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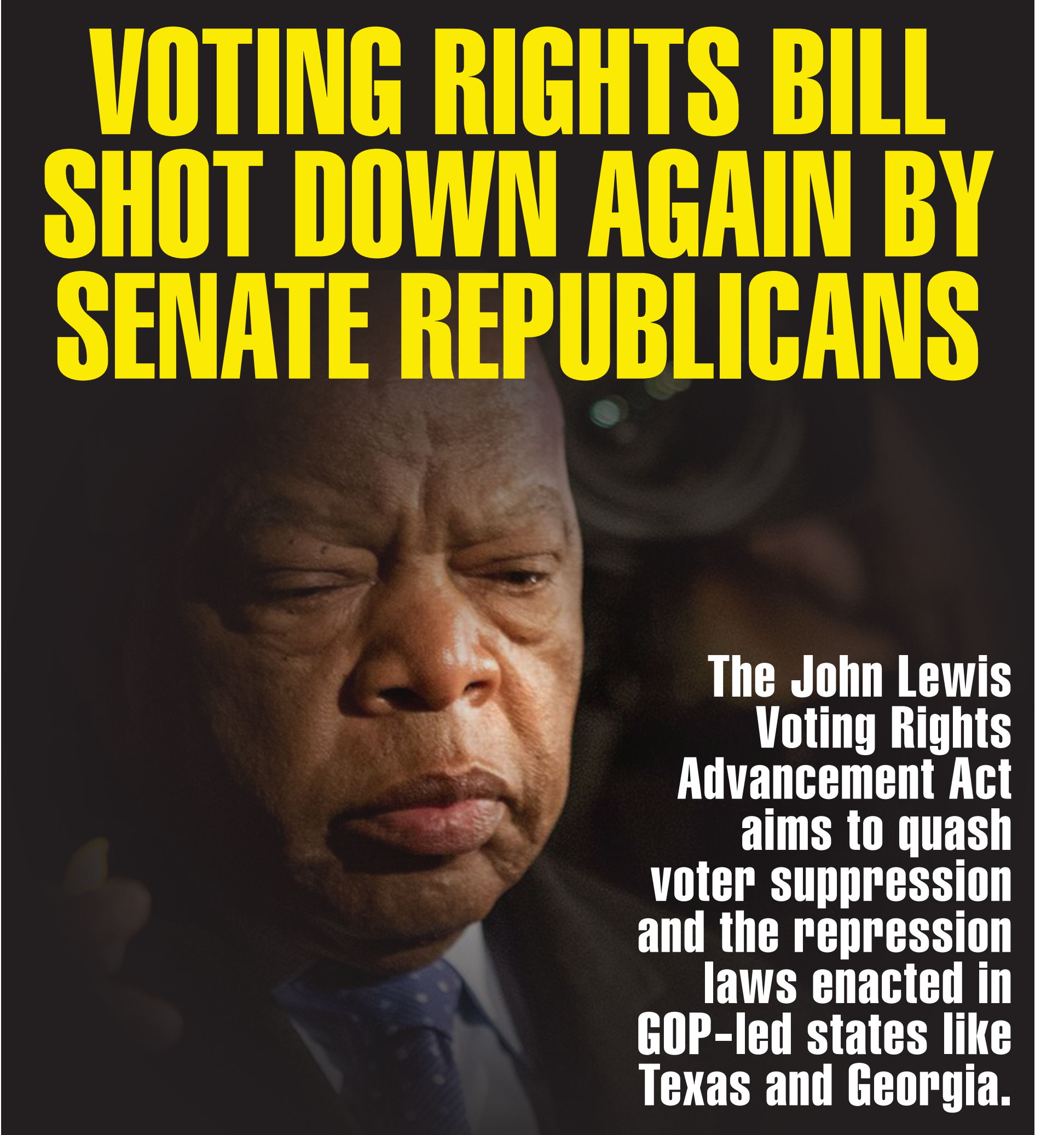
Speaking Truth to Justice

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VOTING RIGHTS BILL SHOT DOWN AGAIN BY SENATE REPUBLICANS



**The John Lewis
Voting Rights
Advancement Act
aims to quash
voter suppression
and the repression
laws enacted in
GOP-led states like
Texas and Georgia.**



Border crossings brace for long lines when travel ban lifts

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Travel across land borders from Canada and Mexico has been largely restricted to workers whose jobs are deemed essential. Communities on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border are preparing for heavy traffic and long waits at ports of entry on Monday when the U.S. will reopen its land borders to nonessential travel after almost 20 months of COVID-19 restrictions.

Travel across land borders from Canada and Mexico has been

largely restricted to workers whose jobs are deemed essential. New rules will allow fully vaccinated foreign nationals to enter the U.S. regardless of the reason.

U.S. officials urged travelers to have their travel and vaccine documents readily available for border authorities to inspect in anticipation of longer-than-usual wait times at ports of entry.

Unvaccinated children will be allowed to enter the U.S. if they are traveling with a fully vaccinated adult, according to a San Diego Union Tribune report.



Who is to blame for Astroworld deaths?

Philadelphiaobserver.com

At least eight people died at a popular rapper's music festival in Texas on Friday night from apparent overcrowding in an event that also saw throngs of fans break through barriers outside and trampling people in the process, prompting speculation and accusations about who was responsible for safety. Nearly two dozen others were hospitalized amid reports of multiple people suffering heart attacks. At least one of the people being described as victims was reportedly as young as 10 years old.

Video footage and photos emerging from rapper Travis Scott's Astroworld concert series in Houston show graphic footage of people passed out on the ground while some were receiving CPR as

the show kept going on.

None of the victims were immediately identified.

Social media accounts from concertgoers were consistent in their claims that there was not enough security or medical personnel or medical equipment available as it became increasingly clear that people were dying.

Exact details were scarce, but local news outlet KHOU reported that "the crowd began to rush toward the stage around 9:15 p.m. and people started passing out because they couldn't breathe."

People who claim to be in attendance were increasingly posting their own testimonials to social media about their experiences. One person who said he was in the front said he also couldn't breathe when he was crushed but that he was pulled out by people who noticed him.



The Congressional Black Caucus helps Biden pass the Infrastructure Bill

Philadelphiaobserver.com

On Nov. 5, The Biden administration successfully passed their long-awaited infrastructure bill. The 78-year-old president gushed about the big victory after the \$1.2 trillion piece of legislation passed through the House with a 228-206 vote.

"Finally, infrastructure week," Biden said during his celebratory speech. "I'm so happy to say that: infrastructure week." The president continued, "The American people have made clear one overwhelming thing, I think,"

Biden continued. "I really mean it — all the talk about the elections and what do they mean? They want us to deliver. Last night we proved we can. On one big item, we delivered."

Biden has the Congressional Black Caucus to thank for the final push. Black lawmakers negotiated with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to sign off on the bill to pour trillions of dollars into damaged roads, bridges, tunnels, and transit. Initially, Democrats were steadfast in their decision to pass the infrastructure bill and the president social welfare and climate change

proposal estimated at \$1.85 trillion. Still, the idea was shot down by House officials. Black Caucus members pushed for Pelosi to pass the bill immediately and then hold a vote for the larger climate bill hopefully come mid-November, The New York Times noted.

"The C.B.C. wants to land the plane because the C.B.C. represents communities that have the most to gain," said Representative Hakeem Jeffries of New York, the Democratic Caucus chairman who aided in the bill's passage. "It's no more complicated than that."

Republicans update their race-coded strategy to mobilize the Trump base

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Virginia gubernatorial election won by Republican Glenn Youngkin, the former CEO of the private equity firm The Carlyle Group, confirms that Donald Trump's presidency inaugurated a new era of high-turnout elections.

He did so with a kind of racially coded appeal that Republicans have used to forge their winning coalition over the past 50 years but have updated for the Trump era. The issue of the teaching of "critical race theory" — a post-civil rights era legal theory that racism is systemic in American law and institutions in public schools provided an ambiguous enough target to mobilize the rural Trump base to go to the polls while overlapping the issue with other education-related anxieties for persuadable suburban voters.

In Virginia, the critical race theory issue did not focus on the teaching of actual critical race theory, which is almost exclusively taught in universities and law schools. Nor did it sole-



ly focus on clumsy anti-racist teachings or the ideas that some anti-racist consultants promote that stem from critical race theory concepts.

But the issue still helped Youngkin turn out the base without scaring off swing voters in the way needed to win amid high turnout.

Finding an issue to do both was needed to win amid high turnout. Every election since Trump took office has seen increased

turnout from a more motivated electorate. The 2017, the Virginia gubernatorial race saw turnout hit a record that was broken again this year. The 2018 midterms also saw record-high turnout, as did the 2020 presidential race. Each election appears to be building on the one that preceded it — and any lingering doubts that Trump's effective absence from the political scene would dampen turnout have been quieted.

#BlackburnTakeover' continues with Howard University officials refusing to negotiate

By Barrington M. Salmon and Trevon Patterson

The student takeover of Howard University's Armour J. Blackburn Building is entering its fourth week with no end in sight.

Currently, 150 students are occupying Blackburn demanding that President Wayne A. I. Frederick, school administrators and the Board of Trustees accede to four

demands. Yet so far, Frederick, the HU Legal Counsel and Dr. Cynthia Evers, Vice President of Student Affairs, have opted to play hardball by refusing to negotiate with the protestors.

Student leaders who spoke at an emergency student town-hall meeting on Sunday night described mold growing on the walls and other parts of dorm rooms, leaking water, an infestation of rats and roaches, a housing

shortage that has left students scrambling to find shelter, and demands that Frederick and the board reverse their recent decision to remove students, faculty and alumni from the board.

"Three thousand students moved into moldy dorms. What type of university puts you in a chokehold and says that's what you get?" asked Channing Hill, president of the HU NAACP. "It's been 19 days of protests by 17, 18 and 19-year-olds. They are holding the (threat) of expulsion over our faces ... Howard was supposed to protect us. Frederick was supposed to protect and nurture me. The only thing protecting me is the community. We need your help and protection."

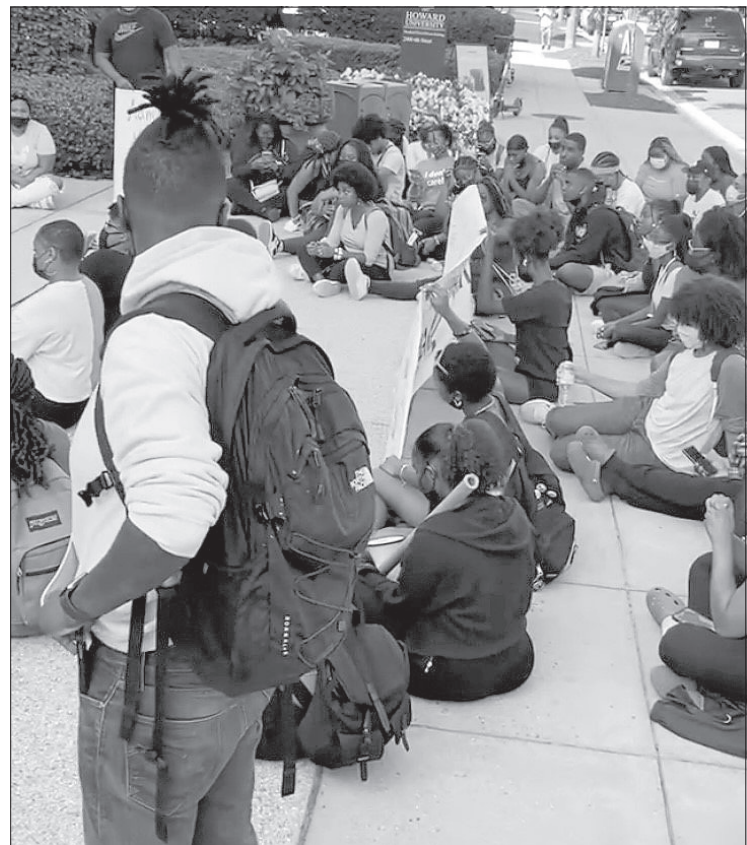
Hill and others said students have been braving the elements, sleeping on concrete, dealing with the rain, while others have pitched tents.

"On October 4th, I took part in a protest and marched around the perimeter of the campus with my fellow students, stating our grievances with Administration," said HU junior Enoch Jones. "Before we marched, we stood on the yard for hours with a banner and encouraged observers to participate by writing down any problems they had with administration."

Jones, a New Yorker majoring in Television and Film with a Theatre Art minor, said shortly after the protest began that students have a right to protest the abominable conditions.

"Students have uninhabitable living conditions, faculty members have not been paid, students

Continued on page 4



Howard University students, saying they are fed up with "uninhabitable living conditions", are taking to the sidewalks in protest. PHOTO: Trevon Patterson/Trice Edney News Wire

Rep. Cori Bush slams Sen. Manchin as 'anti-Black' over social spending bill

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Manchin's "opposition to the Build Back Better Act is anti-Black, anti-child, anti-woman and anti-immigrant," Bush contended.

Missouri Rep. Cori Bush issued a scathing assessment Monday of Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin's opposition to President Joe Biden's Build Back Better Act, which would feature a \$1.75 trillion spending bill to cover social programs and climate change.

"Joe Manchin does not get to dictate the future of our country," Bush wrote in her statement.

"I do not trust his assessment



of what our communities need the most," she continued. "I trust the parents in my district who can't get to their shift without childcare. I trust the scientists who have shown us what our future will look like if we fail to meaningfully address the climate crisis. I trust the patients and doctors

Senate Republicans again shoot down John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

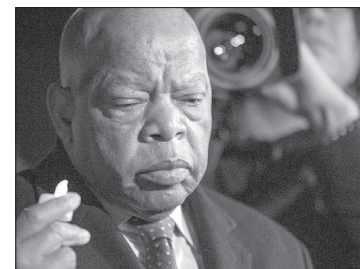
By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Pouring salt on wounded Democrats, Senate Republicans on Wednesday, November 3, again blocked the latest efforts to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

The bill aims to quash voter suppression and the repression laws enacted in GOP-led states like Texas and Georgia.

Named after the late Congressman John Lewis, the Georgia Democrat who spent his life fighting for civil and equal rights, the bill has overwhelming public support.

Because of the Jim Crow-inspired filibuster rule, Democrats need the party's 50 Senators and



at least 10 Republicans to pass the measure.

"I will be among those who vote to begin debate on this measure when we have this vote," Republican Sen. Lisa Markowski of Alaska said.

"I will do so because I strongly

Continued on page 6

Police overhaul ballot measure fails in Minneapolis; residents in other cities also explore reforms

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Voters in Minneapolis narrowly defeated a ballot measure to replace their police department.

If passed, the measure would have reformed how policing is done in the city where George Floyd was murdered in 2020.

Needing 51 percent of the vote, Question 2 – as it was known – failed by a 57 percent to 44 percent vote. An affirmative vote would have created a Department of Public Safety with violence interrupters, social service workers, and mental health professionals accompanying law enforcement on certain calls.

The mayor and the 13-person city council would have oversight of the department.

"I think the vote had more to do with city council than it did police reform," said Michelle Gross, the president of Citizens United Against Police Brutality.

"Several city council members were voted out [Tuesday], and there wasn't much clarity on what this would actually mean," Gross

stated.

Al McFarlane, publisher of Insight News, said voters turned out in record numbers.

"This is still a response to the murder of George Floyd," McFarlane stated.

The most prominent supporter of the measure were groups like Yes 4 Minneapolis, a coalition of more than 100 organizations and businesses including the ACLU of Minnesota, Take Action MN, Showing Up For Racial Justice, and Reclaim The Block.

Organizers for Yes 4 Minneapolis have said the overall goal is to reduce police officers' role in calls involving homeless individuals, mental health issues, and substance abuse.

"This amendment would create a Department of Public Safety combining public safety functions through a comprehensive public health approach to be determined by the Mayor and Council," JaNaé Bates, a spokeswoman for Yes 4 Minneapolis, wrote in a statement.

"The department would be led by a commissioner nominated by the mayor and appointed by the Council. The Police Department,

and its chief, would be removed from the City Charter. The Public Safety Department could include police officers, but the minimum funding requirement would be eliminated."

Minnesota Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar and Attorney General Keith Ellison, who successfully prosecuted Chauvin, expressed support for the ballot measure.

However, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Gov. Tim Walz, and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, all Democrats, publicly opposed the measure.

"Do you want to let go of what you know is not great, but you know it? Or reach for something that's uncertain because it's in the future, and we haven't done it yet? I'm saying: Let's have some hope that we can figure this out together as a community. Let's try something different," Ellison stated.

The Attorney General pointed to police departments like Newark and Camden, New Jersey, which achieved similar changes to great success.

In his commentary, Ellison noted how the police department in Camden, where more than 90

percent of residents are Black or Hispanic, was disbanded in 2013 and rebuilt despite opposition from police unions and some residents.

"Those communities have said, 'You know what, let's reform,'" Ellison told the network. "But the thing about Newark is, Newark did its changes under a federal consent decree. So, I'm saying to the people of Minneapolis, let's not have the federal government make us reform. Let's just choose it."

The goal centered on making long-term policies to reflect "our values of safety, humanity, and dignity, not individual personalities or people," Yes 4 Minneapolis officials wrote in a fact sheet.

"By voting Yes, you are voting for a funded, accountable, and expanded Department of Public Safety. This means police are working with qualified professionals, like mental health responders and social workers, to make all our communities safer."

Minneapolis wasn't the only city with police reform on the ballot.

Voters in Austin, Texas rejected



Proposition A, a measure to establish minimum police staffing and increased the number of police officers on duty.

The measure required the city to employ two officers per 1,000 residents.

In Cleveland, Ohio, 94 percent of voters cast their ballot to implement an amendment that will create a civilian-led board and Community Police Commission.

The commission will have the final say on police policies and discipline and require some of the members of the board to be lawyers who have had experience representing victims of police brutality.

In Albany, New York, residents approved a measure to increase the authority of a civilian-led committee to provide oversight of police investigations and complain

Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake's infamous Super Bowl controversy gets documentary treatment

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake's 2004 Super Bowl halftime controversy is getting the documentary treatment from FX and Hulu.

As Deadline reports, the doc will be the latest installment in the New York Times Presents series, entitled "Malfunction: The Dressing Down of Janet Jackson."

Directed by Jodi Gomes, the documentary will premiere Nov. 19 and will "feature previously unseen footage and interviews with people involved with the production of the infamous halftime show," Complex writes.

Meanwhile, we previously reported that the stylist who worked with Jackson for her infamous 2004 Super Bowl appearance has revealed that it was Timberlake who pushed for the "wardrobe malfunction" that made international headlines.

Wayne Scot Lukas, stylist to the stars, told Page Six that Timberlake wanted to outdo Britney Spears,



Madonna and Christina Aguilera, who made jaws drop when they kissed during their performance at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Page Six writes, "Lukas told us that the original concept was for Jackson to be in a pearl G-string" similar to the one worn by actress Kim Cattrall in an episode of "Sex and the City".

"Janet was going to be in a Rocha dress, and [Justin] was going to step on the back of her dress to reveal her butt in this pearl G-string," Lukas told the outlet. But "the outfit changed a couple of days before, and you saw the magic."



Janet Jackson and Justin Timberlake's Infamous Super Bowl Controversy Getting Documentary Treatment - The New York Beacon

Pastor tackles gun-wielding man during church service

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Being led away after Pastor Ezekiel Ndikumana tackled him, Dezire Baganda said all churches and schools need to be shot up. A 26-year-old man has been charged with 15 counts of felony aggravated assault after pulling out a gun during church services at a north Nashville church.

The pastor of Nashville Light Mission Pentecostal Church and several parishioners tackled Dezire Baganda, who was sitting in the front row of the church on Sunday afternoon.

According to a press release from the Nashville Police Department, Baganda approached the altar where Pastor Ezekiel Ndikumana and several members of the congregation were praying.

"Baganda told everyone to get up while he waved and pointed the handgun at the congregation," NPJ officials wrote. The pastor quickly tackled Baganda before any shots were fired. Several church members jumped in



Through an interpreter, Pastor Ezekiel Ndikumana of Nashville Light Mission Pentecostal Church explains to local news how he managed to tackle a parishioner who pulled out a gun Sunday. (Photo: Screenshot/WKRN)

to assist in disarming Baganda and holding him to the ground until officers arrived on scene."

Being led away after Pastor Ezekiel Ndikumana tackled him, Dezire Baganda said all churches and schools need to be shot up.

Roddy Ricch donates earnings from Astroworld Festival to families of victims

Philadelphiaobserver.com

One day after performing at Astroworld on Friday (November 5), Roddy Ricch announced in his Instagram stories to donate proceeds he made from his performance to the families of the eight individuals who died at the festival.

"Please have the families of those who we lost yesterday reach out," Roddy wrote. "I'll be donating my net compensation to the families of this incident #Pray4Houston."

The move from the LA native arrives after hip-hop and the Houston community deals with the aftermath of an incident at Astroworld which left eight people dead and hundreds hospitalized with injuries.



In a press conference Saturday, Houston Fire Chief Sam Peña said the crowd started to rush toward the stage around 9:15 p.m. CT, about 15 to 20 minutes into Travis Scott's headlining set. People

began passing out, inciting more panic, at which point the Houston Police Department declared a mass casualty incident.

"The crowd for whatever reason began to push and surge towards the front of the stage, which caused the people in the front to be compressed – they were unable to escape that situation," Peña said.

At a follow-up press conference later in the afternoon, Houston mayor Sylvester Turner revealed the ages of the eight people who lost their lives: a 14-year-old, a 16-year-old, two 21-year-olds, two 23-year-olds, one 27-year-old, and an unidentified male believed to be in his 20s. The loss of life at Astroworld Fest on Friday ranked among the deadliest at a concert in U.S. history.

Oklahoma man facing execution this month recommended for clemency

Philadelphiaobserver.com

*An Oklahoma man who is scheduled to be executed on Nov. 18 was recommended for clemency by the state Pardon and Parole Board Monday.

We reported earlier, Julius Jones was 19-years-old he was convicted of a murder he says he did not commit. As previously shared in a petition by Rev. Cece Jones-Davis (Julius Jones Coalition), Jones, 41, is a Black man on death row in Oklahoma for almost

20 years. He is held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day. He is allowed one hour of sunlight a day, and three showers a week. Every minute we wait to take action, Julius is suffering. Every second that goes by brings Julius closer to being executed for a crime he didn't commit.

Jones is scheduled to be executed on Nov. 18, despite the state's parole board recommending that his sentence be commuted.

Yahoo writes, "Jones' legal



team is now awaiting the decision of Gov. Kevin Stitt after the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole board made their recommendation on Sept. 13. (In a 3-1 vote, the board ruled that Jones' death sentence should be commuted to life in prison.)"

#BlackburnTakeover' continues with Howard University officials refusing to negotiate

From page 3

don't feel safe enough to leave their dorms, amongst countless other issues," Jones said. "It is now October 19th, and we have been at Blackburn for over a week due to demands not being met. The response from the general public as well as the community has been so loving and supportive. It is honestly a shame that we are still waiting for action however, if not now then when? We are the revolution."

Both Frederick and Evers have published public letters demanding that the students end their protest action.

"The occupation of the Blackburn center must end," he wrote in an Oct 26 letter. "There may be areas where we agree to disagree. That's the nature of a vibrant community. However, Howard University's proud tradition of student protest has never been – and can never be – invoked as a justification for tactics that harm our students. The current occupation of the Armour J. Blackburn Center is a departure from past norms."

Attorney Donald Temple, who is representing the students pro-bono, said he and students leaders have had several fruitless meetings with university administrators, with Evers demanding that all protestors leave Blackburn before administrators will even

consider negotiations. On top of that, Temple and students say, both Evers and Frederick have threatened to expel or otherwise punish those involved in the protest.

"There are things you don't know that I've seen," Temple told members of Howard Alumni United on Monday night. "At our second meeting with the lawyer and Dr. Evers, they told the students there wouldn't be negotiations. Afterwards, one of the student leaders cried for 30 minutes. This morning I was talking to another student and she was so frustrated and courageous. While we were talking, she said, 'That will be \$5.50.' She is working a job at a coffee shop."

"This movement is led by all young women who are 17, 18, 19, 20 years old. The PR person is 20. They are carrying these increasing loads, dealing with 50- and 60-years-old with triple degrees. One young woman said, 'I'm not fighting for me or the students here but students coming and those after that.'"

One of the leaders, Anyah Vines, a senior political science/criminology double major and also the founder of @_thelivemovement, said students didn't take this action lightly.

"This is not a big sleepover or us being rebellious," she said.

Vines said she and her col-

leagues want Frederick and administrators to be held accountable and responsible for what was an avoidable situation; is demanding that officials develop a housing plan; and is also demanding a "legal, academic and disciplinary amnesty."

She said, "This could have ended long ago but we haven't gotten anything. We've been asking to meet with the people who govern this university. We have a right to protest. We will be staying here. We will not leave ... We will not fold, we will not bend until we get what we want."

Fear of retaliation is what prompted the protestors to call Sunday's emergency townhall meeting and ask for support against the threats and possible retaliation from university administrators. A number of groups and individuals have stepped up so far. Those include the Capstone Group; several HU alumni groups; students from Atlanta, including Morehouse. Clarke-Atlanta University and Spelman University; poet Sonia Sanchez; and the Revs. William J. Barber, II and the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

"This was a very necessary protest," Rev. Jackson said during the Sunday Zoom meeting. "I talked to Frederick last week after many calls and told them

Continued on page 6

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Editorial - Opinion

Lessons for Democrats in Virginia defeat: Give voters something to vote for



By Ben Jealous

Election Day in Virginia was a major defeat for the Democratic Party. It could signal a much bigger disaster in 2022 if Democratic officials do not learn the right lessons and do not deliver on the promises they have made to voters.

Every election is complicated. There is no single explanation for Republican Glenn Youngkin's upset victory. But there are plenty of warning signs.

Going into the election, it was clear that there was an enthusiasm gap. In other words, Youngkin's Republican supporters were more

excited about voting than former Gov. Terry McAuliffe's Democratic backers. One big reason was the feeling that Democrats pulled out all the stops last year to elect President Joe Biden and give Democrats majority control in Congress—but that hasn't led to passage of a jobs and infrastructure bill or voting rights protections.

In fact, the day after the Virginia election, Republican senators used filibuster rules to block debate on a voting rights bill for the fourth time this year. At the same time, Republican state legislators are putting more voting restrictions in place and creating more corrupt partisan redistricting plans that will give them far more power than they have earned—often at the expense of Black voters.

That's why religious and civil rights leaders have been getting arrested at the White House in growing numbers while demanding that President Biden do more to lead Senate Democrats in dismantling the Republican blockade on voting rights and democracy protection legislation.

But that hasn't happened yet. That failure to get things done helps explain why Democratic voters in Virginia were less fired

up about the election than Republicans.

There were other things at work. McAuliffe made a clumsy statement about parental involvement in education that Youngkin's campaign and supporters exploited in dishonest ways. That was cynical, and some might say, typical, campaign politics. It probably helped Youngkin win more suburban and urban votes.

And that points to another warning sign. Youngkin was apparently able to drive a lot of independents and white women into his camp by embracing what is a national right-wing political strategy: to inflame fear and anger among parents over the supposed threat of "critical race theory." Critical race theory is an academic field that examines the existence and impact of structural racism.

Right-wing groups and politicians have turned it into a political weapon by claiming that school boards and teachers are part of a Marxist plot to destroy America by making white kids feel guilty about American history and current inequality. Youngkin, who talked about "unity" on the campaign trail, ran with this divisive strategy, promising to ban "critical race

theory" from Virginia's schools "on day one."

Youngkin's success points to multiple dangers ahead.

For Virginians, his victory and Republicans' takeover of the House of Delegates means that advances in voting rights, access to health care, and common-sense gun regulation that were made under Democratic leadership in recent years are threatened with reversal. Youngkin told activists that once he was elected he could go "on offense" against reproductive choice.

And for the rest of us, the outcome in Virginia means that Youngkin's playbook will be used by more politicians to bring us far-right politics disguised with a cheery smile and rhetoric about protecting children—a strategy that has long been used to smear the LGBTQ community and is now being turned against honest teaching about the racism in our past and present.

If too many voters fall for that—or too many of us stay away out of frustration over the lack of progress—we will give more power to the same politicians who are devising new ways to keep Black people away from the ballot box and leave us underrepresented in

the halls of power.

We can't let the 2022 elections be dominated by bogus culture war issues drummed up by right-wing politicians. They must be about making economic opportunity, health care, and quality education available to all Americans, no matter their color or where they live. They must be about protecting our democracy and right to vote.

The Virginia campaign showed us that campaigning against the lingering threat of Donald Trump is not enough to win an election in which he's not on the ballot. Failing to make the case that electing Democrats will make people's lives better will leave the door open for next year's campaigns to become about something else.

Ben Jealous serves as president of People For the American Way. Jealous has decades of experience as a leader, coalition builder, campaigner for social justice and seasoned nonprofit executive. In 2008, he was chosen as the youngest-ever president and CEO of the NAACP. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar, and he has taught at Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania.

#BlackburnTakeover' continues with Howard University officials refusing to negotiate

From page 4

to negotiate. This must be a national issue of education for our youth. It's taken off like wildfire in schools across the country ... you can't lawyer your way out of this. It's a moral issue."

Jackson praised the protestors for their deportment and resolve.

"They are disciplined, focused and level-headed students," he added. "I have been in some of America's best jails. I stand by you. We're going to fight this thing until we win."

HU grad April R. Silver, one of the leaders of the student takeover of Howard's A Building in 1989 to demand the removal of Lee Atwater from the Board of Trustees, said it is incumbent upon those who love Howard University to gather around and protect the Baby Bisons.

"Sonia Sanchez gave us the language on how to push back," she told the several hundred members of Howard Alumni United. "We're airing our dirty laundry because we love this institution. It's absolutely unprecedented. We've never had students, alumni, faculty and parents come togeth-

er to wrap ourselves around our Baby Bison."

She said it's clear that things have not changed. While it is inexcusable, absurd and obscene that Frederick hasn't met with the students yet, she said she and her colleagues need to acknowledge that the president and the board chair are Howard alumni who also love their school.

At Silver's invitation, Newark Mayor Ras Baraka interrupted a meeting he was attending and joined the Zoom call to offer his support.

"You can't miss what's going on down there," he said. "... I'm just appalled at everything that's happening. It's sad," said Baraka, son of legendary poet Amiri Baraka and one of the leaders of the 1989 takeover. "The university didn't think it was wise and prudent to resolve the issue and put this behind us ... It's scary that someone is as out of touch as (former HU President James E.) Cheeks. It's important for alumni to stick together. Students have support. This needs to be resolved. It's not the right time for the administration to not be acting serious."

Senate Republicans again shoot down John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

From page 3

support and I believe that Congress should enact a bipartisan, re-authorization of the Voting Rights Act."

But her GOP colleagues differ. "This is a Trojan horse to carry a lot of other provisions that the Democrats had wanted to enact through the earlier voting rights bill that we've already considered and rejected," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Kentucky) stated.

"Clearly they want to change the subject away from how the American people feel about this administration, about the reckless tax and spending bill onto a non-existent problem with this

marching out of the John Lewis voting rights act," McConnell related, failing to acknowledge that Democrats had attempted to pass the voting rights act since before President Joe Biden won the 2020 election over Donald Trump.

The measure's defeat came as Democrats attempted to regroup after the party's catastrophic loss in the Virginia gubernatorial race.

Upstart Glenn Youngkin trounced Democratic incumbent Terry McAuliffe in that race. Also, in New Jersey, Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy continues to hope he holds onto his razor-thin lead against Republican Jack Ciattarelli.

As of 3 p.m. Wednesday, Murphy held a 49.9 percent to 49.3 percent lead, with 86 percent of

the vote counted.

Unless Democratic Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona soften their stand against altering or ridding the filibuster rule, there's virtually no chance any bill would pass that aims to curb voter suppression.

Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont introduced the latest Senate version of the legislation. In addition, Sen. Leahy, Sens. Manchin, Murkowski, and Dick Durbin of Illinois released a compromise version of the John Lewis Voting Rights bill that appeared to gain momentum in the chamber.

However, after the GOP's Election Night victories, Republicans have little appetite to go through with the bill.

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Stay woke

Democrats' failure at the Federal level causes catastrophic losses in Virginia, elsewhere

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

Election night proved as much an indictment on current Democratic leadership and the party's inability to pass meaningful legislation.

It also was a show of strength by Republicans as they continue to unite after former President Donald Trump's resounding loss in the 2020 election cycle.

In a state that President Joe Biden won by ten percentage points one year ago, the incumbent Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe not only lost to Republican Glenn Youngkin, but the race proved close to a landslide.

Youngkin and other Virginia politicians mostly kept Trump away from campaign events, even refusing to appear with the former president.

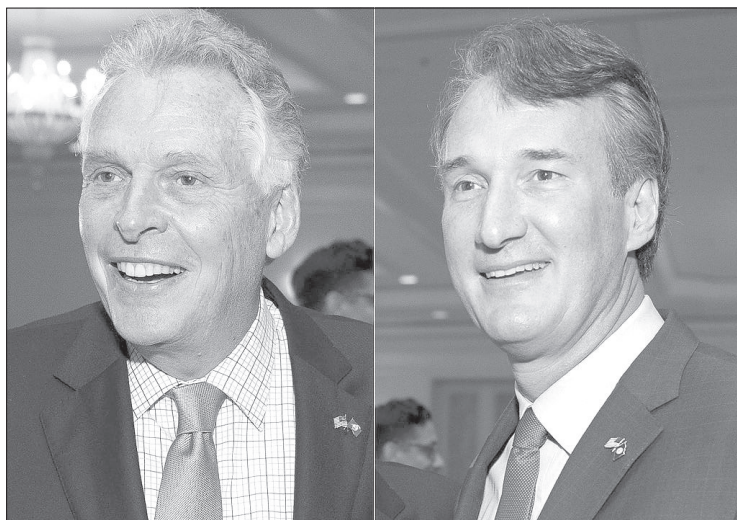
Likewise, while Trump endorsed Youngkin, he rarely mentioned the former president even if he embraced many of his policies that have led to other GOP governors crafting or pushing repressive voting and human rights laws.

On the other hand, McAuliffe did bring in former President Barack Obama and attempted to use Trump's endorsement of his opponent as a reason for voters to go against the Republican.

"All of these attempts to pinpoint the answer ignore the myriad ways that demographics, turnout, geography, candidate appeals, and policy mix together," opinion columnist Hayes Brown wrote for MSNBC.

Critical race theory proved a sticking point as well.

"Republicans don't need to let up, they need to double down," South Carolina Politician Graham Allen wrote on Twitter. "Don't



mess with our kids," he demanded.

Sirius XM radio personality Tim Young agreed. "The lesson of this election [is] don't [mess] with people's kids," Young exclaimed.

Youngkin spotlighted education during his campaign after McAuliffe weighed in with his thought that parents should not tell educators what to teach children.

Conservatives seized upon that, claiming that McAuliffe pushed critical race theory.

In New Jersey, Incumbent Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy awakened Wednesday morning in a virtual tie with upstart Republican Jack Ciattarelli. With about 98 percent of the votes in, Murphy held less than a percentage point lead.

Perhaps reading the tea leaves from around the nation, Murphy sounded a conciliatory tone.

"We're sorry tonight couldn't yet be the celebration we wanted it to be," Murphy told his supporters who, like many across the nation, expected the Democrat to have an easy win.

Summoning his inner Trump, Youngkin declared that Virginia would become "great again."

"This is the spirit of Virginia

coming together like never before," declared Youngkin, the retired former CEO of the DC-based Carlyle Group.

"We will not be a commonwealth of low expectations," Youngkin continued. "We'll be a commonwealth of high expectations."

Political watchers said the GOP's landmark retaking of Virginia resulted from a massive conservative turnout, the failure of Democrats in Washington to keep campaign promises of old, and the dog-whistle of critical race theory creating an anti-white bias in the school curriculum.

"Democrats had one year, beginning with the 2020 election, and plateauing with the January 2021 Georgia runoff and the insurrection, to get their [stuff] together, and they failed," Amie Townsend, a Maryland poll watcher, declared.

"President Biden, Sen. Joe Manchin, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, and so many top-level Democrats failed their voters, failed America. We can't live on promises. Even though so many Republicans represent the worst of this country, the worst in politics, they deliver on their evils. Bottom line: people want results."

Kyle Rittenhouse could take the stand in his own defense, but what would that mean for the trial

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The Kyle Rittenhouse murder trial continues this week as testimony from witnesses resume.

The only protestor to survive the Rittenhouse shooting will take the stand this week with testimony that could play a crucial role in the trial.

Last week Rittenhouse's lawyer Mark Richards said the young teenager could take the stand in his defense, allowing the 18-year-old some say into his mindset during the night of the deadly shootings.

But some experts warn that this move would be a mistake by the defense. It leaves Rittenhouse open for a comprehensive cross-examination by prosecutors into his past actions and statements, which could be detrimental to Rittenhouse's chances of acquittal.

If he takes the stand, he'd have to admit to killing two people. Even though it's a self-defense claim, it could make him look bad to a jury.

During the highly publicized George Zimmerman trial for the murder of Trayvon Martin, Zimmerman's lawyers decided to not allow him to take the stand. Zimmerman was eventually acquitted leaving many to believe the decision to keep him off the stand contributed to his 'Not Guilty' verdict.

Kyle Rittenhouse and George Zimmerman have a lot of similarities. Both men were propelled to hero status by conservatives after their shootings arrests and both men plead "Not Guilty" claiming self-defense as their reason for taking lives. Both trials will also test the boundaries of and rights of citizens when it pertains to self-defense.



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On the scene



Audrey J. Bernard

Ava DuVernay's 'Colin in Black and White' is spellbinding

By Audrey J. Bernard

Netflix hosted a preeminent premiere for the upcoming Limited Series: "Colin in Black and White" at the trendy Whitby Hotel on Thursday, October 26, 2021, in New York City. The star-studded special screening was attended by many members of the cast and crew along with invitational only VIPs. At the post party attendees opined that they were inspired by the fierce performances with special mention to Jaden Michael who plays a young Kaepernick. If you like making a bet on a winning film, "Colin in Black and White" delivers a touchdown!

"I'm excited to share this first peek into a project I co-created

with the incomparable Ava DuVernay over the past couple of years," Kaepernick said in a statement. "I look forward to the world meeting the incredible Jaden Michael, a young actor who plays me during my high school years, just a kid growing up in Turlock, California who wanted to play ball."

He further expressed: "This story is deeply personal to me and inspired by real events in my life...I hope that it honors the courage and bravery of young people everywhere by encouraging them to live life with authenticity and purpose."

In addition to his movie debut, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback football star's books will hit the stands in 2022. His first book, "I Color Myself Different," is

scheduled for April 2022. "I'm excited for Kaepernick Publishing to be collaborating with Scholastic on books with Black and Brown voices at the forefront," he said. "I hope that our books will inspire readers to walk through the world with confidence, strength, and truth in all they do."

SYNOPSIS: From co-creators Ava DuVernay and Colin Kaepernick comes Colin in Black & White, a bold new limited series that chronicles Kaepernick's coming of age story, tackling the obstacles of race, class and culture as the Black adopted child of a white family. Colin in Black & White stars Jaden Michael as Young Colin before reaching the highest levels of American football as an NFL quarterback and becoming a cultural

icon and activist; Nick Offerman and Mary-Louise Parker as his well-meaning parents Rick and Teresa; and Colin Kaepernick himself, who appears as the present-day narrator of his own story, guiding viewers through a robust and colorfully presented array of historical and contemporary contextual moments. You don't know Kaepernick until you know Colin.

EPISODES: Directors: Ava DuVernay (Episode 101 and all Of the present-day Colin Kaepernick scenes), Sheldon Candis (Episode 102), Robert Townsend (Episodes 103 and 104), Angel Kristi Williams (Episode 105), Kenny Leon (Episode 106).

CREDITS: Colin Kaepernick narrates this drama series recounting his formative years navigating

race, class and culture while aspiring for greatness. Executive Producers: Ava DuVernay, Colin Kaepernick, Michael Starrbury. Directors: Ava DuVernay, Robert Townsend, Sheldon Candis, Angel Kristi Williams. Writers: Michael Starrbury, Evan Ball, Teri Schaffer, Raynelle Swilling, Josiah Johnson. Cinematographer Matthew J. Lloyd. Production Designer Scott Dougan. Costume Designer Dominique Dawson. Editors: Nicholas Monsour, Jessica Hernandez. Composer Kris Bowers.

CAST: Jaden Michael, Mary-Louise Parker, Nick Offerman, Colin Kaepernick, Amarr M. Wooten, Mace Coronel, Klarke Pipkin and Xosha Roquemore. (Photos by Arturo Holmes/Getty Images for Netflix)



Andre Holland, Ava DuVernay



Ava DuVernay, Corey Wise



Colin Kaepernick, Corey Wise



Colin Kaepernick, Nessa



Jaden Michael, Anna Wintour



Jaden Michael, Colin Kaepernick, Ava DuVernay



Joey Bada\$\$, Colin Kaepernick



Sheldon Candis, Jaden Michael



DJ Clark Kent, Keisha Franklin



Ebro Darden, Mia Bell



Imaan Hammam



J. Cole, Colin Kaepernick



Jaden Michael, Colin Kaepernick

On the scene

Director Chloé Zhao hand-picks Brian Tyree Henry to play first Black Super Hero in Marvel's history

By Audrey J. Bernard

The Walt Disney Co. soared to the top of the domestic box office with the premiere of its Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) epic "Eternals," which opened to \$71 million and grossed over \$161 million worldwide. The immortal heroes rocked the red carpet at the premiere attended by Academy Award winning director Chloé Zhao along with mega stars Angelina Jolie, Salma Hayek and Gemma Chan on Monday, October 18, 2021, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, Calif. The film was released in theaters on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Brian Tyree Henry, whose superhero character was historic in more ways than one, made history. Not only is he the first Black superhero in Marvel's history but as the Super Hero Phastos, he is the first openly-gay hero in the Marvel Cinematic Universe in which he raises a son with his husband who he kisses on screen. MCU went all on this one.

During a virtual press junket in October, Henry recalls when he

was first approached by "Eternals" director Chloé Zhao and producer Nate Moore. "I remember the first time that they were like, 'So... we want you to be a superhero. I was like, 'Cool. How much weight do I have to lose?'" Henry said.

"Chloé was like, 'What are you talking about? We want you exactly as you are,'" Henry continued, adding how much that moment meant to him. "To be a Black man, to have someone look at you and say, 'We want you exactly the way you are,' is unlike anything that I've ever felt."

"This is what families look like. This is what they are," Henry said during the press conference. "If not, this is what they should be... I think that that's what 'Eternals' really brings to the surface is that this is a family. This is who we are."

Henry also shared a precious childhood memory and what it is like to see it come full circle.

"It just triggered me to be an 11-year-old kid who's watching these superpower movies, Super Hero movies, and not ever seeing anyone like me reflected," said Henry, adding that he'd have posters



"Eternals" cast & crew rock the red carpet at premiere (L-R) Stars Angelina Jolie, Gemma Chan, Salma Hayek, Brian Tyree Henry, Don Lee, Richard Madden, Lia McHugh, Kumail Nanjiani, Lauren Ridloff, and Kit Harington joined director/screenwriter Chloé Zhao, producers Kevin Feige and Nate Moore, executive producers Louis D'Esposito and Victoria Alonso, and screenwriters Ryan Firpo, Kaz Firpo and Patrick Burleigh on the red carpet for Marvel Studios' "Eternals." (Photo by Getty Images)

in his locker growing up with the hope that "one day there would be somebody representing me and the way that I am."

SYNOPSIS: Marvel Studios' "Eternals" features an exciting new team of Super Heroes in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, ancient aliens who have been living on Earth in secret for thousands of years. Following the events of Avengers: Endgame, an un-

pected tragedy forces them out of the shadows to reunite against mankind's most ancient enemy, the Deviants.

CAST: Gemma Chan, Richard Madden, Kumail Nanjiani, Lia McHugh, Brian Tyree Henry, Lauren Ridloff, Barry Keoghan, Don Lee, Harish Patel, Kit Harington, Salma Hayek, Angelina Jolie

ASSETS: Based on Eternals by Jack Kirby, Marvel's "Eternals" is

Directed by Chloé Zhao. Cinematography by Ben Davis. Edited by Craig Wood, Dylan Tichenor. Music by Ramin Diawadi. Production company Marvel Studios. Distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. Screenplay by Chloé Zhao, Patrick Burleigh, Ryan Firpo, Kaz Firpo. Story by Ryan Firpo, Kaz Firpo. Produced by Kevin Feige, Nate Moore. (Photos courtesy Getty Images for Disney)

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International

Oil tanker explodes in Sierra Leone, killing at least 92

Newyorkbeacon.com

An oil tanker exploded near Sierra Leone's capital, killing at least 92 people and severely injuring dozens of others after large crowds gathered to collect leaking fuel, officials and witnesses said Saturday.

The explosion took place late Friday after a bus struck the tanker in Wellington, a suburb just to the east of Freetown.

The mortuary at Connaught Hospital reported 92 bodies had been brought in by Saturday morning. About 30 severely burned victims were not expected

to survive, according to Foday Musa, a staff member in the intensive care unit.

Injured people whose clothes had burned off in the fire that followed the explosion lay naked on stretchers as nurses attended to them Saturday. Hundreds of people milled outside the main gates of the mortuary and near the hospital's main entrance, waiting for word of their loved ones.

It was not immediately known how many people were undergoing treatment for burns because patients were taken to hospitals and clinics across the metropolitan area.



In this image made from video, people walk by burning debris following the explosion of an oil tanker in the Wellington suburb of Sierra Leone's capital Freetown Friday Nov. 5, 2021. (AP Photo)



Black voters stray from ANC in recent national polls over jobs, water and corruption

(GIN) –

The party that governed South Africa since the end of apartheid appears to have lost its grip on Black voters who turned away from the party of Nelson Mandela this month in large numbers.

For the first time in the country's post-apartheid democracy, the African National Congress received only 46% of votes—less than half of the national vote and an 11% drop from the last election—in polls for mayors and councilors.

Although the turnout ended up being slightly better than initially feared, at 12.3 million voters, it amounts to fewer than half of those registered.

News media around the world pounced on the famed party most recently headed by President Cyril Ramaphosa with such headlines as: "ANC suffers worst electoral performance", and "ANC Suffers Worst Election Setback Since End of Apartheid."

The disappointing turnout was blamed in economic stagnation,

record unemployment and the aftermath of civil unrest.

But contributing factors included rampant corruption and a rot in state institutions.

"The grassroots collapse of services such as water and power in ANC-run municipalities lies behind voter frustration with Ramaphosa," wrote Johannesburg reporter Joseph Cotterill. The popular leader struggled to overcome infighting in the party which exploded into the country's worst post-apartheid unrest in July after former president Jacob Zuma was jailed for defying a court order to attend a judicial inquiry.

The party lost outright control of Johannesburg and will maintain control of only two of the country's eight big cities.

"We're not a loser here," insisted Jessie Duarte, the party's deputy secretary general, at a news briefing on the floor of the results center in Pretoria. "As far as we're concerned, we are the winning party on that board."

But Ms. Duarte acknowledged that voters had sent a message.

"The electorate has spoken,"

she said. "The low voter turnout, especially in traditional ANC strongholds, communicates a clear message—the people are disappointed in the ANC with the slow progress in fixing local government, in ensuring quality and consistent basic services and tackling corruption and greed."

Power will now devolve among newly energized parties, such as the Inkatha Freedom Party which used its history of Zulu nationalism to win nearly a quarter of the vote in the largely rural province.

The Freedom Front Plus, a historically Afrikaner nationalist party that repositioned itself as a bulwark for all minorities against the A.N.C., increased its support across the country.

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Julius Malema, which presents itself as the "government-in-waiting", ended up with about 10.42%, a small but respectable development from 2016's 8.19%.

Other parties picking up seats include the Patriotic Alliance, One South Africa, and ActionSA.

At massive government pro-war rally in Addis one lone voice for peace

(GIN) –

At a large pro-war rally held recently in Meskel Square in the heart of the capital city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, surrounded by thousands of his supporters, made clear that the battle against Tigrayan rebel fighters would continue unabated, despite mounting fatalities and famine.

Residents of the capital were told to arm themselves to repel the rebel forces if they managed to reach the city. To some analysts, this suggested that Abiy's own Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) was not up to the challenge of defending the capital.

The government has declared a six-month state of emergency while federal armed forces have appealed to retired soldiers and veterans to rejoin the military, setting a Nov. 24 deadline to register.

On a similar track, Tigrayan commander General Tsadkan Gebretensae suggested that his forces would no longer agree to a mediated settlement.

Entreaties by the international community to settle differences by negotiations and an immediate ceasefire have been fruitless.

But at the Addis rally, an unexpected intervention by popular artist Tariku Gankisi momentarily silenced the angry calls for war. The popular Gankisi, known for his rap

song Dishta Gina, called for peace and love at a time of incredible challenges.

His latest hit single speaks out against ethnic division and violence with lyrics that roughly translate to "Why fight one another when we come to this earth empty handed and leave empty handed..." and "Who said there is a superior tribe or ethnic group...we all come from the same ancestors!"

"I didn't come to sing ... I've nothing to sing about ... let us not send more of our youths to war... enough, enough with the guns. We need peace!" he told a surprised crowd.

"As someone who cares about Ethiopia, I love all Ethiopians across

all corners of Ethiopia," he said later in a tweet, "& trying to dismantle this great nation is unacceptable!"

"Enough with the gun, it's not a solution. May God bless the motherland!"

Awet Weldemichael, a Horn of Africa security expert and history professor at Queen's University, Ontario, has predicted that the conflict will not end anytime soon.

"The current skirmishes have been portrayed as a law enforcement operation that would last a few weeks," he said. "A year later, we've since seen it degenerate into a brutal war to crush and erode Tigray, and where talk of the elimination of entire ethnic groups has been normalized."

U.S. Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa Jeffrey Feltman also expressed concern that a long war would be disastrous for Ethiopia and he urged all parties to "give peace a chance." The United States' top priority is the "unity and integrity of the Ethiopian state," he said, and its "commitment to the Ethiopian people."

Amidst the social media firestorm of commentaries, one Negus Kaleb on Twitter wrote: "Singer Tariku is my hero. In Abiy Ahmed's nation of fear, he powerfully spoke truth direct to power. Literally, Tariku means 'Historic'. He is my nominee for next year's Nobel Peace Prize." w/pix of T. Gankisi

Pfizer says COVID-19 pill cut hospital, death risk by 90%

Newyorkbeacon.com

Pfizer to ask the FDA, international regulators for authorization of use

Pfizer Inc. said Friday that its experimental antiviral pill for COVID-19 cut rates of hospitalization and death by nearly 90% in high-risk adults, as the drugmaker joined the race for an easy-to-use medication to treat the coronavirus.

Currently most COVID-19 treatments require an IV or in-

jection. Competitor Merck's COVID-19 pill is already under review at the Food and Drug Administration after showing strong initial results, and on Thursday the United Kingdom became the first country to OK it.

Pfizer said it will ask the FDA and international regulators to authorize its pill as soon as possible, after independent experts recommended halting the company's study based on the strength of its results. Once Pfizer applies, the FDA could

make a decision within weeks or months.

Since the beginning of the pandemic last year, researchers worldwide have been racing to find a pill to treat COVID-19 that can be taken at home to ease symptoms, speed recovery and keep people out of the hospital.

Having pills to treat early COVID-19 "would be a very important advance," said Dr. John Mellors, chief of infectious diseases at the University of Pittsburgh, who was not involved in the Pfizer study.



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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Paula Patton opens up about why she doesn't consider herself bi-racial

Newyorkbeacon.com

Paula Patton is opening up about why she doesn't agree with the term biracial despite being a member of two separate racial groups.

While out promoting her new BET+ series "Sacrifice," the actress

later, the "Warcraft" star said, "I feel the exact same way." However, Patton said that isn't to be confused with her not wanting to embrace her mother, but instead revealed, "It was my mother who let me know, 'The world is going see you as Black and that is who you are.'" She continued, "So don't have



stopped by SiriusXM's Urban View "The Clay Cane Show" to talk about reprising her role as the can-do entertainment lawyer Daniella Hernandez. During the discussion, the 45-year-old was asked about her known dislike of the term biracial.

Patton, whose father is Black and mother is white, often has spoken out about her race and how she identifies as just Black. The California native has also said she finds the label to be "offensive." "It's a way for people to separate themselves from African Americans, a way of saying, 'I'm better than that,'" she was once quoted saying in a 2010 interview.

When asked how she felt about that statement nearly a decade

any questions about that. I'm very grateful for her. The politics of race in our country are such that when one wants to make it very clear that they're not Black, it's a way to keep them separate from Black people. We know; we've had a long history in this country of that, of it not being popular to be Black, to be honest with you. I've always found that to be an offensive term. I'm Black and I embrace it, that's my family."

Patton's comments triggered a debate around the word and many people in the comments section on YouTube had plenty to say, including one user who disagreed with the actress' stance, stating, "You shouldn't let the world identify you or give you identity."



Missy Elliott to receive star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame

Newyorkbeacon.com

Congratulations to Missy Elliott who is set to receive her own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame! The legendary emcee will earn the 2708th star on the Hollywood strip in the Recording category on Monday, November 8th, and will be assisted by Lizzo, Ciara, and Missy's longtime manager Mona Scott-Young as her star is unveiled to the public in person

and livestreamed to those at home.

The 50-year-old entertainer's Hollywood star is long overdue as she's received many awards as a rapper, singer, producer, and songwriter. Throughout her decades-long career, she's racked up five Grammy awards and the MTV Video Music Awards' Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. Not to mention her heavy influence on fashion and style when it comes to her wardrobe, hair, and

music videos.

Hollywood Walk of Fame producer Ana Martinez, announced the news in a press release, "Missy Elliott has broken through the barriers of the male-dominated Hip Hop world, and music industry as a whole, as she has led the way for many women who have followed in her footsteps. She continues to break barriers year after year, and we're thrilled to be able to honor her on the Walk of Fame."

Terence 'Astro' Wilson, founding member of reggae band UB40, dies at 64

Newyorkbeacon.com

UB40 toaster Astro, who helped launch the group in the late '70s in Birmingham, England, passed after a "short illness."

One of the founders of the veteran British reggae band UB40 has died.

Terence "Astro" Wilson helped launch the group in the late 1970s

in Birmingham, England. He reportedly suffered a "short illness," which led to his passing.

UB40 member/toaster Terence "Astro" Wilson performs on stage with the band at the iHeart80s Party 2017 at SAP Center in Jan. 2017 in San Jose, California. (Photo: Tim Mosenfelder/Getty Images for iHeartMedia)

"We are absolutely devastated and completely heartbroken to

have to tell you that our beloved Astro has today passed away after a very short illness," read the Twitter account he shared with fellow former band member Ali Campbell Saturday. "The world will never be the same without him."

Wilson was renowned as UB40's "toaster," which is a title given in reggae to the person who does vocals that are similar to spoken-word over the music.



Wednesday's woman

13

Philadelphia Observer • November 11 – November 17, 2021 • Philadelphiaobserver.com

Flo Anthony's 4th novel 'Last Call For A Deadly Diva' is out!

By Audrey J. Bernard

Flo Anthony, a multi-award winning journalist, radio host and bestselling author, was the first Black woman to work in the New York Post's Sports Department as well as the first Black person to work in the paper's Entertainment Department and the legendary Page Six. Flo currently hosts the daily syndicated radio feature Gossip On The Go With Flo, helms the South O' The Highway column in Dan's Papers, writes a weekly syndicated newspaper column Go With The Flo, and publishes an online magazine, Blacknoir.nyc. She also represents 1976 Olympic Gold Medalist and former Light Heavyweight/Heavyweight Champion Michael Spinks.

Never too far away from a computer or paper and pen, the esteemed journalist has always had a penchant for love novels. Her fourth novel "Last Call For A Deadly Diva," in her Deadly Black Murder Mystery series was released by Wahida Clark Presents. The book has all the drama, seductiveness and mystery of the other three – but amplified. Thrill seekers will love all the suspense.

But readers beware as the thrills are a beat away from a heart attack. I warned you it was devilishly dangerous. Anthony's books are all page turners with each page more salacious than the last.

If you would like to meet this fabulous mystery diva, Roz Live, Keeping Artists on Stage, is hosting a Meet The Author reception with Flo Anthony and her new book on Thursday, November 18, 2021 at Aloft Hotel, 2296 Frederick Douglas Boulevard (122 & 123 Streets), Harlem, NY co-sponsored by Honoring Blues & Jazz, Jazz Foundation of America. For additional information on the book signing and meet & greet call 646-373-3690.

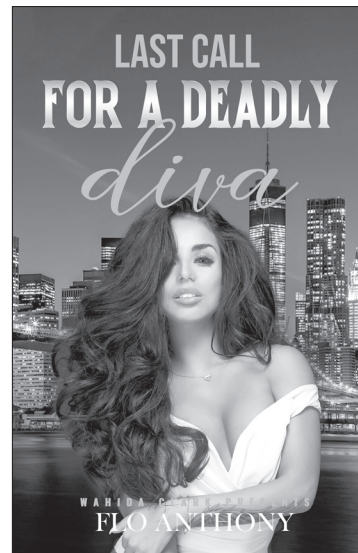
A graduate of Howard University, Anthony is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and resides in the Kips Bay section of Manhattan in New York City.

About Last Call for a Deadly Diva

The "Last Call For A Deadly Diva" is released by Wahida Clark Presents. After marrying Electronics and Racehorse owner Black billionaire Victor Dumas five years ago, Valerie Rollins became an



Author Flo Anthony



Last Call For A Deadly Diva Book Cover

instant widow after her husband succumbed very quickly to a rare form of stomach cancer. Following his death, Valerie, who is the most renowned Black gossip columnist in the United States, found herself in an entirely foreign world of extreme wealth beyond her wildest dreams. Victor left everything to Val, his son, playboy polo player Vance Dumas, and his seven-year-old grand-daughter Valencia.

Still working daily as a radio host and columnist, along with her trusted business partner, NFL Hall of Famer turned private investigator Rome Nyland, Val also sits at the helm of Dumas Electronics. Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic, with the exception of Vance, who has his own mansion nearby, complete with three live-in strippers, Val and her crew, which includes

her college sweetheart, MLB great, Royale Jones, are currently residing on the \$54 million dollar compound in Bridgehampton, New York, which Victor gave to Val as a wedding gift.

Although this sounds like a perfect world for Valerie, Victor's half-brother, career criminal Valerian "Sincere" Davidson, will do anything to get his hands on the Dumas fortune as well as Royale's millions. Follow the daily dose of death, despair and devastation that Sincere and his cast of sleazy characters dole out to Valerie and her loved ones. However, Sincere has a she-devil surprise in store for him in the form of a mysterious woman by the name of Aurora Darden. Take an electrifying ride this eclectic group of personalities as they navigate lust, love and seemingly never-ending danger through New York City, the Hamptons, Monaco and Las Vegas where there will finally be a last call for a deadly diva.

"Last Call For A Deadly Diva" is available on wclarkpublishing.com, barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com, fantasticfiction.com, discoverbooks.com and many other platforms.

Music

Hollywood Walk of Fame gets its freak on with Missy Elliott on Hollywood Blvd.

By Audrey J. Bernard

On Monday, November 8, 2021, Missy Elliott's star on Hollywood Boulevard and Vine Street was finally unveiled in a ceremony honouring her achievements in music. Dedication of the 2,708 Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in the Category of Recording took place at 6212 Hollywood Boulevard in front of Amoeba Records. The star commemorates the career of the rapper, who has also won four Grammys. In 2019, Elliott was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, the first female Hip-Hop artist to receive the honour. "Missy Elliott has broken through the barriers of the male-dominated Hip Hop world, and music industry as a whole, as she has led the way for many women who have followed in her footsteps. She continues to break barriers year after year and we're thrilled to be able to honor her on the Walk of Fame," stated Ana Martinez, Hollywood Walk of Fame Producer. Joining Emcee Nicole Mihalka, Chair of the Board for the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, to unveil the star was super stars Ciara, Lizzo and long-time manager / TV & film producer, Mona Scott-Young.

One of the most significant female artists in music history,

Missy Elliott is a pioneer of female Hip-Hop and R&B, groundbreaking songwriter-producer, and across-the-board cultural icon. Born in Portsmouth, Virginia, the five-time GRAMMY Award winner – with nominations spanning three decades – has attained unprecedented success. Missy's six studio albums have each been RIAA platinum-certified or better, marking her as the only female rapper to achieve that remarkable accomplishment. Elliott made history as the first female Hip Hop artist ever to receive the MTV Video Music Awards' prestigious Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award in 2019.

That same year saw Elliott break new ground as the first female Hip-Hop artist and third-ever rapper to be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Furthermore, Elliott became the first female Hip Hop artist to receive an honorary Doctor of Music degree from Berklee College of Music, celebrating her lasting contributions to music and popular culture. And as if all that weren't enough, Missy kickstarted 2020 by making history yet again, this time co-producing the Lifetime original movie *The Clark Sisters: First Ladies of Gospel* alongside Queen Latifa and Mary J. Blige.

The Lifetime biopic pulled in 2.7 million viewers on its debut



Missy Elliott receives star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

night. Elliott first made waves for her inventive songwriting and production work alongside her childhood friend, Timothy Mosely a.k.a Timbaland. Together they created an innovative, idiosyncratic sound all their own,

heard on a score of hits for many recording artists who have gone on to win individual fame. Her 2001 "MISS E... SO ADDICTIVE" was yet another platinum-certified milestone, a worldwide sensation that established Elliott

as hip-hop's preeminent female artist. The album's "Get Ur Freak On" redefined contemporary pop and hip hop, earning Missy her first-ever GRAMMY Award for Best Rap Performance. (Photos by Getty Images)



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Canelo makes more history

By Joshua Garcia

Saul Alvarez continues to give new meaning to the phrase "making history" as his career progresses. Saturday night at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada he became the first fighter in the history of his boxing rich country to hold all four titles in the 168-pound division following an 11th-round KO of Caleb Plant.

Better known as Canelo, who picked up Boxing to defend himself from constant ridicule during his childhood hometown of Guadalajara for his appearance, now has adults and children alike in every corner of the globe shadow boxing as if they were 'cinnamon' or Canelo in English. Undisputed champion, a 57-1-2 record, and with a recent purse of \$40 million dollars from Saturday's title fight, Alvarez's only issue is what's next for the pound-for-pound king of Boxing?

Caleb Plant was the man who stood between Canelo and his main goal of being an undisputed

champion, but what man now stands in the way of the next box to check off as he puts together a career resume that will land him in the Hall of Fame in Canastota? There's a couple of very interesting names out there for the taking as Al Haymon has finally shown the ability to make negotiations work with other promoter's fighters.

Enter David Benavidez and Arthur Beterbiev solidly into the mix. Two incredible contenders and champions under the PBC umbrella whom Canelo could gain career clout from immediately. Benavidez is an extremely formidable opponent who has an attacking style with vicious combinations who could counteract the walkdown style of Canelo. Beterbiev who would be only the second 175-pounder the great Alvarez has ever taken on, causes issues with his ability to take punishment and his punching power. Both Benavidez and Beterbiev are much bigger but Canelo has never shown a problem with



Canelo Hammers Plant
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

handling height reach or weight differences.

A clash with David Benavidez would be a fan favorite in what

could be an instant classic. Both are hardly feel each other out type fighters and if activity is what you are looking for in a 12-round bout,

this would be your ideal date for an upcoming fight night. Pencil in David Benavidez on Canelo Alvarez's schedule for 2022.

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