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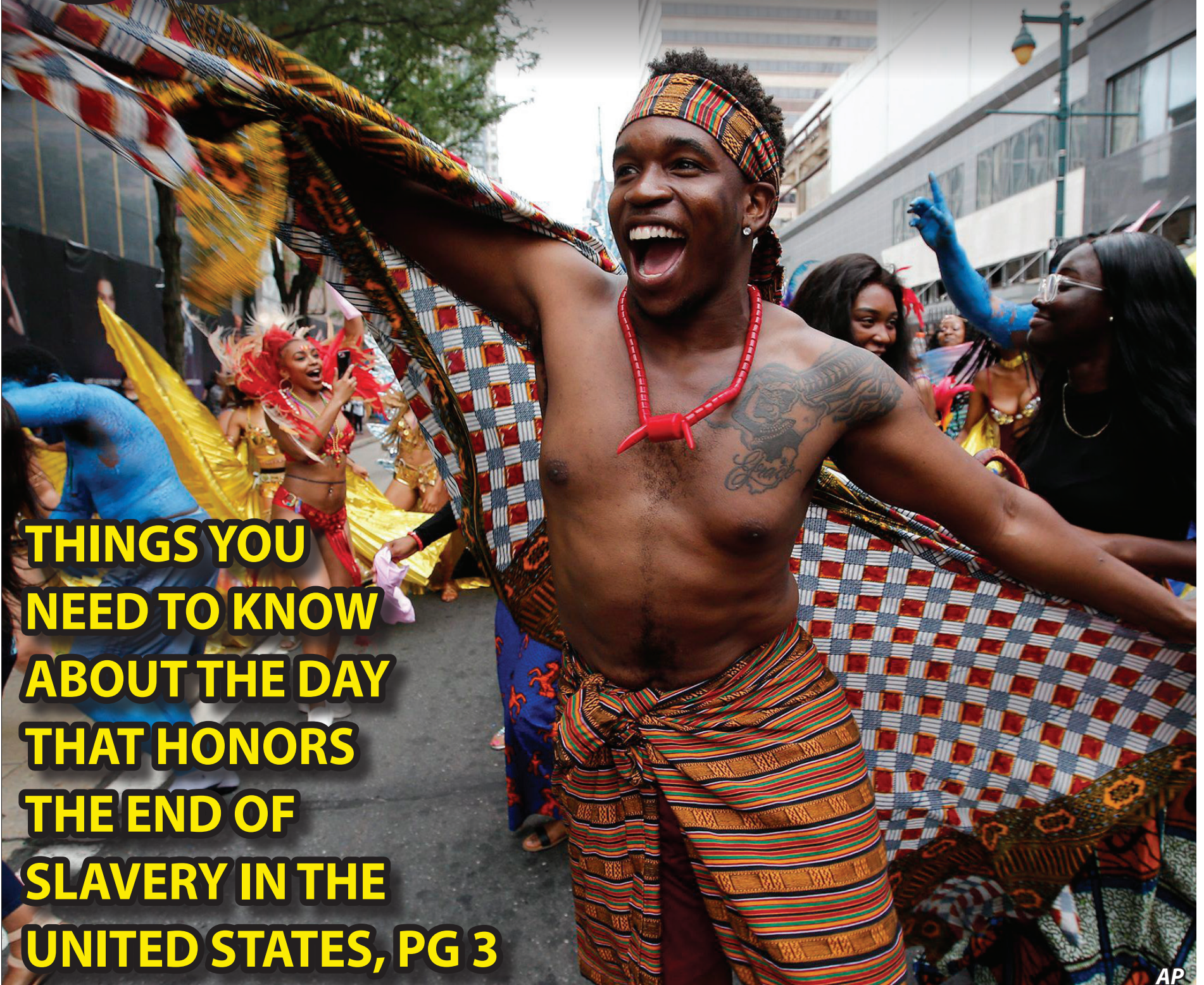
Speaking Truth to Justice

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JUNETEENTH



**THINGS YOU
NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE DAY
THAT HONORS
THE END OF
SLAVERY IN THE
UNITED STATES, PG 3**

AP

We pledge to LISTEN TO BLACK WOMEN and support REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE is the **HUMAN RIGHT** to control our bodies, our sexuality, our gender, our work and our reproduction. That **RIGHT** can only be achieved when **ALL** women and girls have the complete economic, social and political **POWER** and resources to make healthy **DECISIONS** about our **BODIES**, our **FAMILIES** and our **COMMUNITIES** in all areas of our lives.

Right now, we are faced with an attack on our **HUMAN RIGHTS** as global **CITIZENS** by a conservative, activist U.S. Supreme Court.

Our **FREEDOM** depends on **DISMANTLING** systemic racism, misogyny, anti-blackness and white supremacy.

Historically, we have **WON** battles for our human and civil rights when we **LISTEN TO AND TRUST BLACK WOMEN**:

71%

of Black women support **ABORTION** services.

85%

believe whether she has “private or government-funded health coverage, **EVERY** woman should have **HEALTH COVERAGE** for the full range of pregnancy-related care, including **ABORTION**.

91%

believe a woman's ability to **CONTROL** whether or when she has children is an important part of **FINANCIAL STABILITY** for herself and her **FAMILY**.

Therefore, **WE** the undersigned **PLEDGE**

To do everything in our **POWER** to ensure all Black women and birthing people have the freedom, resources and power they need to assert **AGENCY** over their **BODIES** and to ensure that their **FAMILIES** can **THRIVE**.

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Paid for by In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
www.blackrj.org

Seven decades after first Black reporter covered the White House, Black Press receives coveted credentials

By Stacy M. Brown

Seventy-two years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt invited Harry S. McAlpin Jr. of the National Negro Publishers Association to cover an Oval Office news conference, and 82-years after the founding of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the Black Press can freely cover the White House.

The NNPA has received a hard pass, allowing near-unfettered access to the White House.

Called the ultimate White House credential, the hard pass allows on-demand access to the famed Pennsylvania Avenue complex.

"The National Newspaper Publishers Association's Senior National Correspondent, Stacy Brown, has once again enabled our national trade association representing the Black Press of America, to make another historic yet contemporary step forward with the official acquisition of the White House hard-pass," said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.

"The hard pass gives the NNPA daily access to the White House," Chavis remarked.

As a correspondent for the

NNPA member newspaper, the Atlanta Daily World, McAlpin covered his first White House press conference in 1944.

However, the White House Correspondents Association vehemently objected to the African American journalist and routinely blocked him from covering the White House.

President Roosevelt intervened after a group of Black leaders expressed their frustration.

Still, the Association pushed back.

"The president could break the color line for his press conferences, but he could not rewrite the WHCA's membership policies," George Condon, the author of a forthcoming work on the history of the Association, told NPR.

"They blackballed [McAlpin] from ever joining the Correspondents' Association or attending the group's annual dinner."

In 2014 the Association finally paid tribute to McAlpin, who died in 1985, with the first Harry S. McAlpin Jr. Scholarship awarded to a college student.

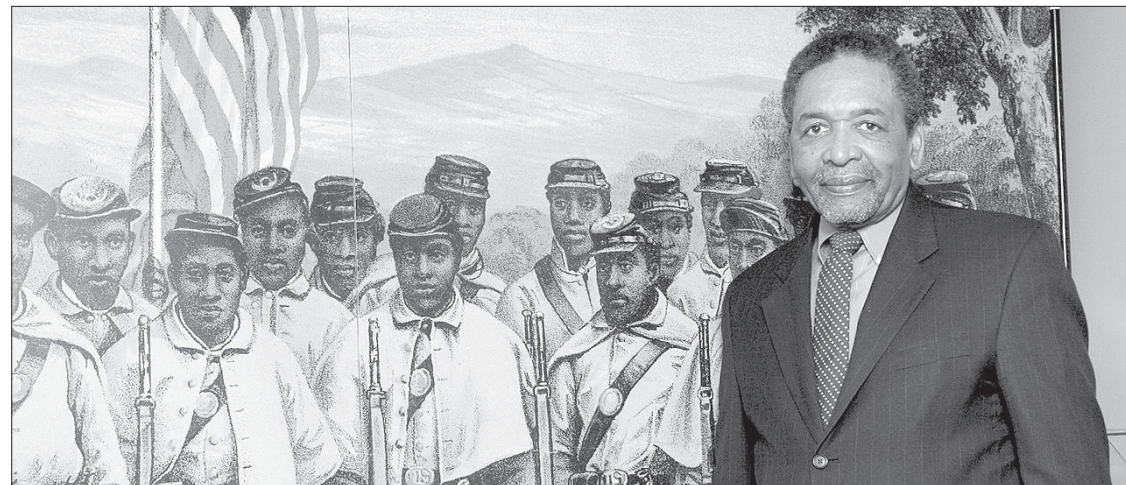
Earlier this year, the Association honored Alice Dunnigan and Ethel Payne at the White House Correspondents' Association Dinner in Washington.



However, while honoring the trailblazers, the Association failed to acknowledge Chavis and the NNPA, which purchased a table for ten at the dinner only to be issued two tickets and seated in the very back of the crowded ballroom.

Perhaps, with the coveted White House hard-pass acquisition, the Association and the rest of the press corps that covers the administration will show more deference to the NNPA and the Black Press of America, which celebrates its 195th anniversary in 2022.

"At this pivotal era in American history, having daily access for the NNPA to the news and issues at the White House that impact the quality of life of Black America and other communities of color are so important and timely," Chavis concluded.



Dr. Frank Smith, president/CEO of the African American Civil War Museum and Memorial, says he will spend Juneteenth telling the heroic story of how 200,000 Black soldiers helped to win the Civil War for America, a story that he says is not told enough. (PHOTO: Courtesy, Dr. Frank Smith)

The real story of Juneteenth must be told, historians, educators say

By Hazel Trice Edney

When President Joe Biden signed into law the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act last year, making Juneteenth a federal holiday, he and Vice President Kamala Harris envisioned it as a holiday mostly for the celebration of freedom.

"We are gathered here in a house built by enslaved people. We are footsteps away from where President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation," said Harris at the White House signing ceremony alongside Black Caucus members on June 17, 2021. "We have come far, and we have far to go. But today is a day of celebration. It is not only a day of pride. It's also a day for us to reaffirm and rededicate ourselves to action."

But, a year later, based on

interviews with historians and educators around the nation, this year's Juneteenth public holiday, Monday, June 20, 2022, will likely turn out to be mostly a day to turn up the struggle for freedom, justice and equality that have yet to be attained.

"I had to warm up to this day like everybody else because it wasn't on my radar as a significant holiday until Congress passed the bill," said Dr. Frank Smith, president/CEO of the Washington, D.C.-based African American Civil War Museum and Memorial which will spend Juneteenth correcting a wrong. "We will be lifting up the names of those 200,000 Black troops" who helped defeat the Confederate Army in the Civil War," Smith said, a story that is so often untold.

The overwhelming bipartisan support for the Juneteenth

federal holiday came last year amidst widespread protests as millions of people took to the streets against police violence in the aftermath of the murder of George Floyd and other racial traumas and inequities. It was the first federal holiday attained since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day was established in 1983. But, African Americans and several states had celebrated Juneteenth for decades as the day they'd been freed.

However, given the nearly 4,000 lynchings of Black people across the U. S since the end of slavery; given the August 28, 1955 killing of Emmett Till; the massacre of nine Black people by Dylann Roof at a Bible study in 2016, the horrific public murder of George Floyd by police only two years ago, and the shocking murders

Continued on page 6

White House staffers call 'Blaxit' story fake news

By Stacy M. Brown

Despite a recent report alleging an exodus of Black staff members, the Biden-Harris Administration remains the most diverse in history.

High-level African American staffers refuted a Politico story about a so-called "Blaxit" at the White House.

The widely shared story claimed at least 21 Black staffers have left the White House since late last year or are planning to leave soon.

Politico said some who remain described a work environment with little support from their superiors and fewer chances for promotion.

However, African American officials told the Black Press that the report amounts to "fake news."

"Even though far more current and former staff told Politico about their positive experiences, Politico refused to communicate those findings to readers and instead devoted most of this article to comments that reinforce their narrative and present a disingenuous picture of the most diverse White House in history," said Erica Loewe, the White House Director of African American Media.

"Instead of including their on-the-record sentiments, Politico singled out Black staff who left at a normal time for general turnover and then intentionally kept their own perspectives about their stories in the dark," Loewe asserted.

Trey Baker, the White House senior advisor for Public Engagement, also refuted the notion of a "Blaxit."

"Every day, this administration works to ensure that it meets the President's goals on day one: to approach every issue with an eye towards equity," Baker stated.

"That includes both policy and personnel. I've seen firsthand the opportunities for growth and advancement at the White House. I know that there's not only an open line of communication with senior staff but also ongoing efforts to be solutions oriented."

Rykia Dorsey-Craig, a former communications director for Democratic California Congresswoman Maxine Waters and current White House senior regional communi-

cations director, called it an honor to work for the Administration.

She praised the Biden-Harris Administration's record on diversity.

"Every day that I walk through those gates, I am aware of what an honor and privilege it is to serve in a White House that prioritizes equity and staff advancement," Dorsey-Craig responded.

"I was promoted within my first year and now manage the Regional Comms Team, one of the most integral parts of our comms operation. My leadership and ideas are clearly welcomed and recognized by senior leadership, and I remain committed to this team and our work each day."

According to a Fact Sheet, the overall diversity of White House staff remains approximately the same as it was almost a year ago.

As of May 27, 2022, approximately 44 percent of current White House political appointees identify as racially and ethnically diverse, surpassing the 39.3 percent share of the national population who are part of diverse communities, according to the 2019 U.S. Census data.

Of the White House's senior staff, approximately 57 percent are female, and 40 percent come from racially and ethnically diverse communities.

Currently, approximately 14 percent of White House staff identify as Black or African American, which aligns with the U.S. Census national population.

In addition, approximately 15 percent of Black staff have received promotions to more senior roles, which is greater than the rate for non-diverse staff.

Of the Black staff members who have departed the White House since the start of the Administration, approximately 36 percent have advanced to new roles at agencies within the federal government.

Further, officials currently have a diverse slate of candidates for the vacant Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Public Engagement role, including several Black candidates.

A Black woman will fill the Deputy Assistant to the President and

Continued on page 6



Erica Loewe, White House Director of African-American Media



Urban League: Failing to expand pandemic protections is a setback for Black families

Philadelphiaobserver.com

There's a lot to blame Senator Joe Manchin for if you're someone who cares about things like abortion rights or not going out in a massive climate apocalypse.

But, Urban League President, Marc Morial, wants you to make sure that you add not being able to massively cut down on the number of Black children in poverty, to the top of your list.

In an exclusive interview with The Root, Morial called the Senator's nearly one-man crusade against the Build Back Better Act—which would have continued and grew pandemic relief policies, including continuing the expanded

child tax credit—a major “setback,” for Black Americans.

The act's child tax credit would have significantly narrowed racial differences in child poverty rates, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. And, if the child tax credit was permanently expanded, child poverty for Black children would have fallen by more than 50 percent, according to the Urban Institute.

“Build Back Better had tremendous opportunities to address economic disparities and poverty,” Morial told The Root. “It was something that would have benefited the African American community in housing, when it comes to child care, when it comes to education, and across the board.”



A Ryanair plane parks at the airport in Weeze, Germany, Sept. 12, 2018. Budget airline Ryanair says it's forcing South African travellers to the U.K. to do a test in the Afrikaans language to prove their nationality. (AP Photo/Martin Meissner, File)

Airline forcing South Africans to prove they speak Dutch-based language before being allowed to fly

Philadelphiaobserver.com

LONDON (AP) — Budget airline Ryanair says it's forcing South African travelers to the U.K. to do a test in the Afrikaans language to prove their nationality in an apparent effort to weed out those with phony passports.

Dublin-based Ryanair, Europe's biggest airline, mainly operates routes around Europe and doesn't fly to or from South Africa. It confirmed Monday it's administering the quiz after reports about the test circulated over the weekend, sparking anger among travelers.

Afrikaans is one of South Africa's 11 official languages and is the first language of about 13%

of the country's population. It's a Dutch-based language developed by many of the country's white settlers who came from the Netherlands and is associated with South Africa's apartheid regime of white minority rule that ended in 1994.

Due to the high prevalence of fraudulent South African passports, we require passengers traveling to the U.K. to fill out a simple questionnaire issued in Afrikaans,” Ryanair said in a brief press statement. “If they are unable to complete this questionnaire, they will be refused travel and issued with a full refund.”

The British High Commission in Pretoria said on Twitter that the test “is not a U.K. government requirement,” and linked to a website

Matthew McConaughey demands gun control reform at the White House

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As the nation is still processing the grief in the wake of the mass shooting last month in Uvalde, Texas, Matthew McConaughey appeared at the White House to make an earnest demand for gun reform legislation.

On Tuesday (June 7th), the actor and Uvalde native was in Washington D.C. to speak with several lawmakers on Capitol Hill and with President Joe Biden about gun control legislation.

As the daily press briefing from the White House took place, he was invited to speak to the reporters assembled in the room. McConaughey began by talking about how he and his wife Camilla went back to his hometown and met the parents of several of the children who died in the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School, as the briefing was carried live by cable networks. “You could feel the shock in the town,” he said. “You could feel the pain, the denial, the disillusion, anger, blame, sadness. Loss of lives, dreams halting.”

The Oscar-winning actor got choked up as he spoke about the children lost. He asked his wife to hold up a pair of green high-top Converse sneakers that were worn by 10-year-old Maite Rodriguez who loved nature and wanted to



be a marine biologist. “These are the same green Converse on her feet,” Mr. McConaughey said, “that turned out to be the only clear evidence that could identify her after the shooting.” He slapped the lectern, visibly upset.

“How about that?,” he said after.

He then pivoted to speak about how everyone he spoke to wanted solid and thorough gun reform legislation, and then made a demand for red flag laws along with background checks and raised minimum age requirements from members of

Congress. “We need to raise the minimum age to purchase an AR-15 rifle to 21,” he said. “We need a waiting period for those rifles. We need red flag laws and consequences for those who abuse them. These are reasonable, practical, tactical regulations.” The actor concluded his speech by saying: “Set an example for our children, give us reason to tell them, ‘Hey, listen and watch these men and women, these are great American leaders right here, hope you grow up to be like them. Let's admit it, we can't truly be leaders if we're only living for re-election.”

NFL coach compares BLM protests to Jan 6 insurrection

The assistant coach for the Washington Commanders apologized for calling the Jan. 6 insurrection a “dust-up,” but he stuck by statement about protests in the wake of George Floyd's death.

Philadelphiaobserver.com

ASHBURN, Va. (AP) — An assistant coach for the NFL's Washington Commanders issued an apology for his word choice after doubling down on a comparison he made on social media between the violent attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, and the protests in the wake of the police killing of George Floyd.

Jack Del Rio, a former linebacker who now runs Washington's defense, downplayed the deadly insurrection and questioned why the summer of 2020 protests were not receiving the same scrutiny. His comments Wednesday after an offseason practice came a day before a House committee investigating the pro-Donald Trump

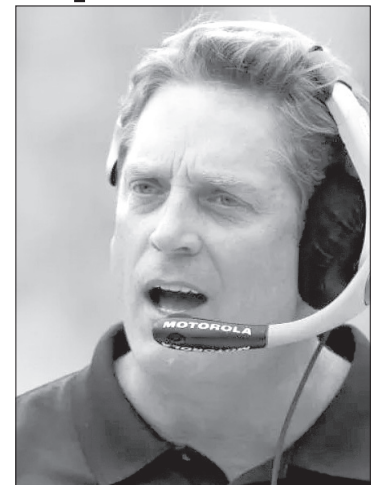
disruption of Congress 17 months ago begins public hearings on the matter.

“People's livelihoods are being destroyed, businesses are being burned down, no problem,” Del Rio said. “And then we have a dust-up at the Capitol, nothing burned down, and we're going to make that a major deal. I just think it's kind of two standards.”

Amid backlash for his comments, Del Rio released a statement on Twitter Wednesday afternoon apologizing his word choice. Del Rio said it was “irresponsible and negligent” to call the riot a “dust-up.” But he said he stood by comments “condemning violence in communities across the country.”

His comments followed a Twitter post Monday night in which he said, “Would love to understand ‘the whole story’ about why the summer of riots, looting, burning and the destruction of personal property is never discussed but this is ???” He was responding to a tweet about the Congressional hearings into Jan. 6.

Del Rio and coach Ron Rivera say they aren't concerned if the opinion will upset Black players who make up the majority of their



Washington Commanders defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio is seen during an NFL football OTA practice at Inova Sports Performance Center in Ashburn, Va., Wednesday, June 8, 2022. (AP Photo/Luis M. Alvarez)

team, some of whom spoke out about police brutality and racism in the wake of Floyd's killing two years ago.

“If they are (concerned) and they want to talk about it, I'd talk about it with anybody,” Del Rio said. “No problem. At any time. But they're not. I'm just expressing myself and I think we all as Americans have a right to express ourselves, especially if you're being respectful. I'm being respectful.”



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Editorial - Opinion

Put gun safety on voters' minds this November



By Jesse Jackson

- It happened again.

This time it was a mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, of 19 mostly fourth-grade students, along with two teachers, killed by a young man who had just turned 18 and bought himself a gift of two high-powered military weapons designed to kill people in war and 375 rounds of ammunition, which he used to shoot down his victims like rabid dogs.

For an event to be considered a mass shooting at least four people

must be killed or wounded. Anything less is not considered a mass shooting. So far this year we are at 214 mass shootings, an average of about 10 per week.

The red and blue teams immediately jumped to their customary positions. The red team in the past blamed young people for watching too many violent video games. Now mental illness seems to be the red team's dominant rationale. And their solutions range from arming teachers to hardening schools and many other ideas in between.

What's the red team's strategy? Look over here! Look over there at any shiny object other than we live in a country where citizens own more than 400 million guns in a population of 330 million, with a long history of violence growing out of an ideology of white supremacy over racial minorities — Native Americans, African Americans, Hispanics, and Asians. Some whites are now advocating, expecting or preparing for another civil war, much of it based on a racist "white replacement theory."

The blue team mostly advocates for H.R. 8, a fairly comprehensive common-sense gun regulation proposal passed in the U.S. House but sitting on Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's, D-New York, desk because Republicans are universally opposed — possibly along with Democrats Joe Manchin, D-W.Va, and Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz. — and because it requires 60 votes or an end to the filibuster. It will never pass in this Congress.

Democrats are being un-political because they are still trying to persuade Republicans to support common-sense gun legislation through moral persuasion and rational arguments. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Senate Republicans are not interested.

The only "replacement theory" Democrats should be advancing is replacing members of the red team with members of the blue team. This group of congressional Republicans is about power, not being moral or rational. They have

to be taken on and taken out politically — defeated and replaced.

What should be the Democratic strategy? There will likely be many motivating events and issues that should inspire Democrats to go to the polls for the Nov. 8 midterm elections.

The Supreme Court may play a big part in this regard as early as June. The court may overturn *Roe v. Wade* and galvanize women voters. It may upend or weaken affirmative action and activate racial minorities and women to rush to the voting booth. It likely will declare a New York gun law unconstitutional, opening the door to a national policy of "open carry" and awakening gun regulation advocates to vote in record numbers.

But to make sure greater gun safety and common sense gun laws — supported by up to 90 percent of the American people — are on voters' minds in November, Democrats must do the following:

Break up the dozen or more individual parts of a comprehensive

package of gun safety legislation — e.g., an assault weapons ban, background checks, red flag law and more — and make the House and the Senate members vote on them individually. There should be coordination between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and Schumer in the Senate. The House should vote on Tuesday and the Senate on Thursday, on one issue at a time, one a week, week after week, all the way to November.

It's possible one of them may actually pass. That would be good news and start us down a path of greater gun safety. But strategically, put it at the beginning so that the closer we get to Nov. 8, voters will mostly remember all the "no" votes cast by Republicans on common-sense gun laws that would make the American people safer.

Democrats must stop being naive about negotiating with Republicans over guns because their strategy is to delay, divert, deny and defeat Democrats in November. Democrats must flip the table.

White House staffers call 'Blaxit' story fake news

From page 3

Deputy Counsel position vacated by Danielle Conley, the White House stated.

Administration officials also pointed out that Jamal Simmons filled the Deputy Assistant to the President and Office of the Vice President's Communications Director role vacated by Ashley Etienne.

Kirsten Allen filled the Spokesperson for the Vice President post vacated by Symone Sanders.

Additionally, the Domestic Policy Council recently hired a Black staffer to serve as Special Assistant to the President on his Racial Justice and Equity team.

Alondra Nelson filled the Director of Office of Science and Technology Policy post vacated by Eric Lander, while Karine Jean-Pierre took over as Press Secretary for Jen Psaki.

The Senate recently confirmed Shalanda Young as director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"The first year of the administration focused on building the infrastructure to support teams and their staff — ensuring they had what was required to successfully onboard and work at the White House to drive forward the President's agenda," a senior official stated.

"Over the past year, we have

invested in building a diverse staff and supporting opportunities for growth and development."

This month, Erin Wilson ascended to deputy chief of staff to the vice president and deputy assistant to the president, saying it's an honor and privilege to serve the Administration on their senior team.

"Since the campaign and joining the White House Office of Political Strategy and Outreach, [Biden Campaign Manager] Jen O'Malley Dillon has offered her support in any way needed," Wilson remarked.

"I'm leaving to go to business school, which was always my intention," added Niyat Mulgheta, an advisor to the chief of staff, Ron Klain.

Mulgheta counted among those Politico mentioned in their "Blaxit" story.

"Ron Klain has been extremely supportive throughout my time working for him. He wrote my letter of recommendation since I had to reapply. He gave me the opportunity to work on infrastructure implementation when I told him I was interested in implementation work," Mulgheta stated.

"All that is to say, I'm really happy with my experience and feel lucky to have been part of this incredible team."

The real story of Juneteenth must be told, historians, educators say

From page 3

of 10 people in a racist rampage at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y. on May 14 this year, many think they'd best spend Juneteenth continuing to work for freedom instead of just celebrating it.

Caroline Brewer, the author of 13 children's books, agrees. She pointed out that Black people have long commemorated Juneteenth. Therefore, she has noticed that during the official holiday, her associates are leaning toward continuing their work to build up the Black community as she is attempting to do with Black children.

"I think with any holiday, and when it comes to Black history, where most people that I know are and where I am is that I am celebrating Black history every day. I am doing something for the liberation of our people every day. So, I am focused on promoting my children's books," one of which is going to be published in August.

The new book is titled, "Say Their Names", Brewer said. "We're having conversations about the trauma that we've experienced as Black people as a result of police violence and racial violence."

The story of Juneteenth is quite simple. President Abraham

Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on Jan. 1, 1863. It declared a formal end to slavery in the United States. But word was slow getting to Galveston, Texas. The slaves in Galveston didn't know that they were free until almost two and a half years later, on June 19, 1865. It was on that day that they got the news from Union army troops, including 6,000 Black soldiers who helped to inform them that the war was over and "slavery no longer existed in America," Smith recounted. The next year, the freed slaves of Galveston commemorated that day as Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom. Such unofficial annual celebrations had occurred across the U. S. ever since until President Biden has now made the holiday official.

But America must be careful to focus on the real story, Smith said. Many of those "seasoned veteran" Black soldiers had helped to chase away defeated General Robert E. Lee after he surrendered in Richmond, Va., the former Confederate capital, Smith stressed. Actually, those soldiers were sent to Galveston in order to keep them from participating in the Grand Review Parade down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., celebrating the defeat of the Confederacy.

"They actually sent them out of town, so they'd have an excuse to not let America see that it took two hundred thousand African-American soldiers in the Union Army to help the Army win this war... If we don't tell that story, nobody else is going to tell it," Smith said.

Black Press historian A. Peter Bailey agrees that the heroism of those Black soldiers is practically the only reason to celebrate Juneteenth.

"What I think we could use it for if we're going to do something serious about it is to make it a day to celebrate the major contribution that Black soldiers made to the Union victory in the Civil War. This is something that to me is not nearly stressed enough."

Brewer concludes, "So we will continue to participate in Juneteenth celebrations and appreciate the holiday. But we know that our work is three-sixty-five, twenty-four seven... It just doesn't end for us. And I don't know that that has really come across in some of the major media conversations about Juneteenth. For a lot of people who may cover the White House, it's just another holiday with symbolism. But for us, it's about celebrating the progress we've made and the work that still needs to be done."

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philaobserver.com

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed banning menthol cigarettes. This rule would remove all menthol cigarettes, like Newport, from the store shelves if the rule goes into effect.

BANNING MENTHOL IS BAD PUBLIC POLICY AND WOULD CREATE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Great progress has been made reducing smoking rates in this country. Adult and youth smoking are at historic lows; menthol smoking by youth is rare (0.6% smoked even a puff in past 30 days) per recent government data.

We do not believe the science justifies regulating menthol and non-menthol cigarettes differently. A ban would cause widespread negative unintended consequences including increases in illicit cigarette trade, crime, smuggling, lost tax revenues, strain on law enforcement and the risk of making it easier for youth to access cigarettes through illicit channels.

YOUTH PREVALENCE

99.4% of youth have not even taken a puff of a menthol cigarette in the last 30 days.

National Youth Tobacco Survey, United States, 2021, MMWR 71(5):1-29 (Mar. 11, 2022), at Table 5

THE PATH FORWARD: TOBACCO HARM REDUCTION

There is a larger public health issue at stake: reducing the harm from smoking cigarettes (menthol and non-menthol) and how to accomplish that. Public health policy should encourage innovative and acceptable alternatives to cigarettes – and provide accurate information about them – for those adult smokers who choose not to quit. The pathway to real progress is reducing the harms from smoking in this country by ensuring access for adults to consumer-acceptable alternatives to the cigarette that may present less risk.

Learn more about Reynolds' scientific work: ReynoldsScience.com

Learn more about tobacco harm reduction: ReynoldsHarmReduction.com

Submit a comment on the proposed rule to the FDA: OwnItVoicelt.com



On the scene

Diana Ross closes the spectacular Platinum Party at The Palace with a regal performance!



By Audrey J. Bernard

LONDON, UK — The Legendary Diana Ross closed the two-hour long, phenomenal Platinum Party at The Palace concert on Saturday, June 4, 2022, in front of Buckingham Palace, framing the

iconic home of The Queen, and the Queen Victoria Memorial, and broadcast live on BBC One, BBC iPlayer and BBC Radio 2, aired on ABC in the U.S., and produced by BBC Studios Productions on behalf of the BBC and Buckingham Palace. Ross is favored by the Royal Family, and she came to deliver a royal command performance and did not disappoint. The crowd went wild!

The Supreme Singer who opened with "Chain Reaction" and closed with "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" was escorted onstage by her son Evan Ross. This was her first UK live performance in 15 years. Ross shared: "I have had the honour of meeting The Queen many times throughout my life, including when I was with my family. Her Majesty has and continues to

be such an incredible inspiration to so many across the world and I was absolutely delighted to receive an invitation to perform on such a momentous and historic occasion."

The Brits have "Endless Love" for Ross, and she wowed them in a voluminous black cape over an off-the-shoulder top in black with long sleeves, a multi-tiered black and white tulle skirt all cascading out from one another. The bottom tier of the skirt had the most width and volume with the puffy quality of the garment matching the capacious cape. The skirt was secured in place with a thick black belt with a rhinestone buckle. Oh, Miss Ross!

The once-in-a-lifetime concert featured an amazing array of stars from the stage, screen, and the sporting world who performed

on an extravagant three-stage set up linked by walkways, including Queen + Adam Lambert. Sir Rod Stewart, Alicia Keys, Hans Zimmer, Ella Eyre, Craig David, Mabel, Elbow and George Ezra of Duran Duran, Andrea Bocelli, Mimi Webb, Sam Ryder, Jax Jones, Celeste, Nile Rodgers, Sigala and Diversity Sir David Attenborough, Emma Raducanu, David Beckham, Stephen Fry, Dame Julie Andrews, The Royal Ballet, Ellie Simmonds, Sam Ryder special appearance by Lloyd Webber and Lin-Manuel Miranda plus performances featuring casts and special guests from The Phantom Of The Opera, Hamilton, Six, The Lion King and Joseph And The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. and a specially recorded performance from Sir Elton John.

The Queen herself was not at the event in person but did appear in a pre-recorded humorous comedy sketch with Paddington Bear, in which she admitted to keeping a marmalade sandwich in her handbag. The skit garnered lots of laughter as I clutched my pearls! Twenty-two thousand people attended the event, including 10,000 tickets allocated in a public ballot and over 7,500 tickets for key workers, members of the Armed Forces, volunteers, and charities. Members of the Royal Family—including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and their children Princess Charlotte and Prince George—were seen throughout the concert singing along and waving their flags. (Photos courtesy Getty Images)



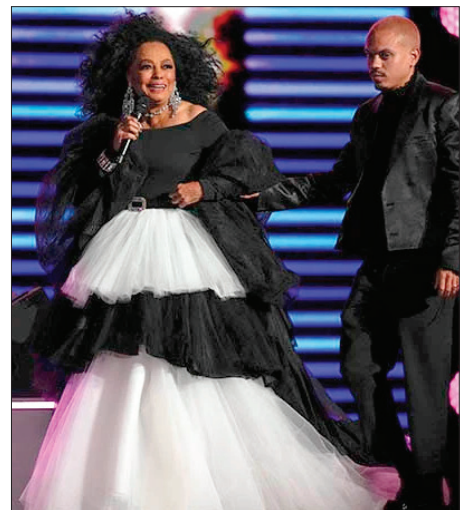
Diana Ross closes Platinum Party urging crowd to thank the Queen for her service (Photo by East Lothian Courier)



Duran Duran performs with Nile Rodgers and rapper Ms Banks



Alicia Keys performs This Girl's On Fire



Diana Ross is escorted on stage by her son Evan Ross



Ella Eyre performs (Photo-AP)



Cast of 'Hamilton' perform



Mica Paris performs



Rod Stewart performing onstage in front of Buckingham Palace on Saturday. Credit... Pool photo by Jeff J. Mitchell



The band Queen opened the event by performing We Will Rock You in front of the Victoria Memorial, outside Buckingham Palace



The Queen in a skit with Paddington Bear

On the scene

Myles Frost moonwalks away with Lead Actor Tony Award



Myles Frost proudly displays his Lead Actor Tony Award presented at Radio City Music Hall



Myles and superb dancers are thrilling audiences during performances at the Neil Simon Theatre in Manhattan

Myles Frost, a Maryland native and Bowie State student moonwalked away with the Best Lead Actor in a Musical Tony Award for “MJ” portraying the late great King of Pop Michael Jackson. He becomes the youngest solo winner in that category. The presentation took place at Radio City Music Hall on Sunday, June 12, 2022.

“MJ” represents the 22-year-old Frost’s Broadway debut as he plays Jackson with a high, whispery voice, and a fierce embrace of Michael’s iconic dancing and singing style, right down to the rhythmic breathing and swiveling head. Frost thanked his parents and sang during his acceptance speech.

Frost was raised by his mother in Fort Washington, Maryland. He attended Belmont University in Nashville for two years to major in audio engineering. He transferred to Bowie State University in Maryland for his final two years. However he returned to a career in theater and music.

The musical currently in performance at the Neil Simon Theatre in Manhattan is packed with the King of Pop’s biggest hits, including “ABC,” “Black or White,” “Blame it on the Boogie,” “Bad,” “Billie Jean,” “Off the Wall,” “Thriller” and “I’ll Be There.” Frost won the Tony Award over Billy Crystal in “Mr. Saturday Night,” Hugh Jackman in “The Music Man,” Rob McClure in “Mrs. Doubtfire” and Jaquel Spivey in “A Strange Loop.”

Celebrate

Urban League celebrates 56th Annual Frederick Douglass Reunion Gala

By Audrey J. Bernard

On Thursday, June 2, 2022, the Urban League (NYUL) held its 56th Annual Frederick Douglass Reunion Gala at the Ziegfeld Ballroom brimming over with high spirited supporters who filled the spacious room to capacity. Guests were ready to re-unite and party while supporting NYUL's initiatives of Diversity and Inclusion. The gorgeous ballroom was turned into an enchanted garden replete with tall apple trees, hanging vines, and decorative centerpieces spilling over with apples and a lovely array of exotic flowers creating a fantasy atmosphere.

There was a new freshness to this year's program and presentation of honorees starting with the introduction of NYUL's beautiful and popular president Arva Rice by her mother Shellie Rice. Rice looked gorgeous in a dazzling blue sequin gown that she credited to Macy's. She was the bell of this ball having had a bad bout with COVID last year and praying for the blessed outcome

that landed her onstage to celebrate NYUL's accomplishments this year. Rice went on to share NYUL's vision for the future, "We will transform our three brownstones on 136th Street into a Center for Black Innovation. The goal of the Center will be to solve systemic issues of economic disparities through small business development, social enterprises, education, and workforce development."

After a rousing invocation by Rev. Jacques DeGraff, Canaan Baptist Church, a delicious dinner was served with flawless wait service. Although dinner was delightful, guests really loved the appetizer – grits & shrimp in a miniature crock pot, with a side of hot sauce. Dee-lish!

There was a new fabulousity at this year's program and presentation of the honorees. As each honoree was presented their award a video created by NBC and narrated by NBC Anchor David Ushery played. The introductions were funny, heartwarming and furthered the warm and connection that was

already deeply felt in the room. The 2022 Frederick Douglass Award was presented to honorees MSNBC's President, Rashida Jones; actress and civil rights advocate Phylicia Rashad; and acclaimed impact leader James Rhee. This year's coveted Ann S. Kheel Award was presented to Culture Creators' Joi Brown

The already jubilant mood of the room continued to build as the program unfolded with heartfelt gratitude, humorous anecdotes, and substantive messages shared by Rice and each honoree as they accepted their awards. "To say that our guests enjoyed the experience would be an understatement. It was a wonderful way to share the work of the Urban League and get people excited about our future work," said Ward Corbett, Board Chair.

Rice returned to the stage and thanked NYUL's supporting sponsors, board, speakers, and team for making this an epic evening. She thanked presenting sponsor and Co-Chair Wendy and Doug Eisenberg who provided lead

support through A&E Real Estate with UBER and Diageo. Rice acknowledged New York's highest ranking elected officials Senator Chuck Schumer, Congressman Adriano Espaillat, Mayor Eric Adams, and Marc Morial, National Urban League President, who all provided remarks at the event and extended congratulations to all the honorees. Symone Sander, former national press secretary for Bernie Sanders, Senior Advisor, Chief Spokesperson to the Vice President of the United States, and now MSNBC Host, was a gracious and warm emcee who wove the reunion theme into the evening.

Other highlights of the enthralling evening included a pledge moment hosted by comedian Chuck Nice; Congressman Espaillat's impromptu salsa dance with Symone Sanders; and guests having one of their best times ever on the dance floor at the hot After Party featuring decadent desserts and music by DJ Traumatic. "It was a wonderful way to share the work of the Urban League and get

people excited about our future work," said Ward Corbett, Board Chair. "We hope you enjoyed this year's NYUL Reunion Gala. Be sure to stay in touch with us throughout the year by following @newyorkurbanleague on social!" (Photos by Margot Jordan for NYUL)

About the Urban League

The New York Urban League's mission is to enable African Americans and other underserved ethnic communities to secure a first-class education, economic self-reliance, and equal respect of their civil rights through programs, services, and advocacy. For a century, the NYUL has helped challenged New Yorkers find humanity, connect and help each other, and gain access to equal opportunity in employment, education, financial and technological literacy, and more. Urban League, Inc. is one of the local affiliates of the National Urban League. Please visit us at www.nyul.org to learn more about our efforts.



Senator Charles Schumer



Marc Morial, Mayor Eric Adams, Arva Rice, Ward Corbett



(L-R) Rashida Jones, President, MSNBC and Jonathan Jones (Jones' son)



(L-R) Arva Rice, President & CEO of NYUL and Joi Brown, Founder & CEO, Culture Creators



(L-R) Phylicia Rashad, Tony Award-winning Actress & Civil Rights Advocate and Condola Rashad (Rashad's daughter)



(L-R) James Rhee, Acclaimed Impact Leader and Jennifer Scott (James's sister)



Arva Rice, Congressman Adriano Espaillat



New York Urban League Staff



Symone Sanders, Rashida Jones



Ward Corbett, Arva Rice, David Ushery



Arva Rice, Ward Corbett and Young Professionals Presidents Past and Present



Co-Chairs Doug Eisenberg, Wendy Eisenberg

White pastor found guilty of high treason, plotted to kill Black people by poisoning water

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The world is filled with many types of people and personalities, but unfortunately that also includes those who have malicious intentions with motives set on spreading evil.

61-year-old Harry Johannes Knoesen, former pastor and leader of the National Christian Resistance Movement, may be one of the most heinous individuals there is after being found guilty of high treason for plotting attacks and even forming a biological weapon to kill Black people in South Africa.

As reported by ABC News, Knoesen's primary goal was to overthrow the government and wipe out hundreds of South Africans due to racist ideologies he

would use to recruit others into his morbid plan of attack. The terrorist group even highly considered poisoning water reservoirs in Black communities by using a biological weapon. Knoesen also managed to be found guilty on unlawful possession of firearms charges after weapons and ammunition was found during his initial arrest in the town of Middelburg.

More on this startling report below, via ABC News:

"The plot by the pastor's group was foiled in 2019 by South Africa's police and intelligence services, who have since dismantled the organization's cells across various parts of the country and arrested some of its leaders.

Knoesen was convicted on evidence from witnesses including members of his group who



are already serving jail sentences after they were convicted of similar crimes.

The state alleged that Knoesen's plot was motivated by his 'highly racial views' and that he sought to justify his beliefs on religious grounds, claiming that he was ordained to 'reclaim South Africa for white people.'



Minneapolis police beat man to a pulp, allegedly plant drugs near his house after he complained, lawsuit claims

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Minneapolis police officers violated Andre Moore's civil rights twice in a matter of months, a lawsuit obtained by the Atlanta Black Star alleges.

According to the lawsuit, officers pulled a gun and taser on Moore while he complied during a traffic stop and then beat him until he was unconscious in December 2019. After he filed complaints about the abuse, he was framed for drug charges by one of the officers involved. A judge later dropped the charges because they were based on the "reckless disregard for the truth."

The lawsuit is one of several that depicts the department's reported history of the disproportionate use of excessive force against Black people. Moore's attorneys say he sustained a broken nose, multiple cuts, bruises, and abrasions to his face and body, among other injuries from the violent arrest. His eyes were almost swollen shut and his face was splattered with blood.

Moore was beaten by Minneapolis police until he was unconscious. When he complained he was alleged targeted by officers for a false drug charge.

Moore was also held in jail for several months on the baseless charges. His bloody arrest was "egregious conduct" by the officers followed by "a premeditated act of revenge," the lawsuit alleges.

Moore is seeking monetary damages for violation of his rights. The lawsuit alleges the five officers' conduct robbed the man of his right to be free from unreasonable searches and "unnecessary and senseless violence at the hands of peace officers."

Moore was dropping home a female friend who lived blocks away from his house on Dec. 7, 2019, when he was pulled over by Minneapolis Officer Tony Partyka

and his partner. Partyka said in the report that he recognized Moore as someone with an outstanding arrest warrant, but no such warrant existed at the time, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit alleges that when the officers approached Moore's car, he placed his hands on the steering wheel. The officers wrote in the report that they could smell alcohol emanating from Moore's vehicle and saw an empty container that they believed was used for alcohol.

They ordered Moore out of the vehicle, and when he tried to unfasten his seatbelt, he was accused of reaching for something, the lawsuit says.

Partyka pulled out his Taser and placed it on Moore's chest and threatened to stun him if he did not put his hands up. The lawsuit alleges that Moore attempted to comply with the orders several times and had not made any sudden or threatening movements.

Body-worn footage showed another officer, identified in the lawsuit as Dirk Spree, driving up to the scene and immediately running up, pulling a gun on Moore. As the officers threw the man to the ground, one grabbed a handful of his hair while another lambasted him with blows.

Moore posted the video on YouTube with the caption: "the night I could've died."

"He's grabbing something in his right arm," one of the officers said.

"Stop! What are you doing?" The woman in the passenger side screamed.

"You're going to get tased," one officer said.

The woman continued to plead with officers as they piled on Moore, already on the ground.

"Stop removing. Stop resisting," one officer repeatedly said as Moore moaned out, seemingly in pain.

North Carolina man receives death penalty after torturing, killing 15-year-old daughter

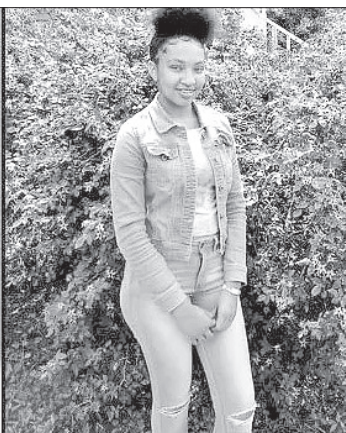
Philadelphiaobserver.com

Joshua Lee Burgess, 35, has been sentenced to death over the 22-hour-long torture and killing of his 15-year-old daughter, Zaria Burgess.

The judgment came down on Friday, almost three years following the incident that resulted in the teenager's horrific death.

In August 2019 Joshua Lee turned himself over to Union County, North Carolina authorities. He specifically walked up to dispatchers on a Sunday morning and confessed to killing his daughter, who was visiting for the weekend.

The teen's body was later discovered at his Monroe, North Carolina, home with a large gash to her neck and Joshua Lee was charged with first-degree murder. It was eventually uncovered that he killed his daughter "after psychologically and sexually tor-



turing her for 22 hours."

As a result, he was also charged with statutory rape, three counts of statutory sex offense and one count of first-degree sexual exploitation of a minor.

"The details of this murder are indescribable," Sheriff Eddie Cathey noted in a 2019 statement.

"Every officer and detective involved in this case is feeling the effects of what happened to this child."

"There is no logical answer to explain why this man did what he is accused of doing. Our hearts and prayers are with Zaria's mom and her family," he continued.

Hitman pleads guilty to shooting grandson of owner of 'Welcome to Sweetie Pie's'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

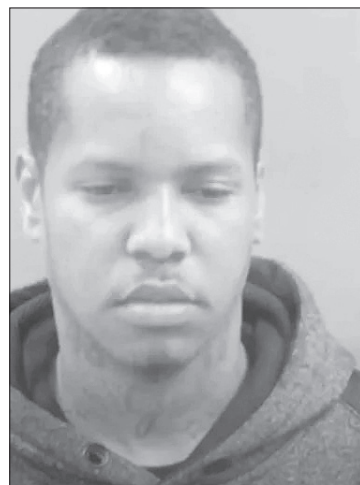
*The man who allegedly shot and killed the grandson of "Welcome to Sweetie Pie's" owner Robbie Montgomery, has been convicted on one count of conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire along with one count of murder-for-hire in the killing of Andre Montgomery Jr.

Travell Hill, 30, reportedly pleaded guilty this past Friday while in federal court, Vlad TV reports.

Here's more from the outlet: In his plea agreement, Hill

admitted to shooting and killing Montgomery on March 14, 2016. Hill murdered the grandson of Robbie Montgomery, the founder of Sweetie Pie's, and was reportedly paid several thousand dollars for the murder. Hill said he met up with the uncle of Andre Montgomery—James Timothy Norman, and after their meet-up "it was Hill's understanding that Norman wanted Hill to kill Montgomery."

Hill now faces a mandatory life sentence in prison. He is scheduled to be sentenced on September 20, 2022.



Culture



Ariana DeBose kicks off 2022 Tony Awards with show-stopping Broadway mashup

Philadelphiaobserver.com

"West Side Story" star Ariana DeBose launched the 75th Tony Awards in style with a breathtaking mashup performance featuring tunes from classic Tony-winning musicals, including "Phantom of the Opera," "Cabaret," "Hair" and "Company."

The former Tony nominee opened the ceremony at Radio City Music Hall on Sunday night with an energetic performance, giving a "round of applause" to everyone on Broadway.

DeBose donned a stunning, all-white ensemble inspired by Michael Jackson, the subject of

"MJ: The Musical," which received 10 nominations heading into the evening.

"Let's just say, for many of you it's been a rollercoaster," DeBose remarked in her opening monologue, noting how the coronavirus pandemic has upended the theater industry over the past two years.

"I am so proud that the theater is becoming more reflective of the community who adores it, and in doing so, has gained new performers, new creatives, new fans," she continued. "It has shown us stories that have broadened our world and opened our hearts and our minds."

LeBron James Family Foundation announces plans to open medical center in Akron, Ohio

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Whether he's in the NBA Playoffs or not, LeBron James continues to make beneficial moves.

It was announced on Tuesday that the LeBron James Family Foundation plans to build a medical center in James' hometown of Akron, Ohio called the I Promise HealthQuarters.

Set to open in 2023, the medical

center will offer medical, dental, optometry, mental health, pharmaceutical and lab services. The center will be within walking distance of other I Promise institutions such as the I Promise School, I Promise Village and I Promise Housing.

The center will also offer physical and recreational activities.

The center will be in collaboration with AxxessPointe, Coleman Health Services and Peg's Foundation.



Photo: Kevin Winter (Getty Images)

Jennifer Hudson lands historic EGOT status at the 2022 Tony Awards



Philadelphiaobserver.com

Jennifer Hudson joined the ranks of the exclusive group of EGOT winners on Sunday at the Tony Awards.

To reach EGOT level, one must win all four of the major American

entertainment awards (Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and a Tony).

The songstress and producer, who has an Emmy, Grammy and Oscar, became the 17th member of the esteemed EGOT titleholders after "A Strange Loop" won Best New Musical.

Hudson also made history as the third Black EGOT winner to take the crown, and the fifth woman to receive the distinction.

"A Strange Loop," which was produced by Hudson, was the most Tony-award nominated show of the year, earning a whopping 11 nominations.

The musical follows "a young artist grappling with desires, identity and instincts he both loves and loathes," according to the production's synopsis.

The hit Broadway show boasts more than 40 producers, including Hudson, Don Cheadle, Billy Porter, Alan Cumming, Ilana Glazer, Mindy Kaling and RuPaul Charles.

Hudson previously earned a Daytime Emmy for her role as executive producer for "Baby Yaga," Grammy awards for "The Color Purple" and her debut self-titled studio album, and an Oscar for best supporting actress in "Dreamgirls."

Queen Latifah talks weight stigma, being labeled obese on Red Table

Philadelphiaobserver.com

*Queen Latifah appeared on "Red Table Talk" on June 8 and opened up to hosts Jada Pinkett Smith, Willow Smith and Adrienne Banfield-Norris about weight stigma in society.

At one point, Latifah recalled being told to lose weight while starring on the popular 1990s show "Living Single."

"The word came down that we needed to lose weight," she said, as reported by Pop Sugar. "We're on the number one show among Black and Latino households in America and you're telling us we need to lose weight. Maybe you're the one with the problem."

She continued: "We're also taught these ideas of beauty,



you know — this is what you're supposed to look like. But when you have these pictures painted for you and it's implanted over generations, that's the problem."

Latifah went on to explain her struggle to find designers who cater to plus-size women.

"It's like, if I was a size 24 and I have style, I still want to rock what the size two is wearing. But the designers are like, no, we're going to stop right here," she said. "OK, have you checked the stats on the sizes of the people in the country? I think you might want to make some clothes in this size. What's the problem, don't you get it? No, you don't want to get it, you don't want us to look like this . . . You don't want us to live this fullness."

She also described her experience working with a "scientific and mathematic" trainer who explained to the rapper/actress the Body Mass Index (BMI) chart, which categorizes people as either: underweight, healthy, overweight or obese.

Naomi Campbell gives us style goals in a Burberry ensemble at the 2022 Jubilee Party

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Naomi Campbell was spotted in England at Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee 2022 looking like royalty and we're obsessed with her fashion sense!

For the affair, the model wore a tan Burberry FW '22 RTW look that was everything. The strapless dress resembled a trench coat and featured double breasted buttons and a waist belt. The beauty wore her hair straight down and long and parted down the middle and rocked round sunglasses to set her entire look off.

Naomi took to Instagram to show off her luxurious look, captioning the post, "platinumjubi-

lee #70 "

A post shared by Naomi Campbell (@naomi)

This isn't the first time the supermodel gave us fashion envy in Burberry. Earlier this year, she was spotted on the scene serving a LEWK at the British Academy Film Awards wearing a black Burberry gown. The all-black look was long-sleeved and featured a mini trail that trailed behind her as she posed on the carpet. She wore her hair in a sleek, straight down look that was parted down the middle to frame both sides of her face. She accessorized the look with minimal jewelry, only rocking silver bracelets and dangly silver earrings to add glamour to the fabulous look.



Source: Dimitrios Kambouris / Getty

ANC leader enmeshed in scandal portrays nation's wealth, inequality

(GIN) –

Almost three decades since the end of apartheid, South Africa remains the most unequal country in the world—where the richest 10 percent of the population owns more than 85% percent of household wealth—a gap higher than any other country for which sufficient data is available.

So recent revelations of a huge trove of unexplained cash, 60 million rand (over \$4 million U.S. in cash) in the home of Cyril Ramaphosa, head of the African National Congress, was particularly shocking and just more evidence of a nation captured by the rich—even those who claimed to be on the side of the poor.

The bills had been hidden in a sofa in Mr. Ramaphosa's Phala Phala wildlife farm in Limpopo but when the monies disappeared two years ago, he never reported it to the police or disclosed it publicly. It would have been an awkward embarrassment on the eve of his expected re-election as an anti-corruption crusader—an election he was poised to easily win.

As questions mounted, Ramaphosa was forced to come forward in a rare press conference to defend himself from journalists seeking an explanation for the latest scandal, dubbed "Farmgate."

Once a leading trade unionist, Ramaphosa, 69, helped negotiate



the end of apartheid and was Nelson Mandela's preferred successor. After joining the private sector, he amassed a huge fortune working in banking, insurance, telecoms, and the Lonmin mining company when it brutally repressed a worker strike. He returned to the public sector with an estimated wealth of \$450 million.

When the latest scandal broke, he attempted to cover his tracks, paying off the alleged thieves and a domestic worker for their silence. But the story was exposed by a political rival, the country's former spy chief and an ally of ex-president Jacob Zuma who leaked the details in a complaint to the national police. Learning of the affair, members of the Economic Freedom Fighters shouted him down during a budgetary meeting in Parliament, calling him a money launderer

unfit to lead the country.

Other watchdogs are piling on: Corruption Watch says there are too many red flags surrounding the burglary, suggesting a cover-up.

The crime fighting Hawks have taken over the investigation of the multimillion-dollar burglary.

All this has made it difficult to say there are still innocent people within the ANC, said Hlengiwe Ndlovu, a senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand in a press interview. "It means that the ANC just pays lip service to this whole issue of corruption."

Now Mr. Ramaphosa's opponents within the ANC have an opening to unseat him when the party meets to elect its leader in December and his drive to become a world leader may be permanently stalled.



Howard U to host 'Young African Leaders' in fellowship program

(GIN) –

Howard University has again been selected as a partner with the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Beginning in mid-June, Howard University will host 25 of Africa's brightest emerging Public Management leaders for a six-week academic and leadership institute sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and embodies the United States' commitment to invest in the future of Africa. YALI was created in 2010 and supports young Africans as they spur economic growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa.

Since 2014, nearly 5,100 young leaders from every country in Sub-Saharan Africa have participated in the Mandela Washington Fellowship.

The cohort of Fellows hosted by Howard University will be part of a larger group of 700 Mandela

Washington Fellows hosted at 27 institutions across 27 states and the District of Columbia this summer.

The six-week Institutes, hosted by college and university campuses across the United States, will support the development of Fellows' leadership skills through academic study, workshops, mentoring, networking with U.S. leaders, and collaboration with members of the local community.

Each Institute will also offer insights into U.S. society and will help strengthen connections between the United States and Africa by establishing partnerships between Fellows, local communities, and private businesses.

In addition to the knowledge and skills they gain, Fellows enrich their U.S. host communities through public service, cultural exchange, and the lasting personal ties they create during their program.

U.S. citizens can also apply to travel to Africa and collaborate on projects with Fellows through the Reciprocal Exchange. w/pix of Young African Leaders from Ghana

Prince Charles joins critics of UK deportation plans

(GIN) –

As the United Kingdom moves ahead with the planned deportation of asylum seekers to the faraway nation of Rwanda, Prince Charles has privately described the plans as "appalling", two media reports have said. The first flight taking refugees to the East African country is due to leave next week.

The UK's controversial deal to relocate certain asylum seekers thousands of miles away is not for offshore processing but as a permanent destination. It symbolizes the broader policy push that some high-income countries are taking to dump migration management far away from their shores.

If the UK-Rwanda deal survives expected legal challenges, the damage to the post-World War II protection system can hardly be overstated, writes the Migration Policy Institute in a recent commentary.

Not only does it cancel the right to apply for asylum upon setting foot on land, but it also advances the idea that states can



pay to avoid responsibilities they signed up to under the 1951 Geneva Convention.

(The UK government will pay Rwanda an initial US\$150 million for economic development and growth, and will pick up operational costs of the program and other expenses.)

Under the new arrangement, the global protection system is reshaped from a shared moral commitment to a crude business deal.

As for the refugees themselves, it further makes them pawns, removing any sense of control over their destiny and pushing them more into the hands of smugglers and traffickers.

The agreement's flexibility gives the UK leeway to grant admission to "sympathetic" asylum seekers who have not used "safe and legal pathways"—for example Ukrainians—and claim asylum in the UK, undermining

the government's rationale of blocking asylum seekers from jumping the line.

Less sympathetic asylum seekers who arrive in Britain as stowaways on trucks or in small boats would be flown 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometers) to Rwanda, apparently for good.

The policy is unlikely to reduce the number of refugees trying to enter the country. In the Americas, enforcement policies have not slowed the large numbers trying to enter the U.S. Instead, refugees just avoid popular routes and take more dangerous chances, going underground upon arrival, setting the stage for futures marred by uncertainty and the potential for exploitation or abuse.

Meanwhile, Charles, heir to the British throne, in an unusual departure from royal protocol, was heard criticizing the policy, The Times and Daily Mail newspapers reported.

He is reportedly concerned that the controversial asylum policy will overshadow a Commonwealth summit in Rwanda where he is due to represent his mother Queen Elizabeth at the end of this month.

Finally, Rwanda cannot be considered a safe third country to send asylum seekers to, with Human Rights Watch and other groups, including the U.S. Government, having routinely reported on the serious human rights violations in Rwanda. The UK government is aware of this, having denounced Rwanda's human rights record just last year at the Human Rights Council.

Arbitrary detention, ill-treatment, and torture in official and unofficial detention facilities are commonplace in Rwanda. Since 2010, Human Rights Watch has extensively documented the use of unlawful detention and torture in safe houses and other facilities,

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Veronica Jones

Acclaimed Nigerian artisan Lola Faturoti celebrates fashion

By Veronica Jones

Innovative Fashion Designer Lola Faturoti was born in London by Nigerian parents. As a child she was bred in the Ondo State, Nigeria by her Grandmother who was an artisan/seamstress of traditional Nigerian fashions. Being in the presence of Faturoti's Grandmother inspired her to embrace the art of fashion design, construction, and tradition. "Traditional clothing is life; you can feel the spirit and passion of the artisans that created them. The creativity and the skills involved in the creation is their life and soul" quotes Faturoti. At seventeen, she returned to London to attend the London College of Fashion where she excelled in her studies. Having honed the education and necessary skills to become a creatively unique designer Faturoti was bound for New York after graduation in 1991.

Faturoti arrived in New York and landed a sales position at Charivari, the most fashion forward boutique in the city. Charivari's savvy customers were attracted to Faturoti's unique style. Barbara Weiser, the President of Charivari, recognized Faturoti's designs and gave her the opportunity to sell them in the store on W 57th Street near Fifth Avenue. In 1994, Weiser encouraged Faturoti to launch her first fashion collection. She was awarded the Vidal Sassoon's Young Innovators Award for her designs. In 1996 she was the first designer to represent the U.S. in Osaka, Japan's Fashion Committee Show. Amy Spindler, NYTimes' fashion journalist featured Lola Faturoti as one of the eighteen most influential designers of 1999, in the company of the iconic Ralph Lauren, Alexander McQueen and Helmut Lang. Faturoti's design is on permanent display today at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's famous Costume Institute.

The courageous designer captured Ralph Lauren's audience

as they were leaving his 2000 Fall /Winter Show on West Broadway. Her show was out front on the street. The fashion press was mesmerized by the excitement she created. Lola Faturoti's fashion aesthetic is a blend of Nigerian traditions and contemporary concepts in design. She is a mixologist of art and culture, sensuality and spirituality, modern prints, and vibrant colors. The creative spirit of Lola Designs inspired a dress commemorating the election of President Barack Obama. The dress is one-of-a-kind print on Kente Cloth worn by the people of the Ashante tribe in Ghana for celebrations since 3000 BC. It features a picture of President Obama with the words "Oluwa gba President Barack Obama" meaning "God bless President Barack Obama" in Yoruba.

American Sportswear is Faturoti's classification of choice ingrained with her creative twist in design. Her designs have sold in specialty stores globally, from New York to Chicago, California, Japan,

London, Italy, and Dubai. The New York Times and the Daily Telegraph have told her story. Women's Wear Daily, Essence, Vogue, Bazaar, and The New York Times Magazine have featured Lola Faturoti. Her creative spirit and authentic style are unequivocally modern. After a three-year sojourn in Milan, upon her return to NY Faturoti enjoyed her greatest commercial success retailing in the best stores around the world for five years. She was exhausted and paused to indulge in self-care, self-indulgence and to honor herself. During her hiatus thoughts of how the fashion industry has a negative impact on the environment and traditional societies surfaced. Fast fashion companies have overproduced clothing that has polluted the earth and contributed to the destruction of the planet. Conscious Lola Faturoti created an ecologically sustainable collection of brightly colored jeans, jackets, shirts, tees, and scarves while generating zero inventory waste.

Faturoti intends to preserve



Lola Faturoti, Fashion Designer, Creative Force

the traditional designs, skills, and values of Indigenous artisans from around the world. *Lola Loves Cargo.com* is a platform to empower all women with a modern education, technology, and traditional skills to create a fair and sustainable environment for people and the planet. The origin of her first design collaboration is with Baba, a New York based tailor from Senegal who has mastered a unique embroidery technique of West Africa that enhances a trendy cargo pant the customer favors. She's gotta have it. Lola Faturoti Loves is a creative fashion phenomenon of printed denim. It's for everyone. The vibrant digital prints on denim are capable of provoking pure joy. When you look in the mirror your light shines. Denim is the fabric of our lives. From indigo blues to

happy days. Pop of color vibrates, stimulates, and resonates pure joy as you walk on the fun side of life. Celebrate Life! Celebrate You! Celebrate the freedom of Juneteenth too!! @lolafaturotiloves (Photos courtesy Lola Faturoti)



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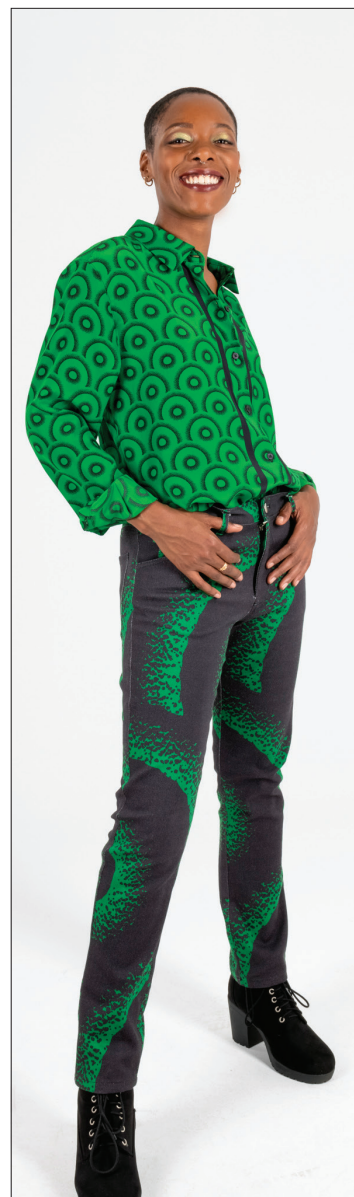
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Sports



**Andrew
Rosario,
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Editor**

Berlanga still perfect

By Derrel Jazz Johnson

Super middleweight Edgar Berlanga, who gained fame by knocking out his first 16 opponents, remained undefeated Saturday night in his 20th professional bout when he won a unanimous decision over Alexis Angulo (99-91 2x and 98-92) at Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden in front of a crowd that included boxing Hall of Famer Miguel Cotto.

Though most in the crowd were Berlanga fans, the jeers from them suggested the margin of victory was exaggerated and some even thought Angulo pulled off the upset.

Berlanga discussed his win after his victory.

"Mentally, I felt good," he said. "I

felt happy the whole training camp. I moved the training camp to Puerto Rico, and I can't be more grateful to be on my island training," Berlanga also drew comparisons to Mike Tyson, and not in a good way. The frustrated young fighter addressed biting his opponent, something Tyson did to Evander Holyfield.

"He was throwing elbows. I was about to do a Mike Tyson on him," Berlanga explained. "He kept throwing his elbows, and I didn't want to get cut."

Berlanga has since apologized to his opponent and fans via Twitter."

Top Rank Boxing invades Hulu Theater at Madison Square Garden a second-straight Saturday with a lightweight unification battle between champions Artur Beterbiev and Joe Smith Jr.



Edgar Still Undefeated
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

Yanks Bobble Head streak hits 3 As Yanks Sweep The Second City

By Andrew Rosario

Maybe the Yankees should have bobble head night every home game. When they hosted the Toronto Blue last

April 14th, they came away with a 3-0 shutout as starter Luis Severino pitched 5 innings of 2 hit ball. Next up was Aaron Judge's head bobbing back and forth when they faced the Detroit Tigers. Judge and the Yankees trounced Detroit 3-10 with Judge getting 4 hits including his 20th home of the season. Gerrit Cole flirted with a perfect game until giving up a single with two out in the 7th. Friday night, the Bronx Bombers hosted the national league Chicago Cubs as the Yankees celebrated one of the best pitchers in the organization's history. Andy Pettitte pitched for New York and won 215 games and is the franchise leader in strikeouts with 2020. Pettitte arguably had the best pick-off move of anybody in history of the game.

The Chicago Cubs came into the game with record of 23-33 (4th in the NL Central) having lost 3 of their last 4 games. The Yankees were coming off a road trip against the Minnesota Twins in which they took 2 out of 3. The last game saw Cole give up 5-home runs (what a difference a start makes) the first three in a row to the first three Twins he faced. Cole failed to get out of the third inning giving up 8 hits on 7 runs as he put the team in a 7-3 hole. New York would get



Second Life For MC
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

Cole out of the loser's column as they rallied the 10-7 as Joey Gallo went yard twice. Aaron Hicks, who has struggled all season, knocked in 3-runs and joined Gallo and DJ LeMahieu going deep.

The Cubs did not play like a team that was 10 games under .500 as they took the Yankees 13 innings before New York came away with the 2-1 win. Saturday was easier as the Bombers shut out Chicago 8-0. Sunday night was a total embarrassment in front

of a national television audience. The Yankees, behind 2-home runs from Matt Carpenter, routed the second city 18-4. It was managers Aaron Boone's team 11th win in their last 12th game. Said Carpenter after, "I've played the game long enough to know what it feels like and looks like when I'm right."

The New York Yankees began a 3-game set Tuesday night as they hosted the Tampa Bay Rays looking to improve their major league record with 44 wins.

Wiggins big in game #5

By Shara Talia Taylor

The Golden State Warriors 104-94 victory in Game 5 of the NBA Finals in San Francisco Monday left them one win away from another championship ring.

The Warriors tied the series 2-2 Friday in Boston, returned home and fought back to gain a 3-2 lead. Boston fell behind Monday night with turnovers as Golden State stepped up with aggressiveness and scoring led by Andrew Wiggins.

"It's something I've dreamt about for sure," said Andrew Wiggins after the game about his dreams of performing on the NBA Finals stage, as tweeted by the NBA. "This is the ultimate stage. It doesn't get bigger than this."

Wiggins led the Warriors with 26 points and 13 rebounds. He had two assists and two steals. "I was out there being aggressive and it was a good game," Wiggins said.

The Warriors grabbed the ball at tip-off. Draymond Green set up the play with a pass to Otto Porter who made the first basket of the night. Golden State kept the lead and ended the quarter ahead 27-16 as Wiggins made a

foul shot with about .2 seconds remaining in the first quarter. Boston Coach Ime Udoka voiced

his disagreement with the referee and received a technical foul. Boston pushed back as Mar-

cus Smart and Jason Tatum both scored seven points in the second quarter but it was not enough.



Wiggins Big In Game 5 Win
Photo: Special to the NY Beacon

The Warriors led 51-39 at halftime in part due to nine turnovers by Boston. Golden State only had three turnovers by halftime.

Boston did not lead in the first half, but cut the Warriors lead from down to two points with 10:15 remaining in the third quarter. The Celtics had their first lead of the game after a 3-pointer by Al Horford bringing the score to 58-55 with about 6:27 minutes remaining in the quarter.

The Celtics were ahead 74-72 in the last few seconds of the third quarter, but a buzzer-beater 3-pointer by Jordan Poole gave the Warriors a 75-74 lead. The Warriors built the momentum and bounced back in the fourth quarter as Wiggins led the Warriors with 10 points.

Steph Curry led the Warriors with eight assists. Gary Payton led the Warriors with three steals. Draymond Green added seven rebounds. Klay Thompson added 21 points.

The Warriors tweeted Thompson had passed LeBron James for the second most career threes in NBA Finals history.

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics with 27 total points and 10 rebounds.

The Warriors return to Boston for Game 6 on Thursday.