced five short films and written and directed three of them. Her awards include a Best Short Script in the StoryMode International Script Awards, sixth place in the American Gem Literary Festival, a screenplay winner in the Colorado International Film Festival and numerous film festival official selections around the country. Shortly after her grandmother's passing, Lynn started taking Amtrak down to South Carolina. There she would craft scripts inspired by her grandmother's birthplace. She is set to direct her first feature film, a story set in South Carolina which she also wrote. She chose South Carolina to authenticate the plot as it evokes a spiritually rich backdrop. Lynn's stories are of families in turmoil, set in communities that highlight their conflict and the unflinching romance of place and time.



**Lynn Dow**





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Preproduction model shown with optional features. Near Field Communication (NFC) digital smartphone key requires a compatible Android smartphone and an appropriately equipped 2021 Elantra. Not all Android devices are compatible. The Elantra must be equipped with smart key with push button start, wireless device charging, and Audio Video Navigation System 5.0 (or newer) or Display Audio 2.0. Lock/unlock functionality works on driver's door only. See your Owner's Manual for details and limitations. Dynamic Voice Recognition varies by unit. Speak in a normal voice and minimize background noise for best results. See Owner's Manual for details and limitations. Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. ©2020 Hyundai Motor America.

# Health

## COVID-19 Vaccine: What we know

By Glenn Ellis

All of the mixed messages about the impending COVID-19 vaccine that are raining down from every level of government, makes knowing what is safe and how best to protect ourselves, boils down to a matter of how you interpret what you are hearing! The misstatements; contradicting guidelines; and the retractions, are making us dizzy. Who, and what, do we believe, so we know how to best protect ourselves, and our families?

So much of how the leaders, in our nation, are projecting about the pathway out of this pandemic is centered, squarely, on a vaccine. Do you trust what you're hearing? Do you even understand all this "scientific" stuff they are being spouted? Whether you decide to get one, once they become available or not, wouldn't like to make an informed decision? I'd like to offer a little insight on the promise of a COVID-19 vaccine that we need to know to be as prepared as possible to get through this pandemic:

Vaccines: The FDA has made it clear that any vaccine that's developed must be at least 50% effective against COVID-19 in order to be approved for the public. There are currently 321 vaccine candidates under research, with the hope of coming up with a

COVID-19 vaccine. Of those, 33 vaccine candidates are actually in the clinical trial phase. Chief among the considerations we must be attentive to (if there is a vaccine that is safe and effective) is the matter of how, where, and when the general public can get a vaccine.

Remember, we are still in a pandemic, so social distancing and other precautionary measures have to be adhered to. The distribution of a vaccine to the public must be carried out in a safe way. It would be a shame if in addition, there will definitely be a prioritization in terms of who gets a vaccine first. In short, be prepared for medical personnel, police, firefighters, and other front-line/essential workers to go first. Logically, this will mean it could be as late as April 2021 before the rest of us have any access.

Kaiser Health News (KHN) reported on the challenges facing many local and state health departments across the country. They found that "health departments that have been underfunded for decades say they currently lack the staff, money and tools to educate people about vaccines and then to distribute, administer and track doses to some 330 million people. Nor do they know when, or if, they'll get federal aid to do that." This could be a real problem. Particularly when a poll from AP-NORC Center for Public

Affairs Research shows that only half of all Americans say they will take the vaccine. If this vaccine campaign is going to be effective, better education of the public is a non-negotiable necessity.

Then, there's the concept of herd immunity. The Mayo Clinic defines herd immunity as what happens when a large portion of a community (the herd) becomes immune to a disease, making the spread of disease from person to person unlikely. As a result, the whole community becomes protected—not just those who are immune. So far, approximately 1-2% of the U.S. population has antibodies from being exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Even if that number increased by 10%, that still would not be enough to reach the minimum of 50% of the population to stop the spread of the virus naturally. Bottom line—don't bet on herd immunity as an alternative to getting a COVID-19 vaccine. There is little evidence to suggest that the spread of COVID-19 might stop naturally before at least 50% of the population has become immune.

There is also some question about whether a COVID-19 vaccine will also protect us from the flu and the common cold. Four different coronaviruses account for about one-fourth of common colds. Just a small amount of protection from a COVID-19 vaccination could be a welcomed surprise. Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 are both

contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV-2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some of the symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing is needed to help confirm a diagnosis. Flu and COVID-19 share many characteristics, but there are some major differences between the two. Don't get it twisted.

Lastly, whatever you do, don't allow politics to influence your decision on whether or not to get a vaccine. Covid-19 is non-political. It doesn't care if you're a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent. The COVID-19 a deadly and clever virus, whose method of survival is based on an easy pathway of transmission and, ultimately, finding a home in the human body.

While we are waiting to see if and when a vaccine is available, we can't afford to take our foot off the pedal. Wear your face masks. They are proven to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. Yes, face masks combined with other preventive measures, such as frequent hand-washing and social distancing, help slow the spread of 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, MPH is a Visiting Scholar at The National Bioethics Center at Tuskegee University and a Harvard Medical School Fellow in Research Bioethics and Writing. 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](http://www.glennellis.com)*

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## Staple Singers' 'Come Go With Me: The Stax Collection' available as 7-CD box set

Philadelphiaobserver.com

\*Los Angeles— Craft Recordings is thrilled to announce a deluxe CD edition of *Come Go With Me: The Stax Collection*.

The acclaimed box set, which was previously released on vinyl digital formats, celebrates one of music's greatest gospel and soul groups, The Staple Singers. Available for pre-order today, and set for a November 13th release, *Come Go With Me* presents all of the group's studio albums released on the iconic Memphis label, spanning 1968–1974, and features the Staples' biggest hits, including "I'll Take You There," "Respect

Yourself" and "If You're Ready (Come Go with Me).

"Each album was remastered from the original analog masters by Jeff Powell at Take Out Vinyl, while the seventh disc offers rarities, non-album singles and live recordings from the legendary 1972 Wattstax music festival. Housed in a slipcase, the seven-disc collection also includes a booklet with archival photos and liner notes from American music specialist and curator Levon Williams (formerly of the Stax Museum and the National Museum of African American Music), and folklorist, ethnomusicologist and writer Dr. Langston Wilkins.

Released on vinyl and digi-

tal platforms earlier this year (in February), *Come Go With Me: The Stax Collection* received strong praise from such outlets as *Uncut*, *Mojo* and *Paste*, the latter of which wrote, "this marvelous run of records sound brand new in these new all-analog pressings, with the earthy tang of the Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section and the Bar-Kays horn section ripping out of the speakers with hip-shaking fervor... This is a milestone of American musical history, treated with the appropriate levels of respect and reverence." All six of the Staple Singers' albums with Stax were also made available in hi-res 24-bit/192 kHz and 24-bit/96 kHz formats for the first time.

## Legendary MTV VJ Ananda Lewis reveals breast cancer diagnosis

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Ananda Lewis shared an emotional Instagram post on Thursday (October 1) revealing that she's been battling breast cancer.

"I am sharing this with you today because it's the beginning of breast cancer awareness month and I've been fighting to get cancer out of my body for almost two years. For a really long time I have refused mammograms... and that was a mistake."

Lewis, a legendary VJ at MTV throughout the 90s and early 00s, shared that she wanted her mom get mammograms and determined she was passing on them due to her belief that constant

exposure to radiation gave you cancer.

"What I didn't understand, what I need you to understand, the reason I'm telling you my business... I would have had probably three or four mammograms before they caught it," she said. "Instead, I've had two PET scans so far. Guess how many mammograms worth of radiation a PET scan is. Anyone? Thirty! Thirty! So sixty mammograms. You do the math. If I had done the mammograms from the time they were recommended when I turned 40, they would have caught the tumor in my breast years before I caught it through my own breast exam."



## Gabrielle Union reaches settlement with 'America's Got Talent' over toxic workplace claims

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Gabrielle Union and NBC have reportedly reached a settlement over her allegations of a "toxic work environment" at "America's Got Talent" that led to her subsequent exit as a judge.

An NBC spokesperson recently told *Page Six*: "We've reached an amicable resolution. NBC Entertainment appreciates the important concerns raised by Gabrielle Union and remains committed to ensuring an inclusive and supportive working environment where people of all backgrounds can be treated with respect."

Although the settlement amount is undisclosed, *Page Six* reports that the settlement will be paid out by "America's Got Talent" production companies Fremantle, NBC, and Syco.

As a recap, the controversy began last September when reports



surfaced that Union was not being brought back to the show despite having two more option years — at

the network's discretion — left on her contract. Union suggested on social media that she felt blindsided

by the decision.

She also hinted that something more nefarious was afoot:

"There are some people who want the wheels of change to come to a grinding halt because they feel that their privilege is being challenged," she said during a revelatory interview with *Variety* in May.

In the months after her departure, Union spoke publicly about what she believed was a toxic, racist work environment. Among the stories she told about AGT were her concerns about on-set racist behavior being dismissed by producers. According to Union, she witnessed a contestant wearing blackface — a white performer doing a Beyoncé impression with hands darkened by makeup — without repercussions, Jay Leno telling a racist joke with impunity, and being told by producers that her hairstyles were "too Black." She also claimed that Simon Cowell was allowed to smoke indoors freely (which is illegal in workplaces in the state of California).

# Stanley Crouch, 74, an educator/organic scholar

By Yusef Salaam  
Opinion

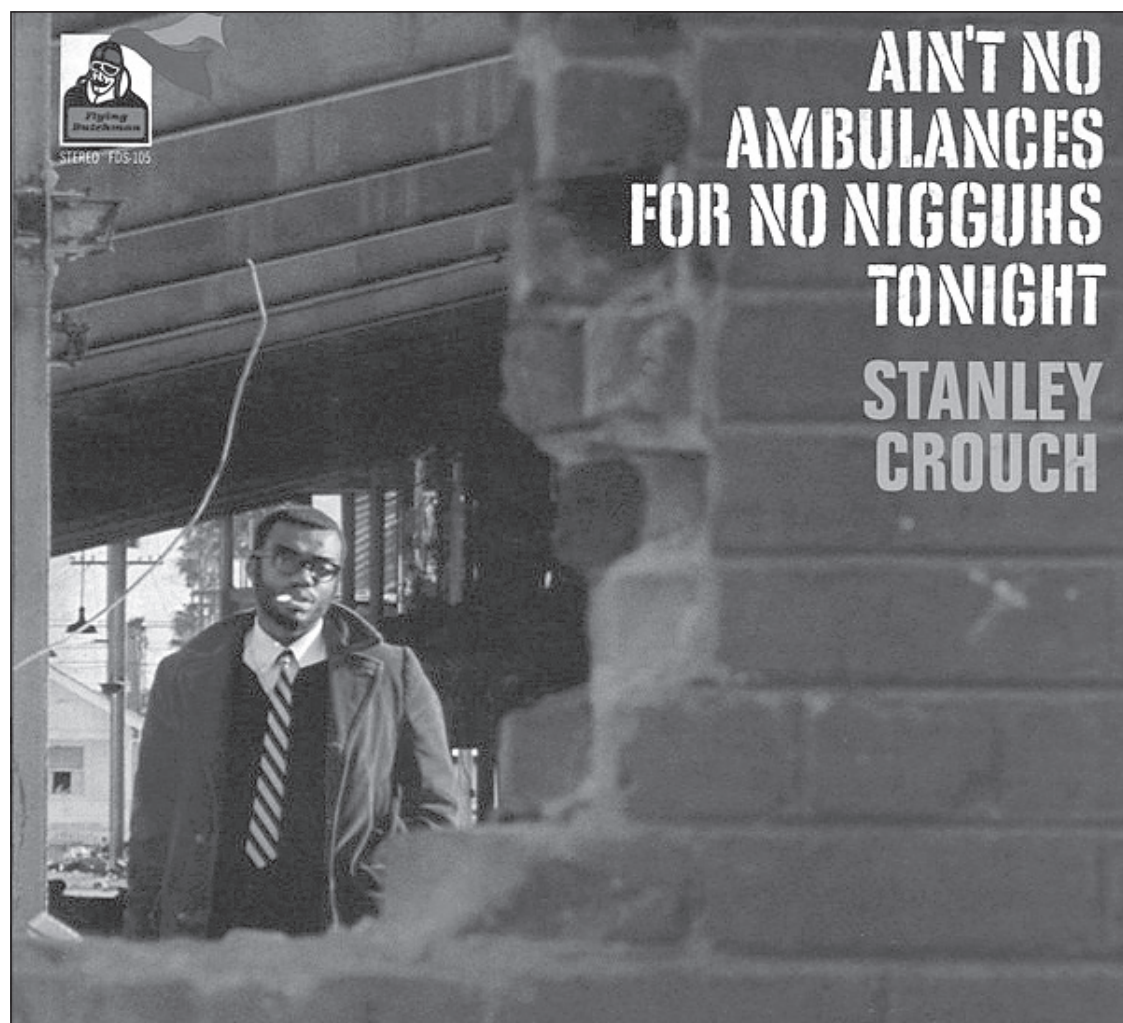
**S**tanley Crouch, 74, has returned to The Creator due to complications caused by COVID-19. He was a gifted writer, a bibliophile, a jazz percussionist, college educator, and an organic scholar. Crouch was battle-ready in his *Village Voice* and *New York Daily News* articles; he'd rumble with you in the back alley if that where you chose to settle issues about his writings.

Such behavior was sometimes adolescence, sour grapes antics when losing a debate; reminisce of when CORE National Chairman Roy Innis pushed Rev. Al Sharpton off a chair on the Robert Downey TV show because Sharpton was intellectually sharper than he was; Crouch's whip-butt behavior got him fired from the *Voice* for fighting in 1988.

Crouch's intellectual proficiency was potent. He was honored with a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant and penned an authoritative biography of reedman Charlie Parker; he assisted trumpeter Wynton Marsalis build the foundation of the Jazz at Lincoln Center, which offers performances and education.

Stanley Crouch was born on Dec. 14, 1945 in Los Angeles. His mother was a maid, and his dad, a drug addict, was incarcerated when his son was born. The youth didn't let childhood misfortunes defer his drive to study vigorously. He explained that his teachers accepted no pleas. "They would say, 'Boy, I'm going to ask you again, What 8 is 8 times?' When I was coming up there were no excuses except your house burned down and there was a murder in the family."

Crouch's makeover from a cultural nationalist to a conservative racial assimilationist



resembles that of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Like Thomas, he was, initially, a fervent militant voice in the 60s Black Arts Movement and Black Power Movement in which artists and activists demanded justice, advocated the physical and spiritual beauty of being of African descent, ethnic unity, promoted economic self-help, rejected racist Euro-centric views of culture, etc.

Eventually Crouch abandoned his former ideas and attacked those who represented them. He stabbed numerous Afro-centric models with his pen, including Organization of African American Unity Minister Malcolm X, Novelist Toni Morrison, Poets Amiri Baraka and Jayne Cortez, Filmmaker Spike Lee and Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan.

My conflict with Crouch involved his use of "Negro" in his *New York Daily News* articles. I wrote a letter chastising his insult to the agony that African Americans suffered in regaining their collective identity after it was robbed during the Holocaust of Enslavement.

The letter noted: "To call a person of African descent in America a 'Negro' is to call him something worse than the 'N' word or an 'Uncle Tom.' And, to

allow it to consistently occur in the *News* from the pen of a Black man who sees himself as a Negro, makes it just as racist as if a white columnist had used the despicable term."

Surprisingly, the *News* published it, "Language Lesson," on April 29, 1996 in "The Voice of the People" column; for 12 consecutive days, May 15-May 26, the column was packed with pro and con responses regarding Crouch's use of "Negro" to describe the indigenous African in America.

Newsroom pressure forced Crouch to respond to the storm my letter precipitated. An excerpt in his May 26, 1996 response "Why I choose to say 'Negro' to prove that African Americans were more Negro than African: "We (African Americans) are, essentially, mutts – not inferior mutts, but, given the record, often championship mutts. That's plenty."

Sadly, Stanley Lawrence Crouch was like James Baldwin and other African American writers who ventured into the caves of Euro-America seeking authentic acceptance. The Bible advises: "No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other" Matthew 6:24. © Yusef Salaam is the author of "The Devil & Elijah Muhammad." Amazon.com

# Ponder this

## Shingles is shockingly serious



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

If there is one thing we can share with others, it can be our life experiences. It is my belief there is a purpose and a plan already outlined in the destiny of every creation. There is not one thing that has happened, is happening at this moment or will happen in the future that is new and does not have a reason and a source of survival.

It is our responsibility to be willful participators in this life journey and there will be numerous challenges along the way. Never doubt that what you have experienced is not important enough to share. Your survivorship and how you made it over is important and uplifting to others.

Knowledge is power and the fact that you have personal knowledge of a situation is what makes it valuable. We must tell our story for the sake of others.

I have spent the month of September in the throes of excruciating pain from herpes zoster (Shingles) and it is not over yet. An



Shingles on upper back

outburst can prevail 4 to 6 weeks and persist even after the rash is gone termed as postherpetic neuralgia.

Shingles is caused by the reactivation of the inactive chickenpox virus (varicella zoster) which infects

99% of adults 50 years or age and older. If you had chickenpox, you are a candidate for shingles. The immune system naturally weakens as we age, so risk for shingles increases, even if you feel healthy. If you have suffered through

shingles anywhere on your body, you are most likely remembering and feeling a tingling sensation in the area where you experienced it right now.

Seemingly overnight a flat red rash rises into steamy blisters.

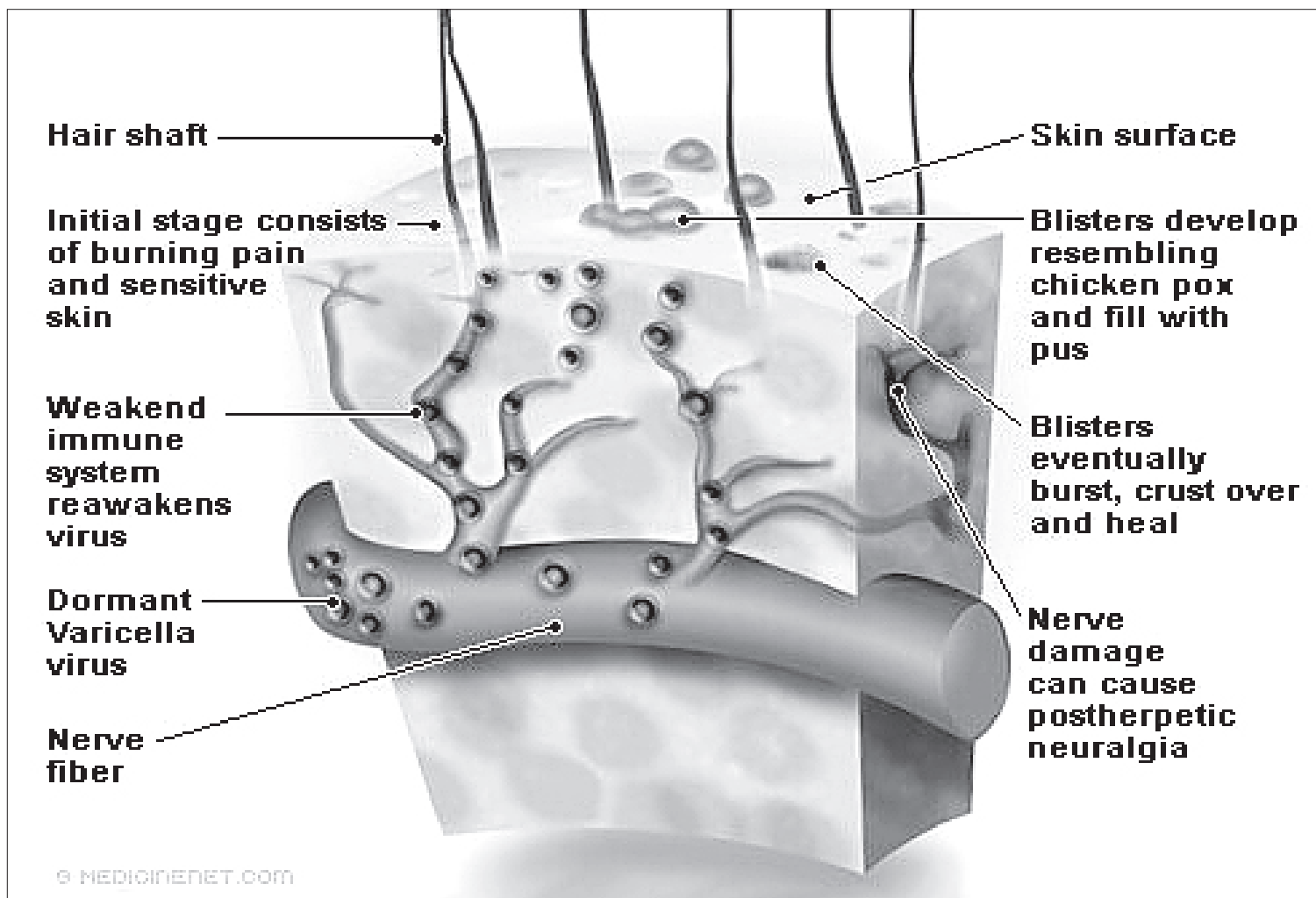
They gather in clusters and they are relentless. Whatever touches the blisters, a t-shirt or sheet, a transmittal of pain circulates throughout the entire pack. There are a few antiviral medications prescribed, Valacyclovir for me taken once daily and dabbing Calamine Lotion to jumpstart drying.

Other underlying health conditions may limit the kind of pain medication you can take. Pain medications can only suffice with consistency. Do not fool yourself, you will need something to get you through, be brave, but ask for relief.

This is my third round of this insipid circumstance in the last twenty-five years. It is difficult to comprehend that the chicken pox at the age of eleven could create a virus that lives dormant in the body, settling in certain nerves and tissue of the nervous system.

I did not take the shingles shot and I must accept the foolishness of that decision. I tell my dilemma to everyone I can because I do not want to know that I did not share good advice. Shingles is serious and you do not want to have it on your resume.

Currently the CDC recommends ages 50 and older get the Shingrix vaccine. The vaccine is administered in two doses, which are given two to six months apart. **DO THIS FOR YOU!** [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director of Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Managing Editor and Woman's Editor of the New York Beacon News and current Columnist for Harlem Communities News, Inc. Contact: [misshazel@twc.com](mailto:misshazel@twc.com)]



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Shingles-S2-illustration-of-Shingles-Virus



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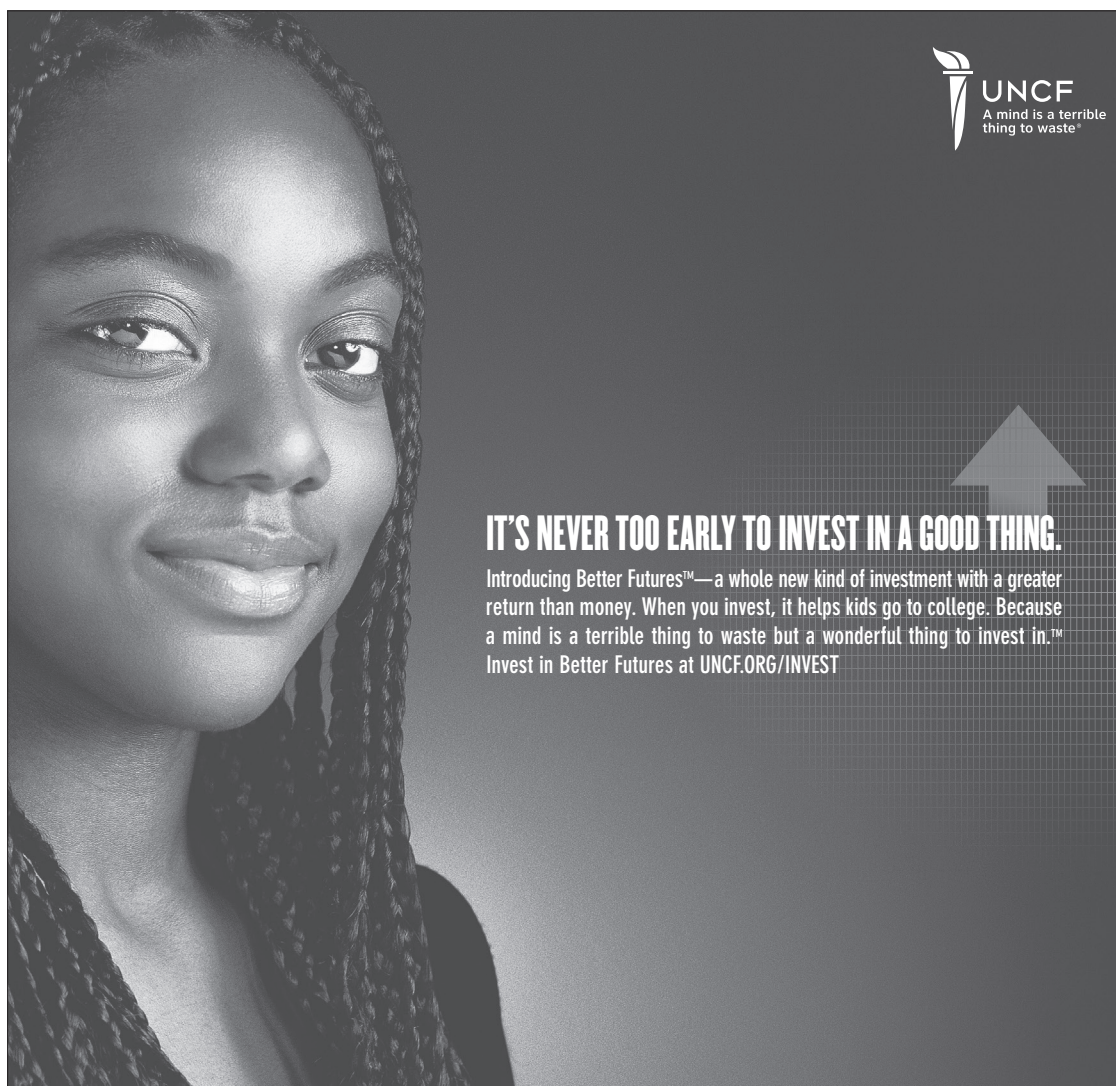
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