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BILL COSBY APPEAL DATE SET BY PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT



Pennsylvania's high court has agreed to review two issues in Cosby's case on Dec 1, whereas a lower appeals court had upheld his conviction.

Cosby, 83, has spent the past two years in a prison outside of Philadelphia after a jury convicted him in 2018 of three aggravated indecent assault counts, p3



Gender equality under attack

By Viviane Faver
Philadelphiaobserver.com

On Monday, it was published that two U.S. Supreme Court justices attacked the 2015 ruling that legalized gay marriage. This fact generated fear among LGBTQ activists and lawyers.

Supreme Court justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito said it was a "stark reminder of the consequences" of the 2015 Obergefell v Hodges decision.

They further confirmed that the court "circumvented the democratic process" and those with religious objections to same-sex marriage will be punished.

"By choosing to privilege a new constitutional right over religious freedom interests explicitly protected in the First Amendment, and by doing so in an undemocratic way, the court created a problem that only it can solve," they said. "Until then, Obergefell will continue to have disastrous consequences for religious freedom."

Thomas and Alito, who are two of the five conservatives in the nine-member court, also said they "allow courts and governments to classify religious fanatics who believe that marriage is between a man and a woman, which makes their religious concerns free. . . Much easier to dispense".

American Civil Liberties director James Esseks told the Guardian that the order does nothing more than provide "a preview of the opinions of some judges" and he does not believe it will lead to the overthrow of Obergefell because

"freedom to marry has become part of of American culture".

However, he admits the fear that same-sex marriages will be treated differently.

"What worries me is that they will say, 'Well, okay, we are going to give you the marriage certificate and you can call yourself married, but we are not going to treat your marriage the same way we treat other people's marriages.' concern is that they use religious freedom as an excuse to license discrimination."

Urge: Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity, policy director Preston Mitchum said the potential impact of targeting Obergefell goes far beyond same-sex marriage.

"It will affect everything. The court's resources will be redirected to maintain the status quo. We know that the more right the court is, the less likely it is to rule in favor of marginalized communities ... It is more than marriage, because it connects many parties of our lives."

After Ruth Bader Ginsburg's death, LGBTQ rights organizations fear the law will become vulnerable, and these comments act as a wake-up call for what's to come.

"The nightmare of a hostile majority in the Supreme Court is already here. Judge Amy Coney Barrett's confirmation hearings haven't even started yet and Judges Thomas and Alito are already creating a long list of cases they want to close," said Kevin Jennings, chief executive of the civil rights organization Lambda Legal.

AOC slams Kamala Harris for fracking stance after VP debate

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez took a jab at vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris and her presidential running mate Joe Biden while watching the VP debate, voicing her disapproval for one of their major climate positions.

"Fracking is bad, actually," Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) tweeted Wednesday evening.

The social media post came after Harris (D-Calif.) was pressed by Vice President Pence that a Biden administration would ban fracking.

Fracking, short for hydraulic fracturing, is a process by which water, sand and chemicals are pumped into the ground at very high pressures to crack layers of rock and release oil or gas trapped inside. Environmental activists argue the method has led to increased air and water pollution around the country.

In response, Harris said that the



charge was simply untrue.

"I will repeat, and the American people will know, Joe Biden will not ban fracking. That is a fact. That is a fact," she told her 2020 vice-presidential rival.

While questioning the California Democrat on her climate record, he pointed back to her stance on banning the practice during her own presidential run.

"Look, Sen. Harris, you're entitled to your own opinion, but you're

not entitled to your own facts. You yourself said on multiple occasions when you were running for president, that you would ban fracking," he remarked.

AOC introduced the Green New Deal in the House of Representatives and served on the climate panel of the Biden-Sanders Unity Task Forces, which was created to combine the platforms of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Biden, the two Democratic primary front-runners.

Two colleges suspend diversity events, citing fear of Trump's executive order against 'Divisive Concepts'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Two higher institutions are bowing down to President Donald Trump after he recently pushed for restrictions against diversity training.

According to Inside Higher Ed, The University of Iowa and John A. Logan College in Illinois has suspended diversity events, citing fear of consequence of violating the executive order against "divisive concepts."

The White House order last month moved to ban federal agencies from conducting cultural sensitivity training, claiming such anti-racist and equality programs are "divisive, anti-American propaganda."

Liz Tovar, the University of Iowa's interim associate vice president for

diversity, equity and inclusion, claimed the school could lose federal funding if it doesn't follow the President's command.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion remain as core values within our institution," Tovar said in a statement. "After consulting with multiple entities, and given the seriousness of the penalties for non-compliance with the order, which include the loss of federal funding, we are recommending that all units temporarily pause for a two-week period."

Meanwhile, John A. Logan College suspended a Hispanic Heritage Month talk planned for next week. However, the college didn't clarify its interpretation of the executive order.

The White House statement from last month specifically points to em-

ployees within the executive branch of the government.

"It has come to the President's attention that agencies within the executive branch have spent millions of taxpayer dollars to date 'training' government workers to believe divisive, anti-American propaganda," the White House Office of Management and Budget said in a statement.

According to Inside Higher Ed, an unnamed senior administration official from the White House Office of Management and Budget responded on Tuesday after the order continued to create confusion.

The official said the executive order "is not limited to federal agencies and applies to federal contractors and grant recipients when allowed by law."

Immigrant family deceived by ICE, father facing deportation

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Mayor de Blasio demanded an end to ICE agents posing as NYPD officers

In uptown Manhattan, an immigrant family man was apprehended by ICE agents who was pretending to be NYPD officers.

Fernando Santos-Rodriguez is a 48-year-old undocumented immigrant who spent 30 years of his life in New York. His wife said she was tricked into helping ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents.

ICE agents went to the Santos-Rodriguez residence and initially, Maria, Fernando's wife, refused to let the agents in.

The agents found an alternative entrance through the building's superintendent.

The agents showed Maria a picture of a man who was not Santos-Rodriguez but went by the same name.

Thinking it was an innocent mix up, Maria gave the agents her husband's contact information after the agents requested to see her husband's ID.

The ICE agents tracked Santos-Rodriguez to his workplace and arrested him.

Santos-Rodriguez, a married man with four kids, is currently in ICE custody at the Hudson County Jail in Kearny, N.J., facing the possibility of a deportation



hearing, The New York Daily News reported.

"He is a good man. He is not a criminal," his wife of 25 years said. Maria, alongside other family members, have declined to give their full names.

Last Saturday, his family spoke out against the operation, saying they got duped into assisting the ICE agent arresting him, the head of their household, the Daily News reported.

The incident sparked outrage from New York City's democratic politicians, who were already fighting with President Donald Trump and his administration's covert ICE operations.

"This is a violation of our law," Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, an ex-city police officer who running for NYC mayor in 2021, said.

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PA Supreme Court sets date to hear Bill Cosby Appeal

By Stacy M. Brown,
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Pennsylvania's highest court announced it would hear oral arguments in the criminal appeal by Bill Cosby on Tuesday, December 1.

The 9:30 a.m. EST hearing will occur through virtual video conferencing, and the public can view the proceedings live on YouTube, court officials said.

Cosby, 82, has spent the past two years in a prison outside of Philadelphia after a jury convicted him in 2018 of three aggravated indecent assault counts.

Once revered as "America's Dad," Cosby was accused of plying his love interest, Andrea Constand, with one and a half Benadryl tablets and then digitally penetrating her at his home in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

Testimony and a controversial civil deposition, a document that the high court cited in granted the appeal, revealed a months-long love affair between Cosby and Constand.

The two regularly traded gifts and often participated in petting and touching and shared intimate conversation, including Constand seeking Cosby's opinion on her physical appearance.

Despite kissing and other sexually-suggestive play, both Cosby and Constand denied they ever had intercourse.

"I was OK with that," Cosby has stated, noting that he never sought intercourse with Constand.

He has maintained his innocence, and, in his only jailhouse interview, Cosby told the Black Press that he would never plead guilty to false charges.

"I was there," Cosby demanded in the November 2019 interview. "I don't care what group of people come along and talk about this when they weren't there. They don't know."

On the night of the faithful encounter in which Cosby was convicted, Constand claimed she



was anxious and concerned about her future and wanted to talk to the comedian.

At trial, prosecutors claimed there was no sexual relationship, that Cosby acted as a mentor to Constand.

She said she sought his advice because she was contemplating leaving her job at Temple University and moving back to Canada.

Once inside the home that Cosby shares with his wife of more than 55 years, Constand paced the floors and exhibited much anxiety, Cosby noted.

In an attempt to settle her down, Cosby offered her Benadryl.

"These are your friends, put them down" he explained to Constand. "These are what I take when I need to relax."

He retrieved two tablets, one of which he'd broken in half, and gave Constand one and a half pills. After taking the medications, Constand said she drank a glass of wine, and she and her host sat on a couch.

That's where the stories began to differ.

Constand said she either passed out and became paralyzed.

Cosby said the two engaged in their typical petting with Constand putting her hand on his penis while he inserted his hand into her underwear.

After a few moments, Cosby said he told Constand that she needed to rest.

"I told her to go to sleep, to rest," Cosby stated, leaving her to sleep on the couch while he retreated to an upstairs bedroom.

As he awakened early the next morning, Cosby discovered that

Constand hadn't slept.

She asked for her favorite herbal tea and Cosby offered her a muffin.

Prosecutors said the incident occurred in late January 2004.

Testimony and court records revealed that the encounter happened at least months earlier – significant because if a crime occurred before 2004, the statute of limitations would have run, which would prohibit the state from filing charges.

Most important, however, is whether prosecutors legally used a 2006 deposition during the trial.

Former District Attorney Bruce Castor testified in a preliminary hearing that he reached an agreement with Cosby to waive his fifth amendment right to sit for a civil deposition.

Castor said prosecutors were forbidden to ever use the deposition as a tool to prosecute Cosby.

Montgomery County Judge Steven O'Neill ruled Castor didn't have a right to make such a deal and allowed the new District Attorney to use the deposition during the trial.

O'Neill also allowed five other women to testify that Cosby had drugged and assaulted them decades earlier.

In its ruling granting Cosby a hearing, the state high court cited Castor's agreement and O'Neill's decision to allow unrelated and un-charged accusations into evidence.

In an interview following the trial, one member of the jury cited the other women's testimony as a reason for convicting Cosby.

Daniel Cameron attacks Ben Crump on Fox News

Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron is on the defensive as his office continues to receive criticism over its handling of the Breonna Taylor case. Cameron attacked Attorney Ben Crump on Fox News following an open letter penned by Crump demanding that the Attorney General recuse himself from the Breonna Taylor case.

"It is now clearer than ever that this was a case where you decided early on that your office would never actually prosecute against officers Cosgrove, Mattingly and anyone else responsible for the unlawful death of Breonna Taylor," Crump wrote in an open letter posted on his website.

"Your office refused to even allow a grand jury to seek indictments against any of these three officers with relation to Breonna Taylor," the letter continued. "You were biased throughout the process and intentionally deprived justice for Breonna and her family."

Taylor died on March 13 after Louisville Metro Police officers stormed her apartment to execute a drug search warrant. Her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, fired one shot with his handgun because he thought the home was being burglarized. Officers Brett

Hankinson, John Mattingly and Myles Cosgrove responded with a hail of gunfire. Taylor was hit five times.

In a statement emailed to NPR on Monday, Oct. 5, Elizabeth Kuhn, a spokeswoman for Cameron, said his office kept control of the potential criminal case against the three officers because it had "resources required to complete the investigation." At the time the case was referred to Cameron, Walker was facing attempted murder charges filed by Louisville Commonwealth's Attorney Tom Wine because the shot Walker fired reportedly struck Mattingly.

"Our office was asked to appoint a special prosecutor because of a conflict of interest by the Commonwealth's Attorney, who at the time, was pursuing the prosecution of Mr. Kenneth Walker," Kuhn said in the email.

"The law allowed for the Attorney General to appoint a prosecutor from another jurisdiction to oversee the case, but given the importance of the case and the resources required to complete the investigation, the Attorney General's Office of Special Prosecutions proceeded with handling the investigation and prosecution," Kuhn added.



Republican connected tech firm targeted Black voters on Facebook for 'Deterrence'

By Lauren Victoria Burke,
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A database built by Cambridge Analytica, the Republican-aligned firm that shut down over allegations of improper use of Facebook data, targeted Black voters for "Deterrence" in profiles prepared for Donald Trump's 2016 campaign according to reporting by Great Britain's Channel 4 News.

It had already been known that Black voters were focused on disenfranchisement by the Trump campaign and Russian interference. But the new report outlined

that 3.5 million Black Americans were profiled specifically in a new digital form of social media-driven voter suppression for 'deterrence' by the Trump campaign. What this also reveals is that in 2016 Facebook allowed this to take place. In 2016 many Black voters said that they wanted to stay home on election day.

"The 'Deterrence' project can be revealed after Channel 4 News obtained the database used by Trump's digital campaign team – credited with helping deliver his shock victory to become president four years ago. Vast in scale, it contains details on almost 200

million Americans, among more than 5,000 files, which together amass almost 5 terabytes of data – making it one of the biggest leaks in history. It reveals not only the huge amounts of data held on every individual voter, but how that data was used and manipulated by models and algorithms," the new investigative report from Channel 4 revealed.

Over 3.5 million Black Americans were marked for 'deterrence'.

The digital arm of Trump's 2016 digital team, called 'Project Alamo' included a team from the now defunct British company Cambridge Analytica. Two senior

directors of the former Cambridge Analytica team are now working on the Trump 2020 campaign for The White House.

Voter suppression has become mainstream policy for the Republican Party in America. Efforts to suppress the vote became mainstream after the election of the first Black President of the United States, Barack Obama, in 2008.

Voter suppression efforts that disproportionately target Black voters include requiring certain IDs at the polls, shutting down polling locations in predominantly Black areas and polling hours that

make it difficult for working class Americans to participate.

Trump lost the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by 2.8 million votes. In certain states, such as Wisconsin, the margin was thin. Hillary Clinton won the most votes but lost the electoral college and Trump won four years in the White House.

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Economy, race relations seen as growing concerns ahead of election

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA
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As President Donald Trump flip-flops on whether he would back a new stimulus proposal to help stabilize America's increasingly fragile financial, consumer and business markets — and provide a lifeline to struggling Americans — the latest Gallup poll reveals that the economy remains a major concern among voters ahead of the November 3 election. Nine in ten respondents identified the economy as extremely or very important to their vote

The poll, released on October 5, listed national security and terrorism as the next biggest concern (83 percent), followed by education (82 percent), healthcare (80 percent), crime (79 percent), the COVID-19 response (77 percent), and race relations (76 percent).

Gallup has surveyed Americans' "most important concerns" since 1939. The survey became monthly in 2001.

"It is not surprising that voters overall rate the economy as the most important issue impacting their vote for president this year given the fragile state of the U.S. economy and their tendency historically to prioritize it and other issues such as national security and education," Gallup pollsters observed.

In an earlier June 4 Gallup survey, 19 percent of Americans named race relations as the nation's top problem in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

At just below 20 percent, Gallop's June 4 demarcation of the nation's pulse on the state of race and race relations in America reflects the largest number of Americans sharing concerns over the racial divide since the height of the civil rights struggle in July 1968. The July 1968 survey results were reported as less than 90 days after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 4th of the same year.

"Everything else being equal; however, the historical record predicts that race will eventually fall back into its latent status, scoring relatively few mentions as a top-of-mind issue," Dr. Frank Newport, a Gallup senior scientist, wrote.

"This exemplifies the substantial challenge facing leaders who are seeking significant and lasting change in the nation's race situation. The less top of mind race is as a major problem; presumably, the less likely politicians are going to feel pressure to take action."

A separate poll conducted by the Washington, D.C.-based financial website, WalletHub, took a deep dive into which political party is best for the country.

The poll revealed that overall the economy had performed best under a Democratic presidency

and Republican Congress.

In the past 70 years, the real Gross Domestic Product has grown fastest under Democratic control of both the executive and legislative branches of government, at an average of 4.22 percent per year, and most slowly under a Democratic presidency and divided Congress, at an average of 2.04 percent per year, the WalletHub survey found.

Despite Trump's seeming obsession with the stock market, Wall Street has performed best under a Democratic presidency and Republican Congress. The S&P 500 produced an average annual return of 16.22 percent, and worst under a Republican presidency and Democratic Congress, with an average yearly return of 4.51 percent.

Further, as stimulus talks stall and Trump throws cold water on negotiations, the annual unemployment rate change has had the highest decrease (0.85 percent, on average) under a Democratic presidency and divided Congress.

It had the highest increase (0.26 percent, on average) under a Republican presidency and Democratic Congress.

According to the survey, the annual poverty rate change has had the highest decrease (0.66 percent, on average) under a Democratic presidency and Republican Congress and the highest increase (0.05 percent, on average) under a Republican presidency and Democratic Congress.

The survey also found that the change in annual national debt as a percentage of GDP (adjusted for inflation) has had the highest decrease (0.76 percent, on average) under a Democratic presidency and Republican Congress and the highest increase (2.82 percent) under a Democratic presidency and divided Congress.

"I think [Democratic Presidential nominee] Joe Biden will be better for the economy for two reasons. First, he is actually listening to real economists, as far as policymaking is concerned," said Shantanu Bagchi, a WalletHub expert and associate professor in the Department of Economics at Towson University in Maryland.

"He understands the key issues why so many Americans have been cut out from their fair share of economic prosperity and the promise of hard work as a means to a better life."

Bagchi continued: "Second, he is predictable and has a comprehensive vision of how to move the economy forward for everyone. Trump, unfortunately, is more concerned with personal wealth accumulation using the Presidency as a tool. He lacks a basic understanding of economics, does not listen to experts, and has no vision of the economy apart from how he and others like him can personally benefit from it."

Michelle Obama calls out Trump's campaign as being 'Racist'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Michelle Obama verbally eviscerated President Donald Trump's re-election campaign in a video for the Biden-Harris campaign.

In the video, Obama described Trump's stance and policies as "racist."

"Right now, the president and his allies are trying to tap into that frustration and distract from his breathtaking failures by giving folks someone to blame other than them," the former first lady said. "They're stoking fears about Black and brown Americans, lying about how minorities will destroy the suburbs, whipping up violence and intimidation."

Gender Equality under attack
"What the president is doing is, once again, patently false, it's morally wrong, and, yes, it is racist," Obama said.

During the video, she also appealed to voters' sense of urgency regarding the election.

"We can no longer pretend that we don't know exactly who and what this president stands for. Search your hearts, and your conscience, and then vote for Joe Biden like your lives depend on it," Obama continued in the video.

"We don't have the luxury to assume that things



are going to turn out OK," the former first lady said. "Joe Biden has lived his life guided by values and principles that mirror ones that most Americans can recognize. I know Joe. He's a good man who understands the struggles of everyday folks."

She admonished Trump's response to the pandemic, and even his diagnosis, calling his inaction "willful mismanagement of the COVID crisis."

Racial justice giving is booming: 4 trends

The tragic, high-profile killings of George Floyd and other Black Americans in 2020 have sparked a reckoning on race. As researchers of philanthropy, we're keeping an eye on how this national awakening is affecting charitable giving across the nation.

We are seeing an outpouring of donations from individuals, corporations and foundations that began to grow as soon as protests and other activities in support of racial and social justice started to spread across the country.

Much of this funding will likely support Black-led groups engaged in criminal justice reform and fighting for education equality. Wealthy donors in the first half of the year gave nearly US\$6 billion in donations of \$1 million or more, but people of at various income and wealth levels are also increasingly supporting racial equity causes and organizations.

1. Crowdfunding related to victims of racial injustice

The GoFundMe pages crowdfunding to seek justice for George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and Jacob Blake have all attracted at least \$1 million so far.

Floyd's GoFundMe memorial campaign has garnered more donations than any other campaign in the online platform's history, raising over \$14 million with 500,000 individual donors from 140 countries worldwide. Many of these gifts to the impacted families of police violence were for \$5 and few were for \$50,000 or more.

2. Direct support for grassroots organizations

After Memorial Day weekend, when Floyd died while in custody of the Minneapolis police, many Black-led grassroots organizations began to draw much higher levels of support as the protests garnered more participation and attention.

For example, when protests erupted, the Minnesota Freedom Fund, which advocates for a more equitable system of cash bail,



turned its attention to bailing out arrested protesters. Once the fund reached a total of \$20 million in donations, its organizers urged donors to support Black-led organizations. Other grassroots organizations and networks also received support, such as the National Bail Fund Network, which received \$80 million in donations in late spring.

Even before the protests erupted, the Movement for Black Lives had received \$5 million in the first five months of 2020 to support Black communities affected by the pandemic and to address broader issues of racial equity. This was nearly double the \$2.7 million the group, founded in 2014 following the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, raised in all of 2019, according to the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

The Libra Foundation announced that a dozen grant-making organizations were joining together to give a total of \$36 million to Black-led organizations and social movements like The Black Youth Project and the National Black Food and Justice Alliance.

These numbers provide only a partial estimate of total giving to these causes, and it will take at least until mid-2021 for the IRS to begin to release the official records and statistics needed for a fuller picture of giving to these groups. Based on data from Candid, a research group, institutional funders and large donors have contributed \$5.9 billion for organizations primarily engaged in

racial equity work to date. 3. Shoring up HBCUs Historically Black colleges and universities, often called HBCUs, and related groups that fund scholarships for the students who attend them, are getting more donations in 2020.

HBCUs in the past received fewer donations of \$1 million or more than other institutions, a pattern our colleague Tyrone Freeman has been studying for years. As a result, HBCU endowments are relatively small.

All told, the roughly 100 HBCUs have a total of only \$2 billion in their endowments. By comparison, 54 predominantly white colleges and universities have \$2 billion or more in their own endowment.

In 2018, for example, there were seven of these major gifts totaling \$48 million. In contrast, there were at least 33 of these donations by mid-September of 2020, totaling \$347 million, according to a list of these donations of \$1 million or more compiled by The Chronicle of Philanthropy and tracking by statistician Xiao Han of additional news reports and public information disclosed by donors and the schools.

These philanthropic lifelines for Howard University, Morehouse College, Spelman College and other schools have totaled in the hundreds of millions of dollars from donors like MacKenzie Scott — Jeff Bezos' ex-wife — Netflix

Continued on page 7

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Editorial - Opinion

Monsters are scary. So are brilliant Black women

By Julianne Malveaux

I was frightened of monsters when I was a child. Not so sure why, but my brother, who loved to plague me, used to tell me they were lurking under my bed. I shook, and I shivered, and I cried for fear that one of those dreaded monsters would rise from under the bed to strangle me. I don't know what got me over my fear of monsters. Perhaps I realized that my brother got perverse pleasure by mocking me. In any case, one day, he told me that there was a monster under my bed, and I laughed in his face. And the monster myth lost its hold on me.

I got over my fear of monsters, but Donald John Trump is holding on to his fear of his. His demons are brilliant Black women, like Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Fredericka Wilson. He ridicules anyone who opposes him, but he saves his tartest barbs

for Black women. We are his monsters, the folks lurking under his bed, inside his consciousness, willing to call him out. According to one dictionary definition, monsters are "a type of grotesque creature, whose appearance frightens and whose powers of destruction threaten the human world's social or moral order. A monster can also be like a human, but in folklore, they are commonly portrayed as the lowest class, as mutants, deformed, supernatural, and otherworldly." Monsters, threatening the white male social order. Monsters like Democratic Vice Presidential nominee, Senator Kamala Harris.

I wrap myself in the epithet of monster. Like Harris, I am an otherworldly woman who isn't supposed to be a Black woman economist. I live to destroy the white male social order; I reject the notion that I am the "lowest social class" or "deformed." And I embrace the idea of being

supernatural and otherworldly. With the roll of my neck, the cut of my eyes, the arch of my brows, I can turn an ignorant white man into New Orleans blanc mélange, just like Senator Harris did a bland Mike Pence when they "debated."

No wonder the best the Orange Man could come up with was to describe our precious California Senator as a "monster." No wonder that the best he could do was to describe her as frightening. In so describing her, he revealed his own fright, his fright of a woman so capable, so marvelous that he cowers in the wake of her brilliance. He cringes, and his Vice President appears more afraid, so much so that he is too intimidated to allow her to finish a sentence, interrupting her twice as often as she interrupted him. He earned her admonishment, "I am speaking," and ignored the rules he had agreed to. But the marginally

elected President and his clone, who only differs from him because he went to both church and charm school, have no regard for rules or decency.

I was angry that the Orange Man described Senator Harris as a "monster" until a friend reminded me that monsters are frightening. And Donald John Trump is not afraid, not scared, but skered! He is not only skered of losing face and losing the election, but he is also skered of the blue wave of Black women gunning for him, along with the White women who are sick of his dismissiveness. He is skered of suburban women, regardless of race, who have had it with the ignorance that has decimated their families. 211,000 dead at this writing, while he rallies, joyrides, and ignores medical advice. If he ain't skered, then he ought to be.

He is so skered (yes, I spelled it wrong, just so you could pronounce



it wrong, with a little bit of flava) that he projected his greatest fear on Senator Kamala Harris by describing her as a "monster." Yes, she is – otherworldly, supernatural, disruptive to the white male order of being. She is the future. He is the past, and his followers cling to his fading past where anybody but white men were invisible. She is the monster that is our future, a monster only to those who fear progress.



I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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Ethiopian leader scales back popular Harvest Fest as opposition to his leadership grows



Irreecha observance

(GIN) –

Harvest festivals are a common sight in Africa although this year organizers were advised to keep the numbers down due to the COVID-10 pandemic.

The Homowo Festival – a celebration by the Ga people of Ghana – was held as scheduled in Ga Mashie. Many of the celebrants could be seen wearing masks while cooking pots held steaming soups and other dishes.

In Ethiopia, massive crowds were expected in the Oromia region for the harvest festival of Irreecha – one of the year’s most important cultural and religious events for millions of ethnic Oromos. Flowers and long grasses are traditionally tossed into a pool of water to thank God for the blessings of the past year and to wish prosperity for the coming year.

But citing growing concerns about political violence in the country, police made 500 arrests of alleged suspects planning to disrupt the festivities. A number of firearms, pistols and hand grenades were also seized.

Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed’s government, once a symbol of hope for his ethnic community, restricted attendance to approximately 5,000 people to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, which was done for an Orthodox Christian holiday last week, they said.

In downtown Addis Ababa, people wearing face masks and white clothes stitched with the colors of the Oromia region’s flag, said they were subjected to at least six security checks complete with body searches and, in some areas, sniffer dogs.

“I don’t know the kind of information they have but these securi-

ty checks are too much,” Hassen, a participant who gave only his first name, told a reporter. “Added with the COVID-19, it really has ruined the festive mood.”

Some attendees accused the government of imposing restrictions to prevent anti-government protests at a time when Oromo opposition politicians are behind bars and security forces stand accused of using heavy-handed tactics against civilians in the Oromo region surrounding the capital.

“When people get together they may reflect on what’s going wrong in the country. For fear of that, they have restricted us,” Jatani Bonaya, a 26-year-old student, told Al Jazeera. “What the government is doing is not right.”

Irreecha marks the end of the rainy season and the start of the harvest season.

Racial justice giving is booming: 4 trends

From page 4

CEO Reed Hastings and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Corporate giving for Black colleges and other causes is also on the rise. In early June, the Financial Times reported that Microsoft, Google, Amazon and other large corporations had recently pledged at least \$458 million to support progress toward racial equity, including support for higher education. All told, Apple has said it donated \$100 million or more to assorted racial equity initiatives.

4. Black philanthropists are leading the way

Donors from all backgrounds have turned their attention to increasing calls for racial equity. While new donors are turning their giving to racial equity issues, wealthy African Americans have contributed to causes that support racial justice and equity.

In recent years, we have continued to see affluent Black people, such as the entertainer and fashion icon Rihanna and basketball great Michael Jordan, make significant philanthropic commitments.

Along with other colleagues at the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy and in partnership with the Bank of America, we are conducting a long-term research project regarding affluent donors. Based on our findings in our 2018 report, at least half of all wealthy Black donors supported African American causes, compared to 6.5% overall of all surveyed donors.

Additionally, 43.8% of the wealthy Black donors surveyed

indicated that they made giving to groups that aim to improve race relations a high priority, as opposed to an average of 5.7% all donors.

A diverse range of donors are also increasingly participating in providing large racial justice gifts. These gifts include Kroger supermarket chain CEO Rodney McMullen and the hedge fund investor George Soros’ Open Society Foundations.

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In mid-September, philanthropist Susan Sandler announced that she was giving a total of \$200 million to an array of racial justice groups. Sandler’s disclosure echoed Scott’s announcement, in July 2020, that she was giving \$587 million to HBCUs and racial justice organizations.

That means established civil rights organizations such as the NAACP and the Urban League, and newer racial justice groups like the Equal Justice Initiative, which aims to end mass incarceration and advance racial equity, and the Center for Policing Equity, a think tank focused on improving racial equity within police departments, are all getting a boost.

Kim Williams-Pulfer, Postdoctoral Research Appointee-Mays Family Institute on Diverse Philanthropy, IUPUI and Una Osili, Professor, Economics and Philanthropic Studies; Associate Dean for Research and International Programs, Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, IUPUI

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Good Trouble

First-time, All-Star Women's 'This Is Why I Vote' Campaign encourages voting ahead of pivotal 2020 election

Posted by Audrey J. Bernard

(LOS ANGELES, CA) – Multiple award-winning recording artists **Patti Austin, Chaka Khan, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Brenda Russell, Sheila E., Terri Lyne Carrington, India.Arie, Ledisi, Siedah Garrett, Lisa Fischer, and Lalah Hathaway** have formed **TWIST (Tuff Women In Strange Times)**, a dynamic coalition of superstar female talent to rally voters to the polls for Election Day 2020. Together with special guest, noted activist, academic, and author Angela Davis, they will all appear during a series of special voter encouragement videos under the banner TWIST2020.

The series kicked off Tuesday, October 6, 2020, with a very special motivational video vignette by the late poet, author, and activist **Maya Angelou**. The campaign is live on www.twist2020.com, Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.com. The series will culminate with a live virtual event titled "This Is Why I Vote" on Tuesday, October 20, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. ET/5:00 p.m. PT on www.twist2020.com, Instagram, Facebook.com, and Youtube.com. Viewers are encouraged to use #WeAreTWIST2020 on social media to engage.

The brainchild of Grammy-winning vocalist Patti Austin, TWIST2020 will feature daily vignettes from each of these accomplished women about the theme "This Is Why I Vote," citing the women who inspired them to political action. Sheila E. and Terri Lyne Carrington created special musical underscoring for each video in the series; viewers can expect a few special musical flourishes as part of the other presentations. Also part of the series is the all-star video version of the song "L.O.V.E. (Let One Voice Emerge)," previously composed and recorded by Austin, Garrett, and other artists for 2013's Voter Participation Center voter registration campaign.

Austin says TWIST aims to remind voters, particularly women, of the historic power they have to make a difference, especially in light of the September 18, 2020, passing of **Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg**. "We've all got incredible stories about a school teacher, our mother, or her mother, or just other powerful women that influence our lives," says the legendary pop and jazz artist. "We've got this election coming up. We have the power of the world in our hands, given to us by the women who came before us."

Each of the participants in TWIST was chosen for her creativity, commitment to community, global awareness, and unique expression of ideas. "There's this marvelous, incredible, sardonic humor that exists between all these women, and a frightening



TWIST2020: Unprecedented coalition of 'woke' women

level of respect," Austin continues. "If you've got extra super-duper powers, extra Black girl magic, then we need all of that plugged in together at the same time to empower others. I'm determined to change the mindset around this election."

TWIST2020 is produced by Patti Austin, Tammy McCrary, Julie Bergman, and Gwendolyn Quinn. For more information on the campaign, visit www.twist2020.com.

###

About the Artists

Patti Austin is a legendary pop, R&B, and jazz singer who began her career at the age of five. Her work includes 20 recordings as a solo artist, and dozens as a featured or background vocalist with Quincy Jones, Dionne Warwick, Toto, Johnny Mathis, Paul Simon, Roberta Flack, Ray Charles, and many others. She recorded two hit duets with James Ingram, the No. 1 pop single "Baby Come To Me" and the follow-up "How Do You Keep the Music Playing;" she also sang "It's the Falling in Love" with Michael Jackson on *Off The Wall*. She earned a Grammy Award in 2007 for Best Jazz Vocal Album for her tribute album, *Avant Gershwin*. She has also established the Over My Shoulder Foundation to support the next generation with music and design careers in mind.

Chaka Khan is a ten-time Grammy award-winning singer and songwriter, and philanthropist. Affectionately known worldwide as "Chaka," she is one of the most celebrated musicians in the world. With a rich musical legacy, Chaka has influenced generations of entertainers. She has the rare

ability to sing in seven music genres, including R&B, pop, rock, gospel, country, world music, and classical. She is respected by millions of fans and peers for her timeless, classic, and unmatched signature style. Throughout her legendary career, she has released 22 albums with ten No. 1 *Billboard* charted songs. However, the song that propelled her to stardom was the 1984 chart-topping, Grammy Award-winning mega-hit, "I Feel for You," written and first performed by Prince.

Dee Dee Bridgewater is a two-time Grammy Award winner, a Tony Award winner, and a 2017 NEA Jazz Master, as well as a stage and screen actress. For 23 years, the jazz and pop legend hosted National Public Radio's syndicated radio show, "JazzSet with Dee Dee Bridgewater." She has also served as a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Brenda Russell is a beloved singer-songwriter who has recorded 12 solo albums. She is best known for mega-hits "Get Here," "If Only For One Night," and "Piano In The Dark," among many others. Her songs have been recorded by dozens, including Oleta Adams, Herb Alpert, Patti Austin, Babyface, Ray Charles, Earth Wind & Fire, Al Jarreau, Patti Labelle, Sting, Donna Summer, Tina Turner, Luther Vandross, just to name a few. Her music has been sampled by Mary J. Blige, Janet Jackson, Jay-Z, and Kanye West. As a co-songwriter of the hit Broadway musical adaptation of *The Color Purple*, Russell, along with her co-writers, the late Allee Willis and Stephen Bray won a Grammy Award for Best Musical

Theatre Album; the trio also received a Tony Award nomination for Original Musical Score. Russell will also see her music transferred to the big screen when the film of the musical comes to screens in 2021.

Sheila E. is a master percussionist, singer, songwriter, author, actress, and humanitarian. A member of the musical Escovedo family, Sheila began her career as a teen and is best known for her work with Prince and her recordings, including "The Glamorous Life," among numerous others. She is the author of *Beat Of My Own Drum*. The multi-genre artist teaches a series of online drum lessons. Sheila E. continues to perform worldwide and heads up the Elevate Hope Foundation.

Terri Lyne Carrington is a three-time Grammy award-winning drummer, composer, producer, educator, and also the founder of Berklee Institute of Jazz and Gender Justice. She was the first woman to win a Grammy Award for Best Jazz Instrumental Album [2013] for *Money Jungle: Provocative in Blue*. In 2019, she was granted the prestigious Doris Duke Artist Award in recognition of her past and ongoing contributions to jazz. In 2020, Carrington's album, *Waiting Game* boasted a triple-crown win in *Downbeat* magazines International Critics Poll for Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, and Group of the Year, making her the first woman instrumentalist to concurrently win in all three categories in their 68-year history of the magazine.

Siedah Garrett is a Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter and a two-time Academy Award nominee, who is best known for

her composition "Man In The Mirror," recorded by Michael Jackson, with whom she toured worldwide and performed the duet "I Just Can't Stop Loving You." She notably duetted with The Temptations' Dennis Edwards on the hit "Don't Look Any Further," and earned a 2008 Grammy for Best Original Song Written for Motion Picture, Television, or Visual Media for "Love You, I Do," from the film *Dreamgirls*. Garrett recently released "The New Frontier (Say Their Name)," a tribute song to George Floyd and all the other African American men, women, and children who have been murdered by the police.

India.Arie is one of the most prolific songwriters of the 21st century. The four-time Grammy-winning singer/songwriter has received 23 Grammy nominations during the release of her seven solo albums. Her most recent project, *Worthy*, marks her first full-length solo album in five years and features the R&B hit "Steady Love."

Ledisi is a 12-time Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter, music producer, author, playwright, film producer and now CEO of her record label, Listen Back Entertainment/BMG. Her latest album, *The Wild Card*, is her ninth studio album. The playwright starred in the theater production of *Legend of Little Girl Blue: A Musical Journey into the Lives of Nina Simone and Ledisi*, which opened to rave reviews by critics. Ledisi is the author of *Better Than Alright: Finding Peace, Love and Power*, a collaboration with *Essence* magazine; and *Don't Ever Lose Your Walk: How To Embrace Your Journey*.

Lisa Fischer is a two-time Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter with a distinguished career as a first-call background singer who has toured with Luther Vandross, The Rolling Stones, Sting, Tina Turner, Nine Inch Nails, and countless others. Fischer earned her first Grammy Award as a solo artist in the Best R&B Performance category for the single, "How Can I Ease the Pain." She is featured on seminal projects by Lang Lang, Yo-Yo Ma, and Billy Childs has collaborated with the Alonzo LINES Ballet and has a lead role in the Oscar-winning documentary *20 Feet From Stardom*.

Lalah Hathaway is a five-time Grammy award-winning singer-songwriter whose recordings span pop, R&B, and jazz. With seven studio and live albums, Lalah, the daughter of the late R&B icon Donny Hathaway, continues to forge new paths in musical expression, particularly the ability to sing chords. She earned her first Grammy for Best R&B Performance for her re-recording of "Somethin'," originally featured on her 1990 self-titled debut album, with the band Snarky Puppy, in which she sang multiple notes at once.

Ponder this



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Who do you think you are?

There are folk who primarily function on the premise that they are entitled to have what they want, when they want it, no matter how it may affect the wellbeing of others. Self-centered egomaniacs will look pass you to get what they want. They will call you by every name, other than a child of God, to brand their name and secure their fame.

Self-confidence was always considered to be a good attribute in character building. It would strengthen a desire to achieve and enforce determination and aspiration. It is needed to survive in a world where the wind can knock you off your feet.

We are witnessing as a nation how hurtful and abusive inflated self-confidence can be in lead-

ership. Publicly displayed disrespect and negative accusations are mean and disruptive, yet it has become a force of nature to get a president's personal point across.

Common sense ought to say wicked words will come back and bite you in the butt. Shame ought to say you have gone too far with thoughtless words that flow like volcanic lava from the lips of persons lacking sympathy and empathy across airwaves and the internet. Wrong and strong should never be acceptable.

Six words, who do you think you are, should be contemplated as self-reflection. When you know who you are, that should be exemplified in all that you do in the best and worst of times. Actions speak louder than words, but words are forever engraved in the annals of history.

When overindulgence in self-confidence and egotistical meanderings have exposed your inability to hold a position, you need to accept the reality, there is shame in your game. When your success is grounded on demeaning the advancements of others



to showcase yourself, allotting time delving into trivial pursuits of needless information to back-up foolish accusations, there is a problem at hand.

This nation is in the throes of profound political and civil unrest and it

is dangerous. Evil saturations of fear and terror are spread about without any discernment of the ramifications that come when the

fire of hate is ignited in people waiting for the call. Stand back, stand by!

We are all seeking what is just and fair, but today we are witness to what happens when someone or a multitude of people believe they are above the law of the land and God's spiritual laws that govern the universe.

When you think you have the upper hand, it would be wise to

look around and see who is holding up your hand. Eventually the truth will prevail and the hands of those who hung in there with you supporting the heartless policies of an administration that could have and should have done more will fall by the wayside and make space for hope and renewal to step up to the plate.

This is the time to believe we can do better in this nation, because we know we deserve better than what we have been handed. PLEASE TAKE YOUR SOUL TO THE POLL AND VOTE! Consider the words in this song recorded in 1997 by The Spice Girls. *The race is on to get out of the bottom. The top is high, so your roots are forgotten. Giving is good, as long as you are getting. What is driving you it's ambition and betting.*

I said who do you think you are? Ooh superstar. Your trumpet's blowing for far too long. Climbing the ladder, but you are wrong. I said who do you think you are. [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries, retired former Managing Editor of the New York Beacon News.]

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE, VOTE...

BIDEN HARRIS

BUILD BACK BETTER

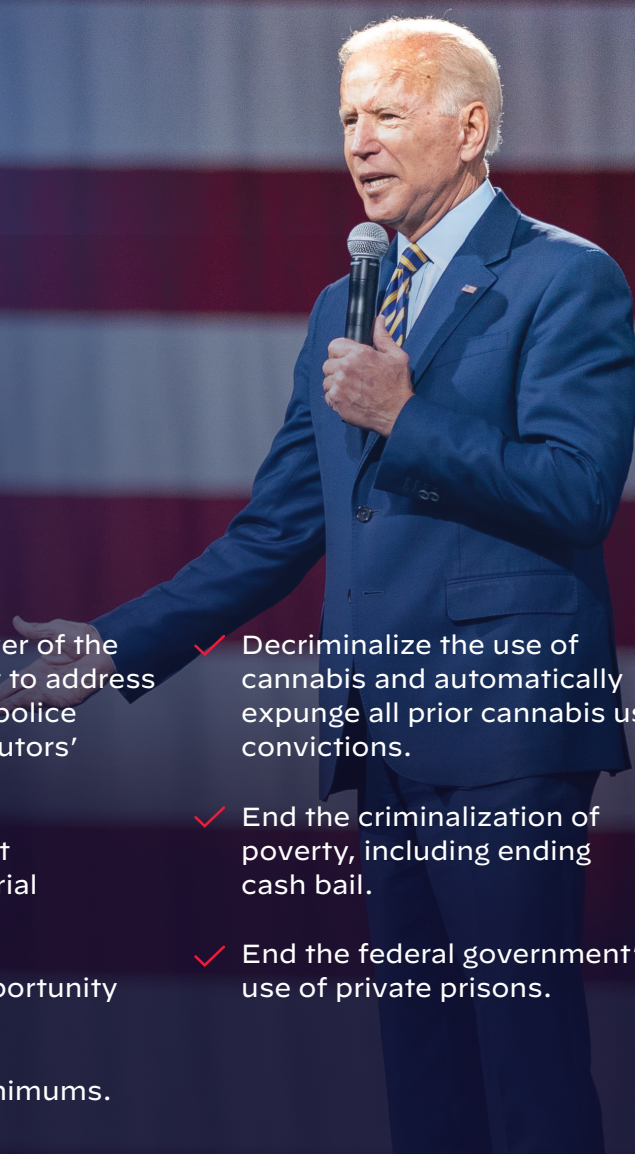
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Joe Biden will take bold action to reduce our prison population, create a more just society, and make our communities safer

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- ✓ Establish an independent TaskForce on Prosecutorial Discretion.
- ✓ End the criminalization of poverty, including ending cash bail.
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Health



By Glenn Ellis

- No matter where you fall on the political spectrum, the entire nation is fixated on, not only the fact that President Donald Trump is infected with COVID-19, but what we all want to know is, what's the deal with those medicines his doctors are giving him?

Since testing positive for coronavirus, President Trump has been receiving a number of different drugs—a steroid, an antiviral medication and an experimental drug cocktail. Despite his implications that he is alright and his overture to the public to not fear the coronavirus, it is critical for us all to remember that this virus is not going away any time soon; that his doctors have said he's "not out of the woods yet"; and experimental drugs aren't readily available to everyone.

Projections from the CDC say that deaths from the virus in the United States will top 400,000 by the end of the year. That means that this pandemic has the potential for us to see more than 36,000 cases and 2,700 deaths per day by Christmas. However, the fact that a 74-year old, obese man walked out of the hospital in 2-3 days after contracting COVID-19 should make us want to know more about what doctors gave him.

So, the absolute best thing we can do to protect the health of ourselves and our families is to know as much as possible about the full range of treatments and/or vaccines that are, or will be, available. But we must continue practicing the CDC guidelines of mask-wearing, social distancing and hand-washing.

First, it is important to understand that there are two phases of a COVID-19 infection. The first phase is the virus infecting the

What's behind President Trump's COVID-19 treatments? What does it mean for us?



human body, and then the second phase is the one that is most deadly—when the immune system runs at full speed attempting to conquer the viral invaders. The problem this causes is tremendous damage to all of the internal organs, including the lungs, which can eventually lead to death.

President Trump is on a combination of three really powerful drugs. The first is Regeneron monoclonal antibody cocktail, an artificial version of an antibody that is hoped to supply antibodies to help the immune system fight the virus. It is currently in clinical trials, so it does not have Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. The second one is Remdesivir, which is also an antiviral drug, which blocks the ability for the virus to duplicate itself. And then there's the latest one added to his treatment: Dexamethasone.

Though the Regeneron monoclonal antibody cocktail doesn't have FDA approval, there is an

FDA approval loophole. You can be granted access to experimental treatments for "compassionate use." That's when everything has failed for a patient, and their only hope to try the unapproved drug; otherwise, they might die. The antibodies Regeneron makes are similar to those made by the people who have caught the virus and survived it.

Regeneron interrupts the virus and stops it from replicating itself thousands of times. What we know so far is that in the clinical trials going on right now, taking Regeneron cuts the time you have symptoms. Regeneron is rarely used to treat patients who have been just diagnosed, like President Trump. It is generally only approved for patients who are hospitalized. But in the case of a sitting president, doctors might have to judge the risks and benefits differently.

You might remember that President Trump has a close relationship with billionaire, Leonard

Schleifer. Schleifer is the CEO/Founder of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. He was the guy who was front and center, in March, along with a group of other pharmaceutical executives at the White House when President Trump announced that biotech would solve the pandemic with drugs or vaccines. None of this is a coincidence. Keep your eye on this one.

The next drug in the trio is Remdesivir. It is believed to be most effective in the very early stages of the infection. Even Dr Anthony Fauci said: "The data shows Remdesivir has a clear-cut, significant, positive effect in diminishing the time to recovery". It is hoped to supply antibodies to help the immune system fight the virus.

Remdesivir is the antiviral drug that was developed in West Africa, to treat Ebola. The way it works is that it confuses the virus because it looks like some of the stuff in your body that it needs to reproduce and survive. Unlike Regeneron,

Remdesivir has received approval by the FDA under something known as an "emergency use declaration" for COVID-19 patients. Clinical trials showed effectiveness under some circumstances.

Dexamethasone suppresses the immune system if a patient receives this steroid too soon. It could actually prevent the immune system from fighting the virus in the first place. This is a steroid, and it works by calming the immune system. But it needs to be used at the right time. This is the most controversial of all the drugs President Trump is being given by his doctors. If a patient is given this too early in their diagnosis, Dexamethasone could actually make things worse by weakening the body's immune system.

Dexamethasone is not a new drug. It has been used in patients with very severe forms of pneumonia, while it is not as effective in less serious pneumonia. Researchers and scientists feel it should only be used in hospitalized patients who are on ventilators or who require supplemental oxygen. The NIH specifically "recommends against using Dexamethasone for the treatment of COVID-19 in patients who do not require supplemental oxygen."

The president is also taking zinc, vitamin D, famotidine, melatonin and aspirin. We don't know whether they have anything to do with the treating his COVID-19 infection.

This information is intended not to make sure you get the medications President Trump had, but to know what he had, so that you make informed decisions about your health. Still, don't let your guard down, stay informed and follow the CDC safety precautions and guidelines.

Glenn Ellis is a visiting scholar at the National Bioethics Center for Research and Healthcare at Tuskegee University and a bioethics writing fellow at Harvard University Medical School.

#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov

Princeton University to name residential college after businesswoman Mellody Hobson



Philadelphiaobserver.com

Businesswoman Mellody Hobson is known for making power moves in corporate America and her latest accomplishment will be breaking barriers at her alma mater. According to CBS News, Princeton University will rename one of its residential colleges after Hobson.

Princeton building once named for Woodrow Wilson to be named after Black alum Mellody Hobson <https://t.co/829AEQYX6M> — CBS News (@CBSNews) October 10, 2020

The honor is historic as it marks the first time in the Ivy League institution's 256-year existence that a residential college has been named after a Black woman. Hobson's namesake will replace that of former President Woodrow Wilson. The school, which will be dubbed Hobson College, is slated to open in 2026. Hobson—who currently serves as the President and Co-CEO of Ariel Investments—graduated from Princeton in 1991. The Chicago native served as chairwoman at DreamWorks Animation. Hobson, a fierce advocate for diversity and inclusion, serves on the boards of the Starbucks Corporation and JPMorgan Chase. The re-

naming is a part of the university's effort to grapple with its complex past and amplify individuals of color whose accomplishments and contributions are embedded within its history. In June, amid the unrest, the school announced that it would remove the name of Wilson from its School of Public and International Affairs due to his "racist thinking and policies."

Hobson, who has supported the advancement of Princeton's educational programs and initiatives through her philanthropic efforts, was humbled by the honor. "No one frothesem my family had graduated from college when I arrived at Princeton from Chicago, and yet even as I looked up at buildings named after the likes of Rockefeller and Forbes, I felt at home," she said in a statement. "My hope is that my name will remind future generations of students—especially those who are Black and brown and the 'firsts' in their families—that they too belong. Renaming Wilson College is my very personal way of letting them know that our past does not have to be our future." The Hobson/Lucas Family Foundation, which she founded with her husband George Lucas, has made the lead gift for the establishment of the school.



Three Black authors awarded MacArthur Foundation Genius Grants

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Three Black women have been awarded 2020 MacArthur Foundation genius grants for their lauded work in science fiction, young adult literature and essay writing.

Authors Jacqueline Woodson, N.K. Jemisin and Tressie McMillan Cottom were honored as MacArthur fellows and will each receive a \$625,000 grant to be paid over the next five years, CNN reports.

Woodson, author of *Brown Girl Dreaming* has published nearly 30 pieces of media about Black life and the Black experience, according to the foundation. Woodson was praised by MacArthur officials as a writer who is "redefining children's and young adult literature to encompass more complex issues and reflect the lives of Black children, teenagers, and families."

From 2016 to 2018, Jemisin, 48, won the Hugo Award for Best Novel for each of her books

in the widely acclaimed *Broken Earth* trilogy. In *The City We Became*, Jemisin illustrates an abstract New York City populated with diverse LGBTQ+ characters.

The MacArthur Foundation highlighted Jemisin for "pushing against the conventions of epic fantasy and science fiction genres while exploring deeply human questions about structural racism, environmental crises, and familial relationships."

In June, she told CNN Style that she writes from her own perspective — one that as a Black woman, hasn't always been prioritized.

"Fantasy is enhanced by having different voices. But I've always said that Black and female and queer writers will know when we have arrived when our work doesn't have to be exceptional. When our mediocre wish fulfillment fantasies get published as often as the white dudes' fantasies get published," she said.

Singer Johnny Nash ('I Can See Clearly Now') dead at 80

Philadelphiaobserver.com

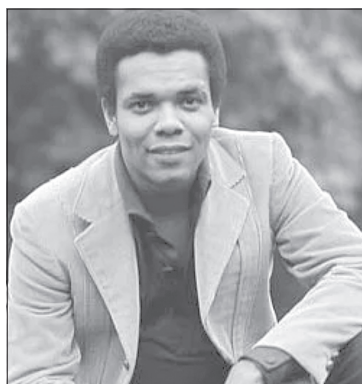
Sadly, we must report that singer Johnny Nash, known for the 1972 mega-hit "I Can See Clearly Now," died Tuesday. He was 80.

His son confirmed his death to CBS Los Angeles, noting he passed away at home in Houston. Nash died the same day as guitarist Eddie Van Halen, who had been battling cancer.

Born John Lester Nash, he sang

at Houston area churches and made his professional debut in 1957 with "A Teenager Sings the Blues." His debut on the charts came in 1958 with a cover of Doris Day's "A Very Special Love." Nash's career began in the 1950s covering standards and by the mid-60s, he was co-running a record company.

He was among the first artists to bring Jamaican reggae to US audiences and he also helped launch the career of Bob Marley. In fact, ac-



cording to Nash's website, he was one of the first non-Jamaican singers to record reggae music in Kingston, Jamaica.

'Woke' draws humor from a Black cartoonist's political awakening

By Joséphine Li
Philadelphiaobserver.com

Recently, the American TV show "Woke" premiered on Hulu. The show tells an impactful story of a Black cartoonist experiencing an awakening about racism in liberal San Francisco. The show mixes eccentric humor and characters with its timely real-world echoes.

Former "New Girl" star Lamorne Morris returns to television in the comedy-drama series. This semi-animated series is inspired by the life and work of famous cartoonist Keith Knight, known for his humorous cartoon han-

dlings of social, political, and racial issues. The show develops a bit slowly but deftly straddles the line between weightier matters and mining its sillier side.

In "Woke," the protagonist Keef is a self-identified non-controversial Black cartoonist who's on the verge of mainstream success. Introduced saying he's "just a cartoonist" and wants to "keep it light," however, after an unpleasant encounter with some aggressive, gun-toting police officers who mistaken Keef for a mugging suspect, Keef starts being confronted about racial inequality. The incident leaves Keef understandably shaken and

changes everything. Keef starts to get to grips with all the harsh realities of being Black in the US that he's been pretending don't exist by navigating the voices in his head who challenge him with what are ostensibly new ideas to him, without letting go of everything he's been able to accomplish pre-woke.

Woke was co-developed by Knight with Marshall Todd, and overseen by Jay Dyer, "Woke" derives much of the comedy from Keef's quirky and funny roommates Gunther and Clovis. Keef thus balances the urge to fight for social justice against pragmatic concerns about paying the rent, in the same



way "Woke" oscillates between race and more traditional sitcom preoccupations, mostly about single guys dating in the big cities.

"Woke" does keep things relatively light compared to some programs that have touched on similar themes thanks to its flights of fancy built around Keef's car-

tooning, but the messages about race, policing and the pressure to be a cartoonist still come through. The plot advances at an unhurried pace, but that is one of the luxuries streaming offers. The show should have the opportunity to keep the conversation going, potentially for a good long time.

Film Festival

Winners of the 2020 Virtual Urbanworld Film Festival with founding partner HBO and prestige partner WarnerMedia

By Audrey J. Bernard

The 24th Annual Urbanworld Film Festival (www.urbanworld.org) with founding partner HBO and prestige partner WarnerMedia proudly announced this year's winners of the virtual presentation in the top film categories: best narrative feature (U.S. and World Cinema), documentary feature, documentary short, young creator, narrative short, animation short, web original, music video, screenplay, as well as the Vimeo Staff Pick award. In keeping with the virtual state of affairs, this year's theme was "A Brave New (Virtual) World."

Urbanworld Film Festival (UFF) — the nation's largest competitive multicultural film festival — screened 98 official selections, four spotlight screenings with conversations, eight spotlight conversations, seven Creativity Uncovered conversations and featured four original screenplay finalists.

Show creator and director **Justin Simien** (*Dear White People*, *Bad Hair*) was this year's ambassador, and this five-day virtual event featured other notables such as **Stacey Abrams**, **Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley**, **Ava DuVernay**, **David Oyelowo**, **Rosario Dawson**, **Lena Waithe**, **Luis A. Miranda, Jr.**, **Nia DaCosta**, **Teyonah Parris**, **Kingsley Ben-Adir**, **Kelly Rowland**, **Robert Townsend**, **Alice Smith**, **Radha Blank**, **David E. Talbert**, **Jahi Di'Allo Winston**, **Will Catlett**, **DeRay McKesson**, **Chino Braxton**, **Pearl Thusi**, **Amy Schumer**, **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Chief Operating Officer Christine Simmons** and **MGM's Orion Pictures President Alana Mayo**.

This year's top award for best narrative feature was awarded to writer-director **David Midell** for *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain*. Based on real life events, the film tells the story of Kenneth Chamberlain, a retired Marine suffering from bipolar disorder, who was murdered by police officers who responded to him mistakenly setting off his own medical alert necklace in 2011. He was 68-years-old. *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain*, starring **Frankie Faison**, follows in the tradition of films like Ryan Coogler's *Fruitvale Station* and Reinaldo Marcus Green's *Monsters and Men* in addressing state violence in narrative film.

The jury was unanimous in their choice to award the prize to Midell. "Across the board, everyone felt that it was deservedly the winner," said **Gabrielle Glore**, the festival's director and head of programming. The film made its festival debut just months after the nation witnessed George Floyd lose his life to state violence sparking a series of nationwide protests against police brutality. "The performances all around, the way it was shot, the timeliness—this happens far too often. I'm really



The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain's Frankie Faison (Photo courtesy UFF)

pleased that it took the top prize," she added.

Other notable films screened at the fest included **David Oyelowo's** feature directorial debut, *The Water Man*, which was the big opener. *All-In: The Fight for Democracy* also screened for virtual audiences. The fest also screened films that premiered at other fests such as *Charm City Kings*, *Bad Hair* and *The Forty-Year-Old Version*.

The winners of the 24th Annual Urbanworld Film Festival are:

BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (U.S. CINEMA) – *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain*

Directed by David Midell

THE JURY: David Wolkis, SVP & Head, Production, TBS, TNT & TruTV
Mark R. Wright, Director, Development, MACRO
Mercedes Cooper, Director, Programming, ARRAY
Tamir Muhammad, Founder, Populace

BEST NARRATIVE FEATURE (WORLD CINEMA) – *Salvation*

Directed by Carmen Sangion

Honorable Mention – *Hoy* - Directed by Ricardo B'atz'
THE JURY: Amy Andrieux, Executive Director, MoCADA
Jeniffer Kim, SVP, International Originals, HBO Max
Stacy Spikes, Founder, Urbanworld and Founder, PreShow
Ted Hope, Producer

BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE – *The Donut King*

Directed by Alice Gu
BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT – *My Father The Mover*

Directed by Julia Jansch

THE JURY: Erika Alexander, Co-Founder & Chief Creative Officer, Color Farm Media
Jackie Glover, Head, News & Documentary, ABC
Lizzie Fox, SVP, Non-Fiction Programming, HBO Max
Sara Rodriguez, SVP, Documentary Programming, HBO

BEST YOUNG CREATOR – *Nahjum*
Directed by Sebastian Torres Greene & Manuel Del Valle

THE JURY: Eugene Ashe, Writer/Director, Amazon Studios' *Sylvie's Love*
Kesila Childers, VP, Development, Powderkey
Linda Lowy, EVP, Casting, HBO Max, TBS, TNT & TruTV
Sidra Smith, Head, Essence Studios

BEST NARRATIVE SHORT – *White Eye*

Directed by Tomer Shushan

Presented by WarnerMedia—\$5,000 Prize
Honorable Mention – *Elephant* - Directed by Gladys San Juan
THE JURY: Axel Caballero, Head, WarnerMedia's 150
Brenda Gilbert, Co-Founder & President, BRON Media Corporation
Marta Fernandez, President, MACRO Television Studios

BEST ANIMATION SHORT – *Wind-up*

Directed by Yibing Jiang

THE JURY: Billy Wee, SVP, Animation Originals,

HBO Max
Jeremiah Loeb, Creative Executive, Sony Animation
Taylor K. Shaw, CEO, BWA Studios

BEST WEB ORIGINAL – *East of LaBrea*

Directed by Sam Bailey

THE JURY: D'Angela Proctor, CEO, Wayfarer Entertainment
Greta Talia Fuentes, Director, Development, MACRO

Kevin Parker, Talent Manager, Artists First
Maurice "Mo" Marable, Director & Executive Producer, Hulu's *Woke*

Sam Linsky, SVP & Co-Head, Scripted Original Programming, TNT, TBS & TruTV

BEST MUSIC VIDEO – *Rhapsody*
Feat. Leikeli 47 "Oprah"

Directed by Farah X

THE JURY: Juliette Jones, EVP, Urban Promotions, Atlantic Records
Trenton Pratt, Music Programmer, BET Networks
Xiaolong Liu, Cinematographer

BEST SCREENPLAY – *If You Seek Britney*

Written by Ama Quao

Presented by BET Networks—\$5,000 Prize
THE JURY: Connie Orlando, EVP & Head, Specials, Music Programming & Music Strategy, BET
Joshua Sanchez, Writer/Director and WGAE Member Tracey Moore, Host, iHeartRadio's *The Spirited Actor Podcast* and *Celebrity Acting Coach*

VIMEO STAFF PICK – *Eagle*

Directed by Jose Acevedo
Presented by Vimeo—\$2,500 Prize and inclusion on Vimeo Staff Pick list

THE JURY: Ian Durkin, Lead Curator, Vimeo
Ina Pira, Curator, Vimeo
Jeffrey Bowers, Senior Curator, Vimeo

About Urbanworld Film Festival

The Urbanworld Film Festival was launched in 1997 by founder Stacy Spikes, original founder of MoviePass and current founder of PreShow. With estimated attendance reaching over 15,000 in-person, the five-day festival showcases narrative features, documentaries, short films, web originals, spotlight screenings, conversations and music performances. Urbanworld's 2020 edition will be available exclusively online, with additional programming made available digitally, beyond the festival season. Hollywood studios, networks and streamers, as well as established and emerging content creators, have consistently chosen Urbanworld to premiere box office hits and award-winning projects. Anchored in creativity, culture and community, Urbanworld is an initiative of the Urbanworld Foundation, which advances the inclusion and impact of diverse content creators through its platforms provided to storytellers from around the world. Gabrielle Glore serves as Festival Director and Head of Programming. The organization's website is www.urbanworld.org.

Folks!

JAY-Z appoints Jesse Collins as first Black executive producer of NFL halftime show

The National Football League (NFL), RocNation and Pepsi announced today that acclaimed Emmy Award nominated producer **Jesse Collins** has been named an Executive Producer of the Pepsi Super Bowl LV Halftime Show, taking place in Tampa, Florida on Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, 2021. Collins joins Executive Producers Roc Nation following one of the most groundbreaking Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime performances in years, which starred the incomparable stars **Jennifer Lopez** and **Shakira**. He joins long time award-winning Pepsi halftime show director **Hamish Hamilton**. "Jesse Collins is innovative, creative and one of the only executive producers that speak fluent 'artist vision.' He's a

true artist," commented **Shawn "JAY-Z" Carter**. "Jesse's insight and understanding create both extraordinary shows and true cultural moments. After working with Jesse for so many years, I look forward to all there is to come." From CBS' special John Lewis: Celebrating A Hero to the Grammy Awards to helming the BET Awards, Collins, Founder & CEO, Jesse Collins Entertainment, has played an integral role in producing many of television's most memorable moments in music entertainment and has grown his company into one of the most premiere full-service production companies in Hollywood. Beginning with a solid foundation in music and variety specials, his company has set the stage for hundreds of truly

unforgettable moments in awards show history with the BET Awards, BET Hip Hop Awards, BET Honors, Black Girls Rock!, Soul Train Awards, ABFF Honors, Dear Mama, UNCF: An Evening of Stars and Love & Happiness: An Obama Farewell among others. "It is an honor to be a part of such an iconic show at such an important time in our history," said Collins. "I am grateful to JAY-Z, Desiree Perez, the entire Roc Nation family and the NFL for granting me this opportunity." NFL brass added to the excitement: "We are excited to have Jesse Collins join with Roc Nation to executive produce the Pepsi Super Bowl LV Halftime Show," said **Brian Rolapp**, Chief Media and Business Officer, NFL. "We look forward to our fans experiencing a memorable



Producer Jesse Collins

performance as part of the culmination of our 101st season." (Photo

Courtesy of The Collins Jackson Agency)

These Brown Girls campaign for external beauty & wellness!

Tai Beauchamp is a true multi-hyphenate committed to the elevation of women. As Chief Brand Officer of BROWN GIRL jane, Tai alongside her co-founders – **Malaika and Nia Jones** -- are on a mission to revolutionize the wellness industry by creating a space and product line that supports approachable and realistic wellness centering women of color. BROWN GIRL jane is a luxury, plant-based wellness collection centering the needs of dynamic women of color. The BROWN GIRL jane product line harnesses the power of broad spectrum CBD in order to support the wholeness of our sisters through internal balance and external beauty. We are bonded both through friendship, family, Spelman College, and our collective appreciation for the energy shifting power of CBD



Tai Beauchamp

Working directly with farmers, chemists and manufacturers,



Malaika & Nia Jones

they've developed a collection using the highest quality

of plant-based, broad spectrum products that address

the needs of busy, dynamic women like us. The less than a year old brand has received press and applause from editors, influencers and women across the country alike. . We are women who are proven leaders in business, wellness, beauty and philanthropy, and have each built our reputations in our respective fields through an unwavering commitment to the advancement of disenfranchised and underrepresented communities. The combination of our professional expertise and personal backgrounds makes us deeply committed to the quality of our products and to the inclusivity within the overall industry. BROWN GIRL jane is the first collection of its kind, with an elevated emphasis on inclusivity, quality, accessibility and transparency. (Photos courtesy BROWN GIRL jane)

The Giving Institute welcomes BPC as a new member

Dwayne Ashley, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of **Bridge Philanthropic Consulting (BPC)**, is The Giving Institute's newest member and board member. BPC is a New York based firm founded by Ashley who has led BPC to raise over \$800 million for his past employers and impressive client roster, which includes, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Thurgood Marshall College Fund, United Negro College Fund, 100 Black Men of America, Louis Armstrong Foundation, Usher New Look, Steve Harvey Foundation, Madonna and the United Way of Texas Gulf Coast, Friends of Harlem Hospital, Mt. Zion Female Union Band Historic Cemeteries, MMTCC, National Black Voter Civic Participation, to name a few. "The Giving Institute is elated

and honored to welcome Bridge Philanthropic, as our newest member. Bridge Philanthropic is an outstanding example of the Giving Institute's commitment to ethics, excellence, and leadership in advancement of the greater good," said **Aly Sterling**, The Giving Institute Membership Committee Chair. Since 1935, The Giving Institute and its members have embraced and embodied the core values of ethics, excellence, and thought leadership in advancing philanthropy. The Giving Institute is the primary sponsor of the Giving USA publication, the longest-running annual report on charitable giving in the United States. "The BPC Team is honored to join the impressive slate of firms who are members of the Giving Institute

and leaders in the philanthropic sector," said Ashley. "The Giving Institute holds member organizations to the highest ethical standards and BPC is pleased to be part of this esteemed group. Given that we serve communities and social change organizations of color, BPC will bring an additional cultural perspective to the visionary work of the institute." Since 2016, BPC's mission has been to bridge relationships and resources to impact social change. BPC is the nation's largest full-service African-American owned fundraising firm. BPC is one of the most experienced fundraising firms in the country and provides counsel in capital campaigns, annual giving, major gifts programs, special events, corporate and government pro-

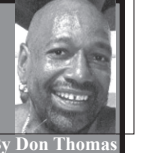


Dwayne Ashley, Founder & CEO, Bridge Philanthropic Consulting

gram development, conference management, organizational development, board training, planned giving and strategic communications. For more in-

formation visit the website and social media networks at: <http://bridgephilanthropicconsulting.com/about>

Entertainment



By Don Thomas

The wealth of African culture

Dear friends, every Sunday we feature a notable quote by a person of African descent on our social media platforms, which I do hope you are following. Recently we featured the words of the late great South African Jazz Legend Hugh Masekela who once said, “I’ve got to where I am in life not because of something I brought to the world, but through something I found – the wealth of African culture.”

These words are deeply meaningful to us, because we know that the abundance of creativity found on the continent and among our people has long fueled culture and social change throughout the world, and will continue to be instrumental in its future. African culture is found in the beats of the Brazilian Samba, in the hearty gumbos of New Orleans, in the Islamic textiles of Spain, the versions of Creole that exist across the Caribbean, in the weaved baskets of the Carolinas, and in so many other places that have become home to generations of African descended people.

Our music, visual arts, cuisine, literary elements, and language have always been featured on the global stage, crossing and conceiving new boundaries. Over centuries, our culture has served as the foundation for new global norms that we see and rely upon every day.

As a new generation of African creatives lead across these mediums, we continue to share the wealth of African culture with the world in innovative, exciting, and



Late Great South African Jazz Legend Hugh Masekela



Ghanaian Artist Patrick Quarm

profound ways. I encourage you to check out our One on One with Ghanaian Artist **Patrick Quarm**, whose paintings serve as a form of cultural archeology, traversing geographies and generations of his family and friends over time. We also encourage you to stay tuned to our social media platforms as we feature Quarm and other artists and cultural producers throughout October.

I’d be remiss not to also mention how our team remains engaged in the political and social upheaval happening throughout the world. From the fight of Black Americans for equal rights and justice to protests happening in Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Nigeria, we recognize that the type of social change required for the global society we hope to create will require us all to speak up and out whenever we can and wherever we can.

We recently discussed this topic during our conversation *Getting into Good Trouble: Exploring the Act of Protest Around the World* with Christof Heyns of the UN Human Rights Committee, Mary Harvey, chief executive officer of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, Peter Mutasa, president of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, and Nneka Ogwumike, president of the WNBA Players

Association, and with special remarks from Michele Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and Patrick Gaspard, president of the Open Society Foundations.

They all made clear to us that no matter our occupation, whether in the streets, on the court, or on a canvas, the full recognition of and interaction with our humanity must always come first. We are people, not products. While we wait for a safe moment to reopen our physical space we will continue providing opportunities for you to learn about and engage with the richness of African culture and the African Diaspora digitally, and in ways we hope inspires and encourages you through these turbulent times. We remain grateful for your engagement and support, and look forward to seeing you online.

P.S. What I’m reading now — *The Open Society and Its Enemies* by Karl Popper: At this moment, the terms authoritarianism, fascism, and totalitarianism are a feature of our political and social conversations. This book is a deep exploration of what it means to build an inclusive, equitable society and the forces hell bent on making sure that never happens. **In Solidarity, Uzodinma Iweala, M.D. The Africa Center, chief executive officer**

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