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## BLACK WOMEN HIT HARDEST, FALL DEEPER WITH STUDENT LOAN DEBT

### CAUSES:

- Pay disparities
- Little to no generational wealth
- Loss of jobs
- Fewer economic opportunities

After 20 years in repayment, the Black borrower still owes 95 percent vs white borrowers who have reduced their debt to 94 percent and nearly half holding no student debt at all, Inst of Assets and Social Policy, p3

## LA man with monkeypox gets social media backlash – He went to McDonald’s, posted video

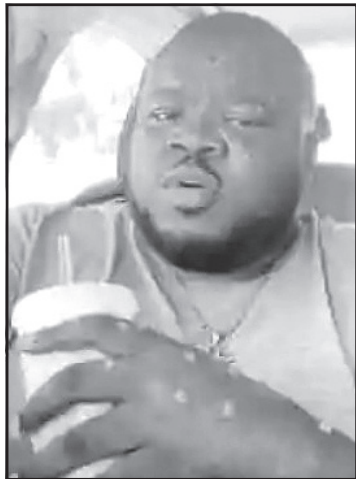
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\*There are all sorts of outbreaks out there now; from Covid-19, E. coli, polio, and monkeypox to West Nile. As these outbreaks continue to ravage the world mercilessly, the least many would expect is a reasonable person playing about his health.

But that is what one Los Angeles man decided to do. The man who appears to have physical signs of monkeypox (extremely noticeable lesions covering his face, arms, and hands) has had to face exponential condemnation by the outraged social media community after he posted a video of himself going to McDonald’s.

In the video, the monkeypox victim is seated in a car, sipping a drink while speaking to the camera. He calls himself Duane Cali on TikTok.

Says he, “What’s good, y’all? My bad I’m not in the house. But I had to go make a McDonald’s run ‘cause I ain’t got no groceries. I



ain’t have no food.”

Having justified his reason for going out, he boldly adds, “I just wanted to make this video to remind you to be careful who you f\*\*k with. Because not everybody who you f\*\*k with is gonna f\*\*k with you. Not everybody you look out for is gonna look out for you. S\*\*t, you might show up for the wrong motherf\*\*ker at the wrong place, at the wrong time, and end up with the f\*\*kin’ monkeypox.”



## Zoe Kravitz on calling out Will Smith’s Oscars slap: “I wish I would have handled it differently”

Philadelphiaobserver.com

In a new interview with WSJ. Magazine, actress Zoe Kravitz reflected on her decision to call out Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at the 94th Academy Awards in March.

Following the incident, Kravitz posted a picture of herself on the Oscars red carpet with a caption that read: “Here’s a picture of my dress at the show where we are apparently assaulting people on stage now.” When a commenter asked if she supported what Smith did, she quickly responded “nope.”

The backlash Kravitz experienced was quick and critical, with social media users pointing out the apparent hypocrisy of the High Fidelity star choosing to take the moral high ground. Tweets pointed out Kravitz’s past

romantic relationship Ezra Miller, who has been accused of sexual abuse.

Comments also addressed a “friendship” the actress had with Smith’s son, Jaden, when he was underage. “I’m torn about what to say right now, because I’m supposed to just talk about it; I have very complicated feelings around it,” Kravitz said. “I wish I had handled that differently. And that’s okay.”

“It’s a scary time to have an opinion or to say the wrong thing or to make controversial art or statements or thoughts or anything,” she continued. “It’s mostly scary because art is about conversation. That should, in my opinion, always be the point. The internet is the opposite of conversation. The internet is people putting things out and not taking anything in.”



Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton (center) smiles as he raises his fist from a podium at the Revolutionary People’s Party Constitutional Convention, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, early September 1970. | Source: David Fenton / Getty

## Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton was murdered 33 years ago

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The life of activist and Black Panther Party co-founder Huey P. Newton came to a tragic end 33 years ago, August 22, 1989 at the hands of a member of a similar Black Nationalist organization that considered him an enemy.

Newton was said to have fallen on hard times after his ascent to the top of the Panthers’ ranks alongside Bobby Seale, but other details surrounding his death remain murky.

Huey Newton, 47 at the time, was found on an Oakland street lying in blood. He was shot in the

same neighborhood where Black Panther members would work with area churches to serve free breakfast to young people. It took Oakland authorities three days to garner a confession from 24-year-old Tyrone Robinson, a drug dealer and member of the Black Guerilla Family (BGF) group that warred with Newton and the Panthers for two decades.

Originally, Oakland police said that drugs were not a part of the reason for Newton’s shooting. After Robinson confessed that the shooting was a result of a cocaine deal gone wrong, though, there was some speculation from investigators that Newton stole

drugs from the BGF. The same detectives also determined that Newton was unarmed at the time of his shooting.

Newton’s death was especially jarring because his death on a drug-ridden street corner in Oakland occurred just nine years after the vaunted Black leader would earn a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Cruz. While critics — particularly those on the right who opposed the left-wing Panthers — lambasted Newton for falling into the trap of drugs and crime, he did help to introduce Oakland youth to the notion that being African American was a thing of value.



Huey Newton (right), co-founder of the Black Panther Party, sits with Bobby Seale at party headquarters in San Francisco. | Source: Ted Streshinsky Photographic Archive / Getty

## Texas school district pulls the Bible, Black, LGBTQ-centered books from library shelves

Philadelphiaobserver.com

As kids return to school in certain states, their libraries might have fewer titles to choose from. This is due to an ongoing push by conservative leaders who have deemed certain books unsuitable for school children. Texas currently has the most significant number of book bans, ranking at 713 titles.

The Dallas News reports that Keller Independent School District has temporarily removed 41 books that were challenged the previous year, including *The Bible*, “*The Bluest Eye*” by Toni Morrison, and a novel adaptation of Anne Frank’s “*The Diary of Young Girl*.”

The Keller school district gives parents, district residents, and employees the power to challenge the validity of any books and instructional materials used in its classrooms. A new process was just approved last week, putting books up for 30 days of public review before they are purchased by libraries, and removing challenged materials from shelves while they are being reviewed.

This new process is a result of the Texas Education Agency’s investigation into what was described as “sexually explicit” books in the school library. Three conservative school board members were elected to the district’s seven-member board of trustees. The Texas Tribune states a Christian cellphone company



According to reports, the average U.S. corporation’s after-tax profit margin is around 16 percent. In traditional recessions, the rate drops down to single digits

Patriot Mobile raised \$500,000 to support the candidates’ campaigns.

So, why would somebody challenge the Bible being in schools? A parent laid out all the reasons why they objected.

## Black women hit twice as hard with student debt

By Charlene Crowell (TriceEdneyWire.com)

In mid-June the Federal Reserve, nation’s central bank, raised interest rates in hopes of curbing rising inflation and deterring a full-blown recession. Chief among its responsibilities, the Fed’s duty is to develop “appropriate monetary policy.”

For much of Black America, many would welcome money itself – funds to provide stable day-to-day living, the ability to get rid of debt without worrying whether families will have enough money to last the month’s expenses, and even a bit more left over to face what the future may hold.

Student debt remains a stubborn obstacle that prevents Black Americans from securing financial stability in the short-term and financial wealth in the long-term. According to The Institute on Assets and Social Policy, after 20 years in repayment, the typical Black borrower still owes 95 percent of their cumulative borrowing total, while similarly situated white borrowers have reduced their debt by 94 percent — with nearly half of white borrowers holding no student debt at all.

After more than two years of the COVID-19 pandemic complicating family finances, the ability of many working Americans to maintain economic stability is nearing a breaking point. Further, due to historic racial wealth inequities, these and other impacts are felt hardest by Black America in general and Black women in particular.

New research from the Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) analyzes how women’s finances have changed over the past two years. The study, entitled *Resilient But Deeper in Debt: Women of Color Faced Greater Hardships Through COVID-19*, shows how these women’s lives dramatically changed

as a result of the pandemic and deepening student debt.

The report states that Black women faced a “double whammy of increased debt and decreased savings.”

CRL analyzed publicly available data and additionally commissioned four focus groups of ethnically diverse women with varied educational levels who lost their job or were furloughed during the pandemic.

For context, it is relevant to note that:

Between December 2019 and March 2022, 1.2 million women left the labor force;

Between February 2020 and April 2020, almost 22 million jobs were lost; and

In 2021, Black and Latina women were twice as likely as white men to report being behind on rent or mortgage payments.

Overall, findings indicate the widespread disruption in employment due to the pandemic has had a profound impact on women, their families, and their finances, states the report. “While a typical white male borrower pays off almost half of his balance within 12 years of starting college, the balance of a typical Black female borrower grows by 13 percent.”

Further, about two-thirds of the \$1.7 trillion federal student debt burden is borne by women. Black women are twice as likely to owe more than \$50,000 in undergraduate student debt compared to white men. Both Black and Latina borrowers typically have higher loan balances than white women. Hence, student loan repayment challenges for women of color are higher and strain the ability to cover daily living expenses for their families, particularly due to rising costs of food and housing.

“Because of persisting pay disparities, and little or no generational wealth, women of color have fewer opportunities to pursue a

debt-free education or to withstand an economic or personal crisis,” added Sunny Glottman, a CRL researcher.

Research found that 60 percent of Black women and 40 percent of Latina participants owed more than \$50,000 in student debt. By comparison, only 29 percent of white participants owed more than \$50,000 in student loan debt.

Although focus group participants found the current federal pause on payments and interest accrual helpful, few felt financially prepared to resume payments when the payment pause expires on August 31, and many foresaw worsening financial challenges.

CRL is among a growing number of consumer advocates calling for \$50,000 of student debt forgiveness per borrower. Additionally, CRL also recommends greater higher education investments at both the federal and state levels to support public and private HBCUs.

For example, doubling the annual Pell Grant award that serves many students of color would keep better pace with the rising costs of college educations. Additional forms of support could provide research contracts and internships.

Implementing retroactively Income-Drive-Repayment (IDR) plans to remove lifetime debt repayments and offering improved access to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program are additional federal actions that would relieve the nation’s unsustainable student debt.

Inaction on student debt relief must not be an option. Instead, policies must be implemented to relieve, as the report terms, “an albatross perpetuating a baseline of financial anxiety.”

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

## Young Black Americans dominate the crypto currency market

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire

When considering the current state of the cryptocurrency market, Dr. Tonya Evans couldn’t help but recall the reception banks gave the then-fledgling assets in 2014.

“When I think back to 2013 or 2014, the second kind of big crypto was coming on the scene, and banks were really pushing back at the time on discussions surrounding regulating cryptocurrency,” said Evans, a law professor and founder and CEO of Advantage Evans.

“Big banks feared [cryptocurrency] would become more legitimate. Back then, banks didn’t have a customer service problem, but now they do, and they realized that they were going to start losing customers if they didn’t shift,” Evans insisted.

She noted that banks, especially Deutsche Bank and Bank of America, have begun to give added attention to the cryptocurrency market.

“With Bitcoin and Ethereum leading the way, the cryptocurrency market is booming and growing,” Evans stated.

She called cryptocurrency a “fast-paced, fast-moving, emerging asset class.”

According to Terri Bradford, who researched Black crypto ownership for the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, cryptocurrency has gained popularity among African American consumers due to historical context and forward-looking views of young customers.

“Surveys show that Black consumers are more likely than white

consumers to own cryptocurrencies,” said Bradford, who penned the research article “The Cryptic Nature of Black Consumer Cryptocurrency Ownership.”

Bradford noted a 2021 Pew Research Center survey which found that 18 percent of Black adults had invested in, traded, or used a cryptocurrency compared to 13 percent of white adults.

“This difference between Black and white consumers’ cryptocurrency ownership contrasts sharply with other traditional assets,” Bradford asserted.

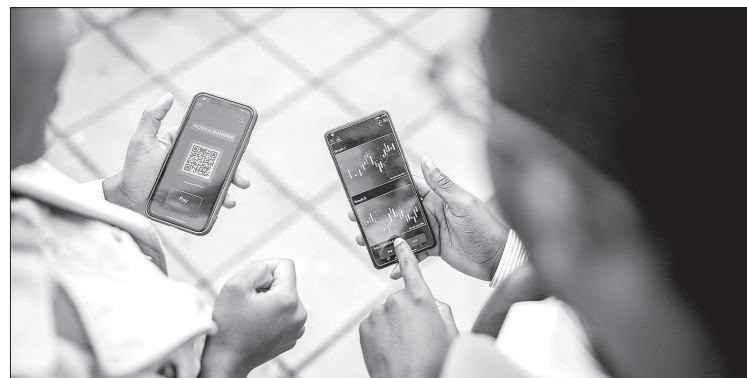
According to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System’s 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances, 61 percent of white households owned equity investments compared with 34 percent of Black households – nearly a two-to-one margin.

“Unlike white consumers, Black consumers are, in fact, more likely to own cryptocurrencies than assets such as stocks and mutual funds,” Bradford wrote.

“Leveraging the same technology is blockchain,” Bradford explained.

“Crypto is digital currency offered on Blockchain while NFTs and others are different ways to leverage that currency.”

She continued: “Younger ones are leveraging crypto as we see in research that 50 percent of Black consumers of crypto are millennials and younger, and when you think about the fact that this constituent is digital-native where they spend a lot of time, then we see why it’s having a great influence on the adoption of cryptocurrency.



A 2021 Pew Research Center survey found that 18 percent of Black adults had invested in, traded, or used a cryptocurrency compared to 13 percent of white adults.

## 16-year-old forced to give birth after Florida court says teen is not ‘mature’ enough to seek abortion

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Florida court determined that a 16-year-old who is pregnant and parentless must give birth because she was not “sufficiently mature” enough to make the decision to end her pregnancy.

On Aug. 10, Circuit Judge Jennifer Frydrychowicz ordered the teenager not to have an abortion based on Florida laws which state a minor cannot receive an abortion without the consent of a parent or guardian.

The teenager, named in court papers as Jane Doe 22-B, was

appealing Judge Frydrychowicz’s ruling, but a three-judge panel of the state’s 1st District Court of Appeal supported the judge’s decision.

The court papers state that the teenager was ten weeks pregnant at the time of the first ruling.

The teenager “had not established by clear and convincing evidence that she was sufficiently mature to decide whether to terminate her pregnancy,” the ruling by Judges Harvey Jay, Rachel Nordby, and Scott Makar states.

## 'His verbal abuse was intolerable': Florida deputy resigns after holding pregnant mother at gunpoint for speeding as her other children watched in terror

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**A** deputy in Bradford County, Florida, resigned from his post with the sheriff's office after serving in law enforcement for two years. His conduct, including a recent traffic stop where he held a mother at gunpoint in front of her children, was so egregious the agency immediately released a statement distancing itself from the former deputy.

Ebony Washington's children were in the car when she was pulled over by Deputy Jacob Desue, then serving the Bradford County Sheriff's Office, on Friday, Aug. 12. The mother was stopped for going 72 mph in a 55 mph zone on Highway 301 between Starke and Lawley Road, First Coast News reports.

Because of his inappropriate behavior during the arrest, the deputy faced a last-straw disciplinary action that forced him to resign.

In this incident, Desue caught Washington speeding and flashed his police lights at her. Because she had three kids in her back seat and was traveling on a poorly lit road, the mother, who was also pregnant at the time, did not immediately stop.

Instead, she says she put on her hazard lights, slowed her speed, and pulled over in a more secure, better lit location.

Action News Jax reported that authorities said only three to five minutes went by from the time the officer signaled for her to stop to when she pulled over, and that Washington did the right thing to signal the officer she had the intention of complying. However, once the woman pulled over, she was immediately met with confrontation.

The patrol car's dash cam recorded Desue cursing at the woman before he reached her car.

As he approaches the vehicle, she is recorded saying, "Sir, I have my three kids in the car and the reason why I did not stop is, I'm in the middle of nowhere. And my husband tells me not to —"

He interrupts her and says, "Your excuses mean nothing to me right now. I don't want to hear it."

At this time, one of the woman's children started to film the interaction, while another cried and the third called their father and her husband to detail what was happening to their mom.

She is told to get out of her car. When she does, he pulls out his gun on her.

The children are frightened, but the one with the cellphone never stops recording the deputy, and the child on the phone with her father says, "he told her to step out of the vehicle. He just put the handcuffs on her, Dad."



## That was quick! 3 Arkansas officers suspended following video of violent arrest of white man

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**S**ometimes, I notice that when a Black person or suspect is resisting arrest, the officer then uses excessive or fatal force based on the behavior of that individual. Then, when people cry out "racism!" and "police brutality!" it's always met with the same recycled response, "Well, they should've complied." But suddenly, for a white suspect in Arkansas, the tables have turned.

A video went viral of two Crawford County sheriff's deputies and a Mulberry police officer pinning 27-year-old Randal Worcester down on the ground, per 4029TV News. They slammed his head onto the concrete and punched him repeatedly. The Crawford County Sheriff's Office released a statement on Facebook announcing the three involved were suspended and currently under investigation.

The comments under the statement cried for accountability and justice, even while Worcester was labeled a wanted suspect and was violent toward the officers.

Read more on the incident from CNN:

Worcester is charged with second-degree battery, resisting arrest, possessing an instrument



of crime, criminal trespass, criminal mischief, terroristic threatening and first- and second-degree assault, Arkansas State Police said.

Worcester allegedly threatened a gas station clerk in a neighboring town, Crawford County Sheriff Jimmy Damante told CNN affiliate KHBS. When he was spotted in Mulberry, Worcester was initially cooperative, but then tried to attack the officers, leading to the confrontation seen in the video, Damante told the station.

It was unclear if Worcester suffered any serious injury. The suspect was examined at a hospital

and booked into jail, while a deputy received minor head injuries during the altercation, the sheriff told KHBS.

CNN's law enforcement analysts viewed the footage of the incident and agreed the officers went overboard.

"-it is very, very hard to argue that what you're seeing — the sort of punches and the kneeling him in the back and slamming his head ... on the ground. That is not acceptable, normal, standard police use of force under really any circumstances," said analyst Andrew McCabe via CNN.

## Man allegedly ran off on the plug after 15 bricks of cocaine washed ashore in Mississippi

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**A** man who tried to get a share of the pie when bricks of cocaine washed ashore on Mississippi's Gulf Coast is now facing a drug trafficking charge. According to The Sun Herald, police arrested 37-year-old Joey Lee Ware on Monday, charging him with aggravated trafficking of controlled substances.

Ware allegedly tried to pocket a portion of the 11 bricks of cocaine that were found Saturday on various parts of Biloxi Beach.

Volunteers who were assisting the Keesler Air Force Base found the packages when they were cleaning along the beach, WXXV25 reports.

According to Super Talk Mississippi News, officers later determined that Ware possessed cocaine in the same packaging as the other bricks, which were marked with a "Dior" label. Biloxi Police Department Captain Thomas Goldsworthy said Ware was carrying 1 1/2 bricks.

"If you discover it, you should call us, he instead decided to do



other things with it and he was arrested and charged with aggravated trafficking," Goldsworthy said, according to WXXV25.

Police said they will now destroy the bricks, which are valued at more than \$1 million. Although it's rare to find large amounts of drugs along the beach in Mississippi, law enforcement officials said it could become more common.

## Mother, daughter accused of driving children around Memphis to commit armed robberies

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**M**emphis police have arrested a mother, daughter and two 14-year-old children in connection to a string of robberies.

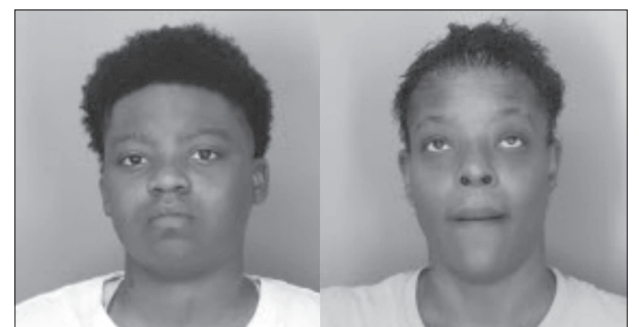
On Sunday, Aug. 7, at 2:00 p.m., authorities responded to a shooting at a laundromat on Morlye Street, where a man was shot.

According to Action News 5, the victim told authorities a male and female entered the store and allegedly pointed

a gun at him while demanding his money. The female reportedly shot him in his left arm, and the two suspects fled the scene in a gray four-door sedan with the victim's phone.

A few days later, on Tuesday, around 5:50 p.m., officers responded to a robbery on Rhodes Avenue, where a victim told police that a black sedan drove past him twice before a female and male got out of the car. The victim said the man demanded his money while the woman pointed a gun at him and the victim's phone and wallet were stolen.

The next day, two robberies transpired minutes apart.



Officers responded in the area of Getwell and then Maxine Street, in which both victims reported being robbed by two men. One victim said they recognized the vehicle they drove as a black Hyundai Sonata with Texas plates.



# Editorial - Opinion

## Biden Deserves Credit Not Complacency

By Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC), House Majority Whip

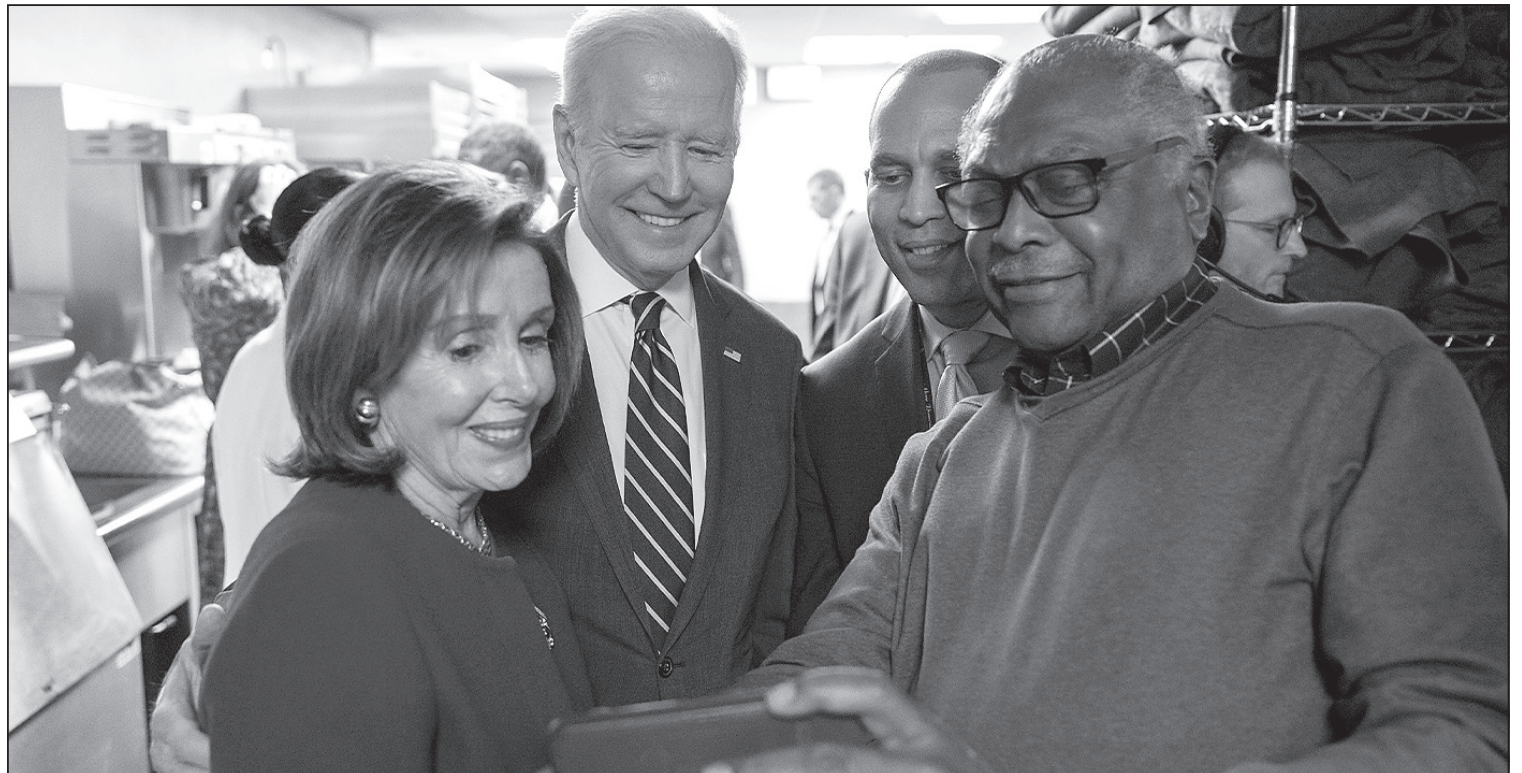
We all have heard the popular expression, “give credit where credit is due.” After hearing numerous critics over the past 18 months, it is refreshing to see President Joe Biden finally getting the credit he deserves for what is one of the most productive starts to a presidential term in recent history.

The Financial Times’ Associate Editor Ed Luce recently wrote an opinion piece entitled, “The unexpected triumph of Joe Biden: Recent legislative successes suggest a good political system in good working order, but complacency is misplaced.”

Mr. Luce made the case for why President Biden’s star is rising, but warned that despite his impressive legislative record, voters may not give him the credit he deserves because too many people respond more to style than substance. I agree with Mr. Luce’s assessment. Our media-driven culture seems to rate words and deeds that generate headlines over those that make headway. Joe Biden, and those of us who support him, prefer putting people over politics.

When President Biden took office, the country was in the grip of a global pandemic. Businesses were shuttering, schools were closing, and people were dying. The country needed leadership. Unfortunately, we had a showman at the helm when a statesman was needed. Forty-five was pre-occupied with scoring political points and securing media hits. And when voters were given a chance to express themselves, by a margin of nearly seven million votes, they chose statesmanship over showmanship.

Joe Biden was sworn in on January 20, 2021. On that day, the country’s unemployment rate was 6.4 percent. COVID-19 was infecting 193,030 Americans a day and people were dying at a rate of 3,167 a day. From day one, Biden focused on shoring up the shaky foundation left by the previous Administration.



It is refreshing to see President Joe Biden finally getting the credit he deserves for what is one of the most productive starts to a presidential term in recent history. (Photo: President Joe Biden poses for a selfie with Speaker Nancy Pelosi (Calif.), Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus Hakeem Jeffries (N.Y.) and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (S.C.) before delivering remarks at the House Democratic Caucus Issues Conference, Friday, March 11, 2022, at the Hilton Philadelphia Penn’s Landing in Philadelphia. (Official White House Photo by Adam Schultz)

On March 11, 2021, less than two months after he took office, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan (ARP) into law. It accelerated the American economic recovery by putting money in people’s pockets, getting children back in school and lifting nearly half of them out of poverty.

The ARP also prevented evictions and foreclosures for millions of America’s families, kept hundreds of large businesses open and reopened thousands of small businesses. It helped stem the deadly rampage of COVID-19 by expanding testing and access to vaccines. Republicans put their politics over people’s needs and voted unanimously against this legislation. Democrats put people over politics and started building a foundation for the country’s recovery.

The second corner of Biden’s foundation came on November 15, 2021, when he signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. This legislation made

historic investments in our crumbling and outdated infrastructure. It invested in high-speed internet, clean drinking water, a resilient electric grid, replacing lead pipes, making a down payment on clean energy transmission, and charging stations for electric vehicles. These infrastructure investments are creating jobs and strengthening critical links in our supply chain.

During all of this, President Biden nominated the first Black woman to the United States Supreme Court, a Black woman to the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, and 26 other Black women to various federal courts, more than the combined total of all previous Presidents.

President Biden continued working, away from public view, to help get the final two corners of his foundation solidified, and on August 9, he signed the CHIPS and Science Act into law. This third corner of his platform restores America’s standing as a global

science and technology leader by providing the resources and tools needed to make more products like semiconductor chips here at home. It will create good-paying jobs, invest in building a more diverse workforce, and bolster our supply chains.

The fourth and final corner of the Biden platform, the Inflation Reduction Act, passed the Congress with every Democrat voting for it, and every Republican voting against it. Under this new law, signed by President Biden on August 16, Medicare recipients will see their out-of-pocket prescription drugs capped at \$2,000 annually and their cost of insulin capped at \$35 monthly. It reduces the cost of health care for 13 million Americans by extending the Affordable Care Act subsidies for more than three years with an average savings of \$800 per year. The new law includes provisions to increase taxes on corporations, address climate change, and de-

crease the prices of prescription drugs.

The IRA will help cut climate pollution by 40 percent by 2030, while building a new, clean energy economy and creating nine million new jobs. It invests in environmental justice by cleaning up legacy pollution most often found in communities of color and provides tax credits to ensure nuclear energy producers can continue to provide clean energy for consumers. The IRA will require corporations to pay a minimum tax of 15 percent and reduce the deficit by \$300 billion over the next decade.

As Mr. Luce warns us, “complacency is misplaced.” Voters should see this “good political system in good working order” as motivation to go to the polls to support more positive progress. President Biden is finally getting some of the credit he is due. And, he and my fellow Democrats will continue putting the American people over partisan politics.

#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov

# Like Black families, HBCUs are financially short-changed

By Charlene Crowell  
(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

As college students settle into campus life, many Black Americans remember the multi-generational sacrifices that have established higher education as a bridge to a better life.

Despite the continuing pandemic, the rise of inflation, or the nation's \$1.7 trillion in student debt, parents, grandparents and others urge their students to 'get that degree.' And once again, an estimated 300,000 Black students are expected to enroll at one of the nation's 101 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

But unlike previous years, a new educational challenge has swept across these campuses: finding affordable housing. The unfortunate situation for many HBCUs is that dormitories do not always have the capacity to house all of its own students. In these cases, students and their families are forced to find rental housing near campuses or those located near transit systems to access campus life.

Achieving Financial Equity & Justice for HBCUs, a research report by the Century Foundation chronicles historical under-funding of HBCUs as early as 1871 to Reconstruction, to post-World War II, and beyond.

For example, the enactment of the GI bill in 1944 spurred college enrollment of thousands of veterans returning to civil life. Yet Black America's experience with the nationwide higher educational expansion was distinctly different.

"HBCUs were cut off from state and federal resources provided to predominantly White-serving institutions," states the report. "Without adequate state or private support, HBCUs were not able to expand the campus infrastructure and housing

and hire faculty and staff to serve increased demand. As a result, an estimated 20,000 Black veterans seeking a college education were turned away from southern Black colleges, a denial rate double the rate at other colleges."

The Century report also notes that decades later, 1965's Higher Education Act created Pell Grants as a key form of financial assistance that could cover the costs of non-tuition items, thereby lessening the need to borrow heavily to finance higher education. But as college education costs began a still-continuing increase, Pell Grant appropriations did not have a comparable increase.

That funding failure heavily contributed to the onset of racial disparities in accruing student loan debt. An estimated 70 percent of all HBCU students are financially eligible for this funding.

Another recent report by the Frederick D. Patterson Institute, the research arm of the United Negro College Fund, sought to better understand institutional needs and priorities, and how federal funding and philanthropic donations currently fall short of long-standing needs.

Despite a two-year uptick in federal funds that delivered \$6.5 billion to 101 HBCUs under the Biden Administration, these institutions remain severely underfunded.

"The fiscal challenges HBCUs face have developed over decades and will require additional funding over a sustained period to properly address them," states the report. "The influx from the past two years is not enough. The federal government has consistently fallen short of mandated funding levels for HBCUs... One result of recurring budget shortfalls is that institutions have been forced to delay



spending on infrastructure, such as student dorms, recreation buildings and research facilities. Many HBCUs face a large and growing backlog of deferred maintenance projects."

The report also notes that HBCU endowments, which many institutions of higher learning dedicate to capital projects like construction/renovation and permanent scholarships, are underfunded as well. Citing a report by the Government Accountability Office, the report found that HBCUs have an average of \$15,000 in endowment per student, compared with \$410,000 at comparable non-HBCUs.

"Smaller endowments mean less money for faculty salaries, scholarships, research, program expansions and, perhaps most important, day-to-day operations," says the report. "This disparity has a domino effect on other spending."

And just like Black consumers frequently find access to capital comes at a high cost, so do HBCUs, according to the report.

"[I]t costs Black minority-serving institutions more to borrow money compared with white institutions. According to a 2018 research paper, a Black minority-serving institution would have to pay underwriters \$35,000 more for a \$30 million bond than a white university. This tendency is three times greater in the Deep South due to a historical pattern of racism."

With all these stated issues, the UNCF report also offers a number of key data points worth noting:

HBCUs provide an average of 6,385 jobs in each state and territory and generate an average of \$704.7 million a year in total economic impact;

HBCUs have a 34 percent mobility rate of moving their students from the bottom 40 percent in household income into the top 60 percent – a figure double that of the national average and five times more than Ivy institutions; and

HBCUs graduate 80 percent of Black judges, 50 percent of Black doctors, and 50 percent of Black

lawyers. Just imagine how much more HBCUs could accomplish if better funding were obtained and sustained: more dormitories with the capacity to house all students desiring to live on campus; less deferred maintenance; more and larger need-based scholarships that would lighten the need for student loans.

Throughout HBCUs' history, there is also an important intangible quality that is seldom mentioned: a nurturing environment that welcomes students to pursue their heartfelt dreams. Even now, 39 percent of HBCU students are first-generation college students.

It is time for federal and state governments that take a bite out of each worker's paycheck, to return a better proportion of those dollars to HBCUs. Investing in HBCUs pays large and lasting dividends for all of us.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).

## General Motors announces diverse creative agency of record, Majority Agency

NNPA NEWSWIRE

Majority Agency joins General Motors' current list of multicultural agencies Carol H. Williams Advertising, Spike DDB and Casanova INC. Together, these diverse-owned agencies will work with existing GM media, marketing, and experiential agencies McCann/Commonwealth, Jack Morton and Carat to help increase EV adoption, amplify cultural moments and social injustice, and elevate the GM brand.

General Motors recently selected Majority Agency as its creative agency of record for branded diversity marketing initiatives, GM's fourth diverse agency of record. As GM strives to be the most inclusive company in the world and looks to its vision of an all-electric future with zero crashes, zero emissions, and zero congestion, it is imperative to ensure authentic representation among current and future customers.

"Majority shares our belief that this is a cultural inflection point, not just for EVs, but for multicultural marketing," said Tarshena Armstrong, GM Director of Diversity Marketing and Development.



"It's about authentic connection, community, and a commitment to drive cultural awareness through inclusive marketing practices that earn cultural capital for GM and our family of brands."

"Today we are in the infant stages of a perception shift around EVs. But we need to make the category more inclusive," explains Brandon Butler, chief content

officer, Majority. "That means multicultural marketing can't just be an exercise in consulting, versioning and micro-targeting. It must be a leading conduit to the popular culture that transcends our differences and connects

"Investing in sustainable growth and fostering equitable representation extends our reach and strengthens the communities

where our customers live and work to ensure education about the transition to EVs," Armstrong said.

Majority joins General Motors' current list of multicultural agencies Carol H. Williams Advertising, Spike DDB and Casanova INC. Together, these diverse-owned agencies will work with existing GM media, marketing, and experiential agen-

cies McCann/Commonwealth, Jack Morton and Carat to help increase EV adoption, amplify cultural moments and social injustice, and elevate the GM brand.

General Motors (NYSE:GM) is a global company focused on advancing an all-electric future that is inclusive and accessible to all. At the heart of this strategy is the Ultium battery platform, which powers everything from mass-market to high-performance vehicles. General Motors, its subsidiaries and its joint venture entities sell vehicles under the Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Baojun and Wuling brands. More information on the company and its subsidiaries, including OnStar, a global leader in vehicle safety and security services, can be found at <https://www.gm.com>.

Majority is an Atlanta based culture creative agency co-founded in 2021 by Shaquille O'Neal and Omid Farhang. Majority combines a multicultural talent model with general market capabilities, on the belief that diversity is the ultimate competitive advantage for ideas that land in culture. To learn more about Majority, visit <https://majorityagency.com/>.

# On the scene

## BET, NAACP & Smithsonian Channel Party for a Cause at Paramount on the Vineyard!

By Audrey J. Bernard

One of the most exclusive seaside enclaves in North America, Martha's Vineyard, has long been a perfect getaway place where residents retreat to enjoy the natural beauty of the New England seashore. It has also become a harbor for the rich and famous, from presidents to poets, writers to influencers; as well as an ideal place for film festivals to screen movies, campaigns to promote their programs; and a safe haven for robust conversations. Recently, it was the perfect place for Paramount's "Content For Change" which took place at the Martha's Vineyard Museum in Vineyard Haven, MA on Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 4pm. The powerful party for a purpose featured a plethora of special conversations focused on BET's "Reclaim Your Voice, Reclaim

Your Vote" Campaign powered by The NAACP and The Smithsonian Channel to amplify critical causes and voices that ultimately empower Black communities and inspire action.

BET, a unit of Paramount (NASDAQ: PARAA; PARA; PARAP), is the nation's leading provider of quality entertainment, music, news, and public affairs television programming for the African American audience. Under its social impact initiative, "Content For Change," BET galvanized thought leaders, change agents, and showcased exclusive content in a one-night event with industry partners and creators of color to focus the conversation on rallying the community around the critical matters that directly affect them the most. Launched in June 2020 by BET, the social impact initiative "Content For Change," addresses issues of systemic racism and inequities in



Derrick Johnson, Melissa C. Potter, Crystal Barnes, Jeanine Liburd, Connie Orlando, Eris T. Sims



Melissa C. Potter (VP, Strategy and Impact, Content for Change) and Crystal Barnes (SVP, Social Responsibility & Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG)) welcome guests at Paramount on the Vineyard

America, including racial justice, economic empowerment, education, health, and civic participation with content across our platforms

Black elegance was the elephant in the room as the evening kicked off with a special conversation powered by the NAACP on BET's "Reclaim Your Voice, Reclaim Your Vote" efforts featuring NAACP President & CEO, Derrick Johnson, Emily's List President Laphonza Butler, and Moderator Jotaka Eaddy, founder and CEO of Full Circle Strategies, LLC. #ReclaimYourVote is BET's social change campaign, in partnership with the National Urban League and key national organizations, committed to harnessing Black collective power and increasing Black participation

in the elections. Johnson also pontificated about the important role that the NAACP has played since 1909 to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons.

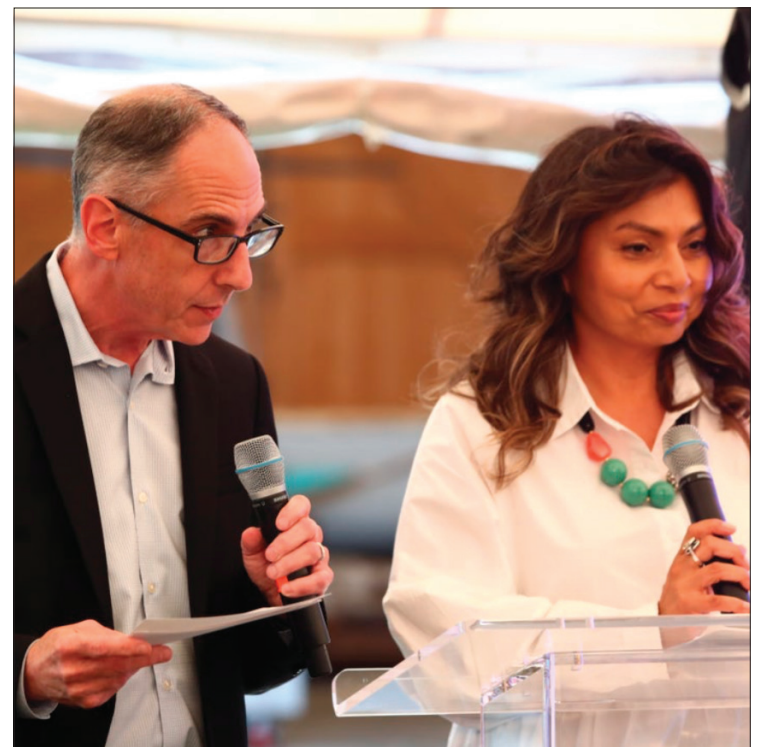
Following the robust "reclaim" conversation guests continued to be enthralled by a conversation about BET's unprecedented studio venture BET Studios, featuring General Manager and EVP, Aisha Summers-Buke and film and television writer, producer and director Kenya Barris. Closing out the night was a special private preview of an upcoming documentary from the Smithsonian

Channel presented by VP Content & Programming, Smithsonian Channel and Documentary Series, MTV, Pamela Aguilar and Executive Producer, Smithsonian Channel, Tim Evans. The event's generous sponsor for the evening was Grey Goose Vodka and music provided by DJ Peter Monsanto.

Paramount Media Networks & MTV Entertainment Studios is one of the preeminent media entities in the world that connects with global audiences through its nine iconic brands as well as MTV Entertainment Studios which produces acclaimed series and movies and the award-winning, Oscar-nominated MTV Documentary Films. (Photo Credit: Adam Glanzman for Getty Images)



Alexis McGill Johnson (President, Planned Parenthood), Laphonza Butler (President, Emily's List), Vanessa L. Gibson (Bronx Borough President), Derrick Johnson (President, NAACP) and Letitia James (Attorney General of New York)

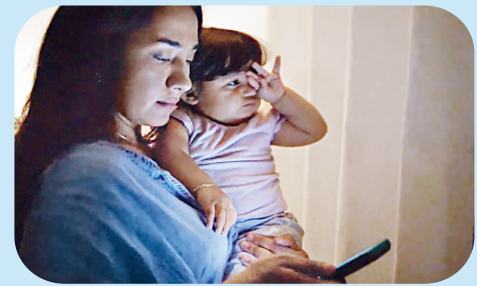


Tim Evans (Executive Producer, Smithsonian Channel) and Pamela Aguilar (VP Content & Programming, Smithsonian Channel and Documentary Series, MTV) speak at Paramount on the Vineyard





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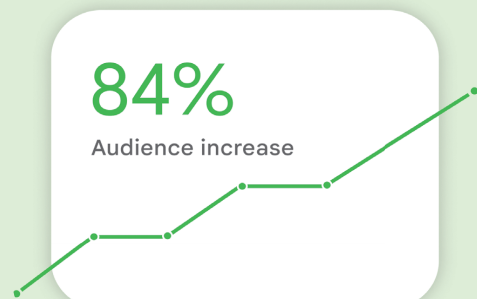


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## Star Jones is reclaiming her celebrity as new host on Divorce Court!

By Audrey J. Bernard

**S**tar Jones is the new host of “Divorce Court” the longest-running court show of all time and she’s reclaiming her time and space on television! The former New York City homicide prosecutor, business executive, best-selling author, and Emmy award-nominated TV host who has worked in media & communications for 30 years kicked off the show’s new season Monday, August 22 (2-3 p.m. weekdays on WWOR/Channel 9) from its studio in Atlanta with a virtual audience via Zoom, Skype, etc. Jones is the fourth judge in this iteration of the 65-year-old syndicated staple, following Judge Mablean Ephraim, Judge Lynn Toler and Judge Faith Jenkins.

Jones started her network television career at the NBC’s Today Show in 1992 and has appeared on TV (as a network correspondent, host, commentator, or advocate) every year since. Best known to television viewers for her candor, confidence, and uncanny ability to clarify complex legal and social issues, Jones was an origi-

nal co-host of ABC’s The View for nine years and is a Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame inductee. She is also President of Girlfriend Entertainment Productions, Inc., her own programming, and production company. Known for her intellectual prowess, Jones is the former president and a member of the Board of Directors of Professional Diversity Network, Inc. (Nasdaq: IPDN) and the International Association of Women. A committed advocate of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of business, she is a co-founder and principal of the Instant Impact Group, LLC, a consultancy firm that assists individuals and companies build their diversity, equity & inclusion programs.

Through her consultancy firm, Jones acts as Executive Editor for Marquis Who’s Who, the world’s premier publisher of biographical profiles for over 120 years. In 2010, she underwent successful open-heart surgery and for over a decade, she has been the National Volunteer of the American Heart Association. Seen throughout the 2011 season of NBC’s Celebrity Apprentice on behalf of the Amer-

ican Heart Association breaking fundraising records and advocating for heart health. As a leader of AHA’s national GoRed heart health initiatives, Jones was also a keynote speaker on the issue of Heart Health for the 2013 Presidential Inauguration National Day of Service and uses her name, voice, time and international media platform to combat cardio-vascular disease; the nations’ number one killer and champion Heart Health in America and is credited as one of AHA’s biggest donor fundraisers having help raise millions of dollars for the cause of Heart Health.

The veteran television personality is a member of the international editorial board of the Women’s Forum for the Economy & Society and is a U.S. representative to the Women In Africa initiative. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and hosts the organizations’ international virtual town hall & forum series. A frequent and highly sought-after motivational speaker, she lectures and leads discussions around the world on a variety of socially conscious



Star Jones hosts ‘Divorce Court,’ airing weekdays at 2 p.m. on WWOR, Channel 9

topics including, law, politics, race, gender equality, women’s empowerment, pop culture, networking, and heart health. She makes her home in Chicago and East Hampton with her spouse, attorney & Administrative Law Judge Ricardo Lugo, their son Jake and their Maltese Mimi.

“As a fan of television’s longest-running court show, I was honored to be considered to take over the ‘Divorce Court’ TV

bench, following in the footsteps of three incredible women, Judge Mablean Ephraim, Judge Lynn Toler, and Judge Faith Jenkins,” said the original “The View” co-host. “I will offer the parties before ‘Divorce Court,’ as well as viewers, a no-nonsense approach to the law and a decision driven by my proven legal expertise, compassion and empathy, personal experiences and hard-earned common sense.”

## \$3.5M in scholarships, 18-year-old entrepreneur will study Mechanical Engineering At Berkeley

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**J**aden Hunter, an 18-year-old entrepreneur from South Los Angeles, is walking in his purpose while empowering the youth to stay out of the streets.

With excellence, Hunter blazed through high school, earning a 4.7-grade point average, and was crowned with the co-valedictorian title at Crenshaw Arts Tech Charter High.

The new grad and incoming freshman is proud to see the fruits of all his labor blossom.

“I felt good because my hard work paid off. All the long sleepless nights I took in, stuff like that, it finally paid off,” Hunter said, according to ABC7 News.

Now, Hunter will be taking his passions and work ethic to Berkeley University of California. But his final decision meant turning down acceptances from a whopping 38 other schools. He was even offered a total of \$3.5 million in scholarships.

“I got all these letters. Free ride here, full ride here, full ride here and all that type of stuff. I got accepted into my childhood dream school, USC. I didn’t go, it’s too close to home, but I still got accepted there. I accomplished that,” Hunter said, per the news outlet.

The stunning choice in the institution became apparent when the Gates Scholars recipi-



ent aligned his interests in mathematics with the Berkeley Mechanical Engineering program. Once he collects his degree, Hunter is setting his sights on working for NASA or SpaceX.

“Math has been my favorite subject my entire education career basically. So that’s why I’ll be studying mechanical engineering at Berkeley,” Hunter explained.

While Hunter gears up for his first semester, he stays focused on elevating his community. From financial wealth to entrepreneurship, the budding engineer just wants to see his community reach higher heights.

## Dr. Dre’s family was told to say goodbyes following brain aneurysm

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**D**r. Dre sat down with Black entrepreneur and celebrity trainer, Dolvett Quince on his podcast Workout The Doubt and discussed his realization about being on the verge of death during his hospital stay in January 2021 for a brain aneurysm.

The now private interview was partially reposted on Instagram by @diversementality.

A post shared by Diverse Mentality (@diversementality)

According to Men’s Journal, Quince has appeared as the lead trainer on The Biggest Loser, and also worked with Dr. Dre to get

him in top shape for his Super Bowl LVI performance. Quince had suffered from debilitating migraines since he was 17 and likely helped Dr. Dre understand what he experienced.

Dr. Dre’s brain aneurysm came in the middle of a contentious and very public divorce with his ex-wife, Nicole Young, to whom he eventually agreed to give \$100 million dollars in their divorce settlement.

During his two-week ICU stay, he revealed to Dolvett that his family was allowed to visit him despite COVID-19 restrictions, which he later learned was because hospital staff did not believe he would pull through the ordeal and felt his

family should say their goodbyes.

Dr. Dre shared that he was tired from hour-by-hour doctor visits that looked like sobriety tests.

“Touch your nose. Rub your heel to your calf... Every hour for two weeks I had to wake up and do that.” But he acknowledges that he came out of it stronger than before.

A year after his ICU stay, America got to see Dre in his element playing his infamous piano notes with Hip-Hop elites Mary J. Blige, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, 50 Cent, and Kendrick Lamar who performed hit after hit in the Blackest Super Bowl Halftime Show of our generation.



# Premiere

## Idris Elba stars in a pulse-pounding new survival thriller – ‘Beast’!



By Audrey J. Bernard

Universal's adrenaline-fueled survival thriller "Beast" directed by experiential filmmaker Baltasar Kormákur and starring handsome hulk Idris Elba with Sharlto Copley, Iyana Halley and Leah Jeffries drew a lion's share at the box office placing second place in its debut. The new murder mystery about a father and his two teenage daughters who find themselves hunted by a massive rogue lion intent on proving that the savannah has but one apex predator is entertaining to say the least! Imagine Elba fighting a massive rogue lion with just his fists and kicking him with his shoes. As unbelievable as it sounds, it will still

cause you to jump out of your seat especially when the bloodthirsty lion drags Elba across the grassland. At the animated screening I attended Elba's female fans were literally threatening the lion as if the beast could hear them. How dare he! When the larger than life lion wasn't scaring you to hell and trying to devour Elba & his daughters, there were many tender father/daughter moments of love, loss, loyalty, trust and courage.

SYNOPSIS: Elba plays Dr. Nate Samuels, a recently widowed husband who returns to South Africa, where he first met his wife, on a long-planned trip with their daughters to a game reserve managed by Martin Battles (Sharlto Copley, Russian Doll series, Maleficent), an

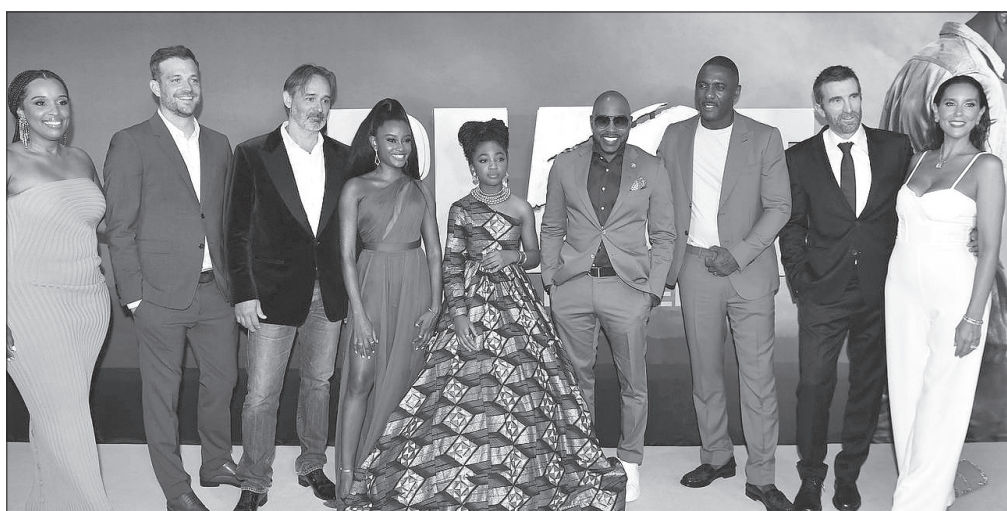
old family friend and wildlife biologist. But what begins as a journey of healing jolts into a fearsome fight for survival when a lion, a survivor of blood-thirsty poachers who now sees all humans as the enemy, begins stalking them. Iyana Halley (The Hate U Give, This is Us series) plays Samuels' 18-year-old daughter, Meredith, and Leah Jeffries (Rel series, Empire series) plays his 13-year-old, Norah.

From perspicacious filmmaker Baltasar Kormákur, director of Universal's Everest, 2 Guns and Contraband, "Beast" is produced by Will Packer p.g.a., the blockbuster producer of Girls Trip, the Ride Along franchise, and ten movies that have opened No. 1 at the U.S. box office—including Night

School, No Good Deed and Think Like a Man—by Baltasar Kormákur p.g.a. and by James Lopez p.g.a. (The Photograph, Little, What Men Want). The screenplay is by Ryan Engle (Rampage, Non-Stop) from a story by Jaime Primak Sullivan (Breaking In, executive producer The Baxters). The film is executive produced by Bernard Bellew and Jaime Primak Sullivan. Rounding out the creatives: cinematography by Philippe Rousselot; edited by Jay Rabinowitz; music by Steven Price; production companies Will Packer Productions and RVK Studios; distributed by Universal Pictures; released on Friday, August 19, 2022. (World Premiere photos by Angela Weiss/AFP via Getty Images)



Scene shots from *Beast* (Universal)



Cast and crew attend the world premiere of *Beast* at the Museum of Modern Art on August 8, 2022, in New York City (Premiere Photos by Angela Weiss-AFP via Getty Images)



Director Baltasar Kormakur and Sunneva Ása Weissshappel



Heather Hayslett and Will Packer



Idris Elba with daughter Isan



Iyana Halley, Idris Elba and Leah Jeffries



Actor Idris Elba and wife actress Sabrina Khowre

# International



## Newly elected Kenyan leader ends voting by tribe, analysts say

(GIN)

Is the two party system a thing of the past? Low voter turnout in the U.S. seems to reflect disenchantment with a single choice between Democrat and Republican. Kenya is no different.

This month, Kenyans tossed the traditional toss-up between the Luo and Kikuyu ethnic groups to choose William Samoei Ruto, a Kalenjin. His party, the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and its allies, took the political experts by surprise when he easily won all nine governorships of Mount Kenya—once considered a sure bet for a Luo.

Raila Odinga, son of a prominent Luo figure in Kenya's struggle for independence, was making his fifth attempt at the presidency and was expected to sweep in the Luo region. Support from the outgoing president, Uhuru Kenyatta, failed to put him over the top.

Meanwhile, "Ruto went to the remotest villages of Mount Kenya and talked to the lowest of market vendors," said Peter Kagwanja who campaigned for Odinga and is head of the Africa Policy Institute, a think-tank in Nairobi. "He took a strong populist approach and his populism won."

Margaret Njeri Mubuu, an elderly activist in the Kikuyu community, explained that she abandoned the party over its elitism to vote for Ruto. Meeting him at a campaign stop, she asked for help thwarting plans by the National Land Commission to evict villagers from their ancestral lands.

"The government that you voted for is not a government of breaching the law," Ruto replied. "No one will be evicted forcefully so long as you have the ownership documents."

"(Kenyatta) ignored the region, people were just fed up," said Justin Muturi, speaker of the National Assembly for Mount Kenya. "People resonated with Ruto's down-to-earth approach and economic message and concerns of the people. It has nothing to do with being Kikuyu or not anymore."

Elected member of parliament from the UDA, Gabriel Kagombe, offered this explanation: "People no longer vote on an ethnic basis... Ruto said this nonsense of people voting on a tribal basis, having no other consideration than tribe, must come to an end," he told the Guardian UK.

"Ruto has managed to kill tribalism in this country," Kagombe said. "It's the dawn of a new era."

Ruto's stump speech included vows to invest in agriculture which resonated among farmers in Mount Kenya facing higher food and fertilizer prices.

Although now a wealthy man, the 55 year old Ruto stresses his early roots as a roadside food vendor selling local chicken to passing truck drivers. He walked long distances to school, shoeless, knocking his toes on rocks and leaving bloody toenails behind. But that was his past.

Many admire the politician able to go from being a hustler to a millionaire with an estimated net worth of over 41 billion Kenyan shillings (US\$333,899) and is ranked among the top 10 richest people in Kenya.

Meanwhile, Kenyan president-elect Ruto says that if there's a court challenge to the election results, "we will engage in those" as East Africa's most stable democracy awaits a likely petition from losing candidate Raila Odinga. w/pix of W. Ruto

## Militants take lives at Somali hotel as U.S. special ops deploy in Somalia

(GIN) –

Government forces say they have put down a siege at the popular Hayat Hotel in Mogadishu that began Friday and has reportedly left over 20 casualties. It is the largest siege in the country since Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was elected president in May.

The Hayat is an upscale hotel frequented by government officials, elders and people from the diaspora community. The director of Mogadishu's main trauma hospital, Mohamed Abdirahman Jama, said the facility was treating at least 40 people wounded in the hotel attack and a separate mortar strike on another area of the capital.

The founder and current chair of the Union for Peace and Development Party, President Sheikh Mohamud, was previously a university professor and dean and was named in Time magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

The weekend attack comes as Somali forces have stepped up operations against al-Shabab, and as Somalia's President Mohamud has promised to eliminate



the armed group. The al-Shabab leadership has also promised to topple Mohamud's government.

Earlier this week, the United States announced that its forces had killed 13 al-Shabab fighters in an air raid in the central-southern part of the country as the group was attacking Somali forces.

The US has carried out several air raids on the group's fighters in recent weeks.

Last May, President Biden signed an order authorizing the military to once again deploy hundreds of Special Operations forces inside Somalia — largely reversing the decision by President Donald J. Trump to withdraw nearly all 700 ground troops who had been stationed there, according to officials

familiar with the matter.

In addition, Mr. Biden approved a Pentagon request for standing authority to target about a dozen suspected leaders of Al Shabab, the Somali terrorist group that is affiliated with Al Qaeda, three of the officials said.

The decisions by Mr. Biden, described to Washington Post reporters on the condition of anonymity, will revive an open-ended American counterterrorism operation that has amounted to a slow-burn war through three administrations. The move stands in contrast to his decision last year to pull American forces from Afghanistan, saying that "it is time to end the forever war." w/pix of Somali branch of Al-Shabab

## Son of Goodwill Zwelithini ascends to Zulu Royal Throne

(GIN)

In the traditional ceremonies of the Zulu people, Misuzulu Zulu, 47, was crowned the new king of the country's richest and most influential traditional monarchy.

Thousands of people gathered at the Zulu royal palace in South Africa to witness the ceremony.

Misuzulu Zulu ascended to the throne once held by his late father, Goodwill Zwelithini. The ceremonies were partially overshadowed by a bitter succession dispute.

Attired in a traditional leopard skin and a necklace of predator claws, the new leader promised to unite the Zulu nation..

Although the title of king does

not bestow executive power, the monarchs wield great moral influence over more than 11 million Zulus, who make up nearly a fifth of South Africa's population.

Earlier, Misuzulu had entered the palace's "cattle kraal" where he took part in a secret rite designed to present the new monarch to his ancestors.

Royal minstrels sang the praises of the new king and told the story of his legendary ancestors.

Suddenly, the king emerged before the crowd dressed in black feathers cinched at the waist by a belt, a spear and holding a shield. He joined a line of warriors who swore loyalty to their new leader.

Zulu kings are descendants of King Shaka, the 19th-century

leader who united the Zulu nation and led bloody battles against the British colonizers.

Since the death of King Zwelithini and his third wife, legal challenges cropped up backing one or another of the king's six wives and 28 children.

An effort to stop all rituals was denied by a Pietermaritzburg court.

The next Zulu monarch will inherit a fortune — including millions from the government and 74 million acres of land.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, who in March recognized Misuzulu as the rightful king, is to formally certify the crowning at a ceremony in the coming months.



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# Ponder this!

## Spending birthday time with the Bees



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

Most of us do not take time to observe the insects that are moving about, above and beneath our feet. We swat at them and smash them without forethought. I recently celebrated the big number 81. My niece, the retired doctor, beckoned my presence to her home and in compliance, I took a seat on the Acela train heading to Washington, D.C.'s Union Station. Trains are my favorite source of travel.

The smooth gliding of the high-speed engine conjured excitement of what was to come with this niece who is enthusiasm personified with a smile that is contagious on sight. I was prepared to groove to whatever celebratory plotting was twirling around in her head

regarding my birthday.

On the road to Maryland, where she lives, she made a pit stop at the place that has become the epicenter of joy for her, after years of dutiful doctoring. Now, she is a doctor of Bees, 10,000 of them tenderly cared for in her numerous hives. This is no surprise to me, as she has always put her sweat and love into whatever catches her eye. I soon discovered that there is much to be done to secure a haven for the Bees, including checking them for mites and other predators.

On the following day, my actual birthday, dressed in protective gear, we returned to the colony. Seeing Bees in action is quite something to behold. My niece discusses their lives and jobs as though they were patients, and I was privy to their medical charts.

Indeed, every Bee living in the hive has a title and its job to do. They have an interesting culture. Honey bees have three castes: drones, workers, and queens. A colony generally contains one queen bee, a few thousand male drone bees, and tens of thousands of female worker bees. Details vary among them.

Virgin queens fly to a drone congregation area and mate with multiple drones before returning. Once mated, queens may lay up to 2,000 eggs per day. Eggs are laid singly in a cell in a wax honeycomb, produced and shaped by the worker bees. Young worker bees, sometimes called "nurse bees", clean the hive and feed the larvae. They take on other colony tasks, such as receiving nectar and pollen and guarding the hive.



Hazel dressed in protective gear for introduction to the Bees



Hazel and Niece at Bee site

ing nectar and pollen and guarding the hive.

Honey is made when bees ingest nectar and store it in combs and then the worker bees secrete beeswax from glands on their abdomens to form the walls of the comb. As with honey, beeswax is used for candle making, wa-

terproofing, soap and cosmetics manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, furniture polish, and more. Bees are often described as essential to human food production, leading to claims that without their pollination, humanity would starve or die out. The next time you see a Bee, be mindful, he may be on the job, pro-

viding for his community and ours. [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries. Retired, former Woman's Editor and Managing Editor of the New York Beacon News. Contact: misshazel@twc.com and online at www.hazelrosettasmith.com]

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