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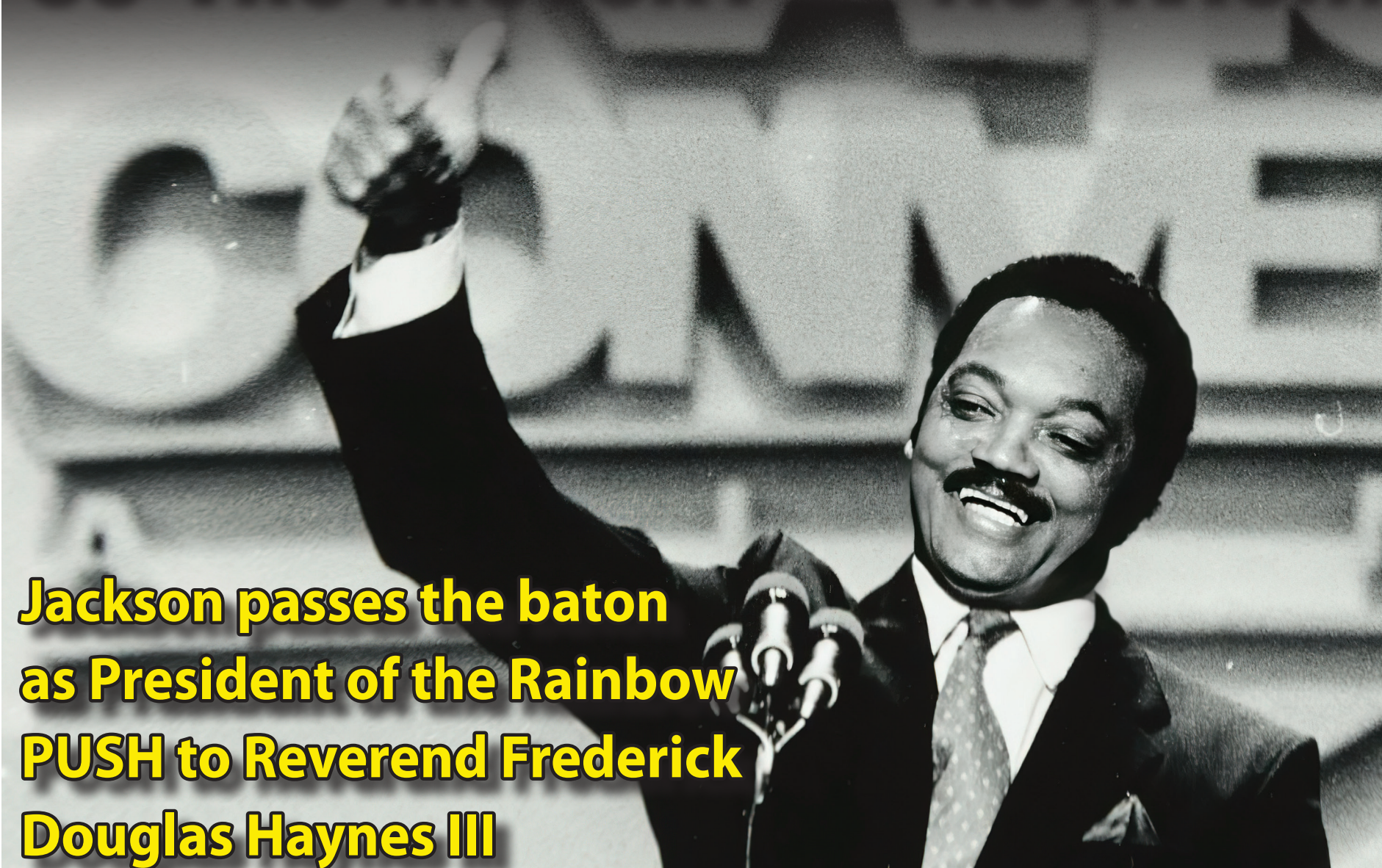
Speaking Truth to Justice

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**RETIREMENT OF REV JESSE JACKSON
WILL NOT BURY HOPE NOR
50 YRS HISTORY OF ACTIVISM**



**Jackson passes the baton
as President of the Rainbow
PUSH to Reverend Frederick
Douglas Haynes III**

**Although his mighty roar is gone, his whisper compels the
popular refrain "I am....." and his history lingers on, p3**



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Congressional Black Caucus confronts ongoing assault on Black rights

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) firmly stated that Black Americans are being attacked in various ways nationwide, with Republicans leading these efforts.

"We refuse to be victims, and we will not be silenced," declared CBC Chairman and Representative Steven Horsford (D-Nev.) during a State of Black America press event held at the Capitol.

"Our fundamental rights are under siege, and our history is being denied. But we will not passively witness these actions. Too many people count on us to fight for them."

Recent events in several GOP-led state legislatures have intensified concerns within the CBC.

Despite a Supreme Court order, Alabama and Louisiana legislatures refused to create an additional district with a majority of Black residents.

The Florida State Board of Education has approved new education guidelines that downplay the harsh history of slavery.

Instead, they emphasize the perceived benefits gained from the skills of enslaved people.

Rep. Maxwell Frost from Florida, the youngest member of the House, expressed frustration with his state's guidelines.

He said these guidelines aim to erase and indoctrinate this generation with white supremacy.

However, Frost warned that Florida officials should not underestimate Black America's determination to organize and resist.

Members of the CBC said that statements made by their GOP counterparts at the Capitol have deeply disturbed them, adding to the mounting discontent. Rep. Eli Crane from Arizona made an offensive comment during a House floor debate by referring to Black people as "colored people."

Meanwhile, Sen. Tommy Tuberville from Alabama



defended a controversial statement by denying the racism of white nationalists.

Horsford acknowledged that expectations from Republican leaders are minimal at this point, but Representative Troy Carter (D-La.) demanded that the party's leaders take a stand against such bigotry.

"The silence from Republicans and others in the face of such egregious statements is deafening," Carter said. "We will not condone the erasing of history. We must stand together to put an end to this."

The CBC has issued a list of demands, calling on the Department of Justice and the Department of Education to launch investigations into education policies.

The caucus recently met with Education Secretary Miguel Cardona to discuss policies about Black history.

They also sent formal letters to Cardona and Attorney General Merrick Garland, urging for a "strong legal strategy."

"Black people did not benefit from slavery; we built this country," emphasized Horsford.

"Our toil, sweat, and tears went into constructing the very foundation of this nation. Elevating Black America is an elevation for all. We will not tolerate this assault on our rights."

Judges consider giving green light for sex abuse case against Michael Jackson's companies

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire

Wade Robson and James Safechuck, two former close friends of the late Michael Jackson and subjects of an incredible documentary about the King of Pop, are set to face off against the singer's companies once again after a California appeals court permitted their long-standing sexual abuse lawsuits to resume.

In 2013 and 2014, respectively, Robson and Safechuck filed lawsuits against Jackson's estate and two corporations owned solely by Jackson – MJJ Productions and MJJ Ventures – alleging that the late pop icon sexually abused them during their childhood.

However, a judge dismissed both cases in 2017 due to the state's statute of limitations.

Three years later, after California lawmakers extended the state's statute of limitations for sexual abuse claims, the cases received new life.

The new statute allowed Robson and Safechuck to return their allegations to court.

Still, their hopes were short-lived, as a judge dismissed their cases again in 2021.

Judge Mark Young ruled that neither the corporations nor their employees were legally obligated to protect Robson and Safechuck from Jackson's alleged actions.

However, after the California 2nd District Court of Appeals reversed Young's decision last month, and panel of judges ruled that the lawsuits may proceed.

The decision provided Robson and Safechuck another opportunity to present their claims.

The attorneys representing Jackson's estate have consistently denied all allegations against the late singer throughout the legal proceedings. This week, they tried again to convince a panel of judges to strike down the latest attempts by Robson and Safechuck. However, the panel appeared poised to give a green light to a trial.

One of the most iconic and influential figures in the history of pop music, Jackson, died in June 2009 after overdosing on the hospital anesthesia drug, Propofol.

While his image has enjoyed a makeover since his death and allowed his estate to rake in billions of dollars, there remains the specter of child abuse allegations that dogged him for the last two

decades.

"Every American deserves to have their day in court, and Wade Robson and Jimmy Safechuck are no exception," said syndicated columnist and journalist Diane Dimond, the first journalist to break and chronicle Jackson's alleged behavior with young boys decades ago.

The author of "Be Careful Who You Love: Inside the Michael Jackson Case," Dimond told the Black Press that she believes an impartial court should hear complaints from Robson and Safechuck and not simply dismiss and be "slandered by a legion of fanatics who know none of the facts about their cases."

"Not only were they, as Michael Jackson called them, 'his special friends,' both of them as children also worked for Mr. Jackson and his entertainment company," Dimond noted.

"If the Catholic Church was held legally responsible for sex crimes committed by their priests if Michigan State University was held responsible for the sex crimes of their employee Dr. Larry Nassar, doesn't it follow that Jackson's MJJ Productions company be held responsible as well?"

Dimond added, "Having been seeped in the Michael Jackson story for decades, I can unequivocally say the Robson and Safechuck complaints don't come in a vacuum."

"There have been multiple similar allegations of child sexual abuse by Michael Jackson in the past. Some the public has heard of, some they haven't."

She said the world witnessed some of Robson and Safechuck's evidence as presented in the HBO documentary "Leaving Neverland," a film acclaimed by many, including Oprah Winfrey, who interviewed the men after the film's 2019 debut.

"Now it's time for a court of law to see all the evidence and decide what is justice in this case," Dimond said.

She insisted that Jackson's 2005 acquittal on 13 counts of child sex charges shouldn't sway judges, juries, or the court of public opinion in the case brought by Robson and Safechuck.

"Yes, Jackson's 2005 criminal case ended in an acquittal on charges of child sex abuse, but that, in no way, suggests there is a lack of credibility in these allegations," Dimond said.

"I, for one, believe these two young men."



By Julianne Malveaux
NEWS ANALYSIS

The retirement of Rev. Jesse Jackson: You can't bury hope or history

the reversal of affirmative action.

Jesse Jackson has not disappeared from the national scene. Instead, too many want to write Rev. Jackson off, just as they have attempted to write off history. The sentiment to ignore Jackson is the same sentiment that has allowed truth-deniers to introduce legislation outlawing teaching about race in forty-four states. Thanks to Jackson campaign veterans, though, the world will learn that biased journalists cannot bury either history or hope. At a time when state legislators and Supreme Court justices have attacked voting rights, Jackson's legacy in registering more voters than any other single individual in history is unassailable. And who can deny Jesse Jackson's international impact – from his rescue of Lt. Robert Goodman from Syria through his work on the anti-apartheid movement and his relationship with Nelson Mandela? His international reach is reflected in his participation in this year's PUSH conference, which includes delegates from several African countries,



the Caribbean, and Europe.

His peers in the civil rights movement sent tributes of recognition. They came from the National Urban League's Marc Morial to the National Action Network's Al Sharpton, to tweets from Presidents Bill Clinton and Joe Biden to Chicago's mayor Brandon Johnson, appreciation rained down on Rev. Jackson. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge defined PUSH – as "to press upon a thing with force to move it away, to move something in a specified way by exerting force." She noted that PUSH has been a force for justice, a force against the barriers of racism. There are setbacks, she said, to be sure. But as long as that force is there, there will be change.

That the United States Vice President traveled to Chicago to salute Jackson crystallizes his importance to the nation and the world. Kamala Harris shared how important Jackson has been to her life and career and said she would not be Vice-President were it not for Jackson's work. Others shared similar tributes, and I, too, have a testimony. I met Jackson first in 1973 as an Essence Magazine intern and later worked on the 1984 campaign. I vividly remember his assertion in his speech at the Moscone Center that "God isn't finished with me yet." Indeed, since 1984, God has continued to mold, shape, and bless Rev. Jackson.

Jackson isn't giving rousing speeches anymore. But he still brings us to our feet. He doesn't shout. The Parkinson's he has bat-

Continued on page 5



Biden commemorates 75th Anniversary of Desegregation Order in U.S. Armed Forces, condemns political blockade on military appointments

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)

In a ceremony held at the Truman Library Institute, President Joe Biden paid tribute to a pivotal moment in American history—the 75th anniversary of the executive order signed by President Harry Truman that desegregated the U.S. Armed Forces.

The commemoration not only honored the courage and sacrifice of Black veterans but also highlighted the profound impact of diversity on the strength and capabilities of the military.

President Harry S. Truman's landmark order, signed on July 26, 1948, declared that there should be "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin," Biden emphasized.

During the three-day symposium, Biden championed the significance of this decision, which paved the way for future civil rights laws and legal rulings and laid the foundation for a more inclusive and powerful military.

In his address, the President praised the contributions of service members of color, acknowledging their equal bravery and sacrifices.

He celebrated the increasing diversity within the U.S. military, noting that over 40 percent of the active-duty force comprises people of color, a significant increase from the mere 2 percent representation in 1948.

"As our military became more diverse, it became stronger, tougher, and more capable — proving our diversity is a strength, not a weakness — a necessary part of our warfighting and our deterrence and our successful military operations," the President insisted.

"And our unity out of many, not division, ensures good order and discipline, unit cohesion, effectiveness, and military readiness. We've seen it with generations of patriots, regardless of who they are mentored and trained by. Fellow servicemen from every background, like my friend, the late Colin Powell."

Biden also highlighted the progress made in promoting

gender equality, with about 20 percent of the current active-duty force comprised of women.

"Our military became stronger, tougher, and more capable as it became more diverse," Biden asserted.

He noted that diversity is not a weakness but a strength, vital to successful military operations, warfighting, and deterrence.

Unity, he said, is a critical factor in maintaining good order, discipline, and unit cohesion.

However, the President also used the occasion to address a pressing issue affecting the military—the political blockade on military appointments.

He pointed out that Republican senators, particularly Sen. Tommy Tuberville from Alabama, have been obstructing more than 300 military operations nominations for political reasons, causing significant harm to military readiness, security, leadership, and troop morale.

Among the pending appointments is General C.Q. Brown, an F-16 pilot and wing commander, who is poised to become the first African American to lead any Armed Services branch as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additionally, Admiral Lisa Franchetti, the second woman in the Navy to achieve the rank of four-star admiral, is awaiting confirmation as the first female Chief of Naval Operations.

Biden voiced his concern that this partisan freeze on appointments is disrupting military families' lives, freezing their pay, and impacting their ability to plan for the future.

He argued that it's crucial to have these outstanding leaders confirmed to address national security challenges effectively and support military families in their critical career decisions.

The President also criticized the opposition to Pentagon policies that would grant servicemen and women and their family's access to reproductive healthcare rights in states where such access is currently denied.

He condemned the GOP blockade, stressing that it was affecting the lives of military spouses and service members

Continued on page 5

DOJ launches civil rights 'Pattern or Practice' investigation into Memphis Police Department

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA)

Assistant U.S. Attorney General Kristen Clarke of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and U.S. Attorney Kevin G. Ritz for the Western District of Tennessee have launched an investigation to determine a pattern of civil rights violations allegedly committed by the Memphis Police Department.

The investigation comes in the wake of the fatal police beating of Tyree Nichols, the 29-year-old Black man who police beat, tasered, and pepper-sprayed during a traffic stop earlier this year.

Nichols died three days later, sparking a civil rights probe.

Clarke and Ritz said authorities are looking into conduct within the police force that might violate the Constitution or federal civil rights statutes.

"The tragic death of Tyree Nichols created enormous pain in the Memphis community and across the country," U.S. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland stated.

"The Justice Department is launching this investigation to examine serious allegations that the City of Memphis and the Memphis Police Department engage in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional conduct and discriminatory policing based on race, including a dangerously aggressive approach to traffic enforcement.

"We are committed to working cooperatively with local officials, police, and community members to conduct the thorough and comprehensive review that the residents of Memphis deserve."

Clarke emphasized that the Nichols case did not solely prompt the investigation.

Instead, she claimed that numerous reports of officers allegedly escalating encounters with community members and using excessive force sparked it.

"There are also indications that



officers may use force punitively when faced with behavior they perceive to be insolent," Clarke stated.

The DOJ had previously agreed to review the Memphis Police Department's specialized units at the request of Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland and Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn "C.J." Davis.

Clarke highlighted a concerning disparity, noting that despite Memphis being a majority Black city, the police department's traffic enforcement disproportionately targeted the Black community.

She noted that officers were accused of using force against individuals already restrained or in custody, often resulting in serious physical injuries.

The scope of the new investigation will encompass the department's overall conduct, Clarke insisted.

The DOJ will determine whether the police department engaged in unlawful stops, excessive force, and racially discriminatory policing practices against the city's Black residents.

Nichols' family has filed a \$550 million lawsuit against the city of Memphis, Police Chief Davis, the five officers involved in Nichols' death, two additional officers, and three Memphis Fire Department employees.

The lawsuit accuses the city of negligence in hiring Chief Davis and blames her for lax hiring processes.

It also addresses the development of the SCORPION Unit's

"oppression style of policing" and inadequate training.

The five officers facing criminal prosecution for Nichols' death were members of the SCORPION Unit and have pleaded not guilty to murder and other charges.

"I know this community is still hurting after the tragic death of Tyree Nichols," Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta remarked.

"At the Justice Department, we are committed to using all our tools to help ensure that Memphis residents have a safe community and can trust in the actions of law enforcement," Gupta continued.

Clarke added that every person is entitled to constitutional and non-discriminatory policing.

"Based on an extensive review of publicly available information and information provided to us, there are grounds to open this investigation now," Clarke said.

"We have reviewed information that indicates that the Memphis Police Department may be using an approach to street enforcement that can result in violations of federal law, including racially discriminatory stops of Black people for minor violations.

"The Justice Department will conduct a thorough and objective investigation into allegations of unlawful discrimination and Fourth Amendment violations. Unlawful policing undermines community trust, which is essential to public safety."

Nah, we good! 2025 Alpha Phi Alpha Convention won't be in Florida due to racist policies by DeSantis

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Anyone paying close attention to the policy updates when it comes to teaching Critical Race Theory in the state of Florida can see that things are getting way out of control, especially now that Governor Ron DeSantis is enforcing the erroneous notion that enslaved Black people developed "skills" that led to their advancement.

...sir, WHAT?!

Getting back to reality, it appears the historic Black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha felt the same cultural confusion that we just did, so much so that the organization is moving their upcoming 2025 convention out of the Sunshine State.

Alpha Phi Alpha General President Willis L. Lonzer III spoke with The Hill on what ultimately



influenced their decision to get out of dodge — the "dodge" being Orlando, FL in this case — telling the outlet, "Governor DeSantis has continuously advocated for laws and policies that negatively impact Black people and other marginalized communities." He elaborated on his point by adding, "We start first with the laws rejecting the teaching race and the cultural di-

versity of our nation. We can even talk about the bill that he supported, banning [diversity, equity and inclusion] initiatives in colleges and universities. But the final straw really was his advancement of this new curriculum standards released last week, suggesting enslaved people developed skills that could later be a personal benefit to them, which is absolutely absurd."

Education Department launches investigation into Harvard University's legacy admissions

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

Following a complaint from advocacy groups that Harvard University was breaking federal law by using legacy admissions, the U.S. Department of Education has acted.

This week, the department formally notified Lawyers for Civil Rights, the organization that filed the complaint against Harvard, that it has initiated a probe into the university's admissions process.

The Office for Civil Rights within the Education Department is investigating.

While confirming the investigation, an Education Department spokesperson refrained from providing further comments.

The complaint, a comprehensive 31-page document, was filed by the Greater Boston Latino Network and other advocacy groups.

Its central argument is that legacy admissions at Harvard place applicants of color at a significant disadvantage, contradicting the university's purported commitment to promoting campus diversity.

According to the complaint, Harvard College grants special preferences to many predominantly white students yearly because of their familial ties to the university.

Applicants with relatives who are wealthy donors or Harvard alumni receive preferential treatment from the outset of the admissions process, receiving extra

"tips" throughout.

As a result of this practice, known as "Donor and Legacy Preferences," these students enjoy significantly higher acceptance rates than other applicants, making up as much as 15% of Harvard's admitted students.

"The students who receive this preferential treatment – based solely on familial ties – are overwhelmingly white," the complaint stated.

"Nearly 70% of donor-related applicants are white, and nearly 70% of legacy applicants are white. The results of this preferential treatment are substantial."

For example, over the period 2014–2019, the complaint notes that donor-related applicants were nearly seven times more likely to be admitted than non-donor-related applicants.

Additionally, legacy applicants were almost six times more likely to be admitted than nonlegacy applicants.

The complaint asserts that donor and legacy preferences disproportionately favor white applicants and systematically disadvantage students of color, including Black, Latinx, and Asian Americans.

"A benefit provided to some applicants but not to others necessarily advantages the former group at the expense of the latter," the complainants wrote, quoting the U.S. Supreme Court, which struck down affirmative action-based admissions in higher education.

The advocacy groups behind



the complaint have urged the Education Department to intervene, calling on the institution to declare that Harvard must discontinue the use of legacy admissions if it intends to continue receiving federal funds.

The complaint maintains that legacy admissions lack educational justification and are awarded without considering the applicants' credentials or merits. Instead, it solely benefits individuals born into specific families.

Legacy admissions practices at Harvard and other universities have faced increased scrutiny,

particularly after a court ruling and comments from President Joe Biden.

The President stated that legacy admissions contribute to expanding privilege rather than promoting equal opportunities.

Moreover, the NAACP has joined in calling for an end to this practice, asserting that it disproportionately favors white applicants.

The complaint concludes that granting a spot to a legacy or donor-related applicant essentially denies that opportunity to another candidate who meets the

admissions criteria solely based on their merit.

The advocates argue that removing legacy and donor preferences would result in more students of color being admitted to Harvard.

"This preferential treatment violates federal law," the complaint stated. "Specifically, because Harvard receives substantial federal funds, it is bound by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its implementing regulations, which forbid practices that have an unjustified disparate impact on the basis of race."



Sometimes the person who helps you finish high school hasn't even started preschool.

Biden commemorates 75th Anniversary of Desegregation Order in U.S. Armed Forces, condemns political blockade on military appointments

From page 3

stationed in those states.

Biden urged an end to the political impasse, emphasizing the importance of putting the needs of the military first and prioritizing national security above partisan agendas.

"A growing cascade of damage and disruption, all because one senator from Alabama and 48 Republicans who refuse to stand up to him, to lift the block-

ade over the Pentagon policy offering servicemen and women, their families access to reproductive healthcare rights they deserve if they're stationed in states that deny it," Biden remarked.

"I think it's outrageous. But don't just take it from me. Hundreds of military spouses petitioned to end the extreme blockade. One spouse referencing the senator from Alabama said, quote, 'This isn't a football game. This nonsense must stop right now.'"

The retirement of Rev. Jesse Jackson: You can't bury hope or history

From page 3

tled since 2017 has reduced his mighty roar to a whisper. But his whisper is that of hope and history. «Keep hope alive,» he tells assembled delegates. "I am somebody," he quietly encourages the crowd in his trademark chant. And the delegates engage in the traditional call and response, amplifying Rev.'s voice, reminding him that while illness may have muted his

voice, those who appreciate his contribution to history are ready to receive the baton he is passing and confront the evil forces that would eradicate our rights. As long as we can chant back, keeping hope alive, Rev. Jesse Jackson's place in history is secure. He inspires the nation and the world. Those who appreciate the Jackson legacy will not allow hope or history to be buried.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, and Dean of

Editorial - Opinion

National Urban League unveils empowerment 2.0 in fight for justice, democracy

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)

In an address to the National Urban League Conference, Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the civil rights organization, introduced what he called the next phase of advocacy and activism: Empowerment 2.0.

The new initiative builds on the framework of the five-part Empowerment Agenda, which Morial first revealed in his inaugural State of the Urban League speech two decades ago.

Empowerment 2.0 focuses on the organization's core pillars: Employment, Education, Housing, Healthcare, and Justice.

However, it also encompasses what Morial called The Three Ds: Defend Democracy, Demand Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Defeat Poverty.

Morial emphasized the critical importance of this new phase, stating that the nation is facing challenges to the hard-fought

progress made since the Brown decision.

He expressed concern over assaults on justice in the Supreme Court and within state legislatures influenced by right-wing ideologies.

Morial took a firm stand against the policies of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, criticizing them for promoting voter suppression, gerrymandering, censorship of history, and restrictive reproductive rights measures.

He underscored the need for advocacy and activism in the face of such regressive policies.

Reflecting on his 20-year leadership of the National Urban League, Morial highlighted the organization's transformation from an iconic 20th-century civil rights movement to one fit for the challenges of the 21st century.

He pointed out the shift from confronting Jim Crow to combating a new adversary, "James Crow, Esquire," who employed subtler tactics to undermine progress.



I asked what kind of family



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Georgia 11-year-old encounters confederate flags, dubbed 'little Black boy' at Georgia summer camp; YMCA sends letter to family saying 'Sorry he didn't have a good time'

Philadelphiaobserver.com

The mother of an 11-year-old boy is demanding more action from a YMCA in Georgia after a summer camp experience turned into a racially traumatizing experience for their child.

According to 11Alive News, the boy's mother said while her child was at a July 2022 camp hosted by the Athens YMCA in Tallulah Falls, Georgia, he saw more than a dozen Confederate flags painted and displayed on buildings in the camp location. Additionally, on several occasions, his camp counselors

called him "little Black boy" rather than his name.

"I felt uncomfortable and unsafe there," the boy, whose identity has been withheld, told 11Alive. "We were playing a group game in the water. I basically got to the end goal of the game and then one of the counselors told his team to 'get that Black boy.'"

His mother, Maria Pinkleton, said she was shocked to learn of the flag displays and the treatment of her son.

"Obviously, I was aghast as a parent — entrusting my child in the 'Y,'" Pinkleton said.

When the family attempted to get answers from the YMCA, they reportedly sent them the briefest of responses that didn't address her concerns and confirmed they'd be issued a refund.

"They sent them a two-sentence letter saying, 'Here's your money, sorry he didn't have a good time.' And it's more than that, what this is, is harm, racial harm," said family attorney Mawuli Davis. "Clearly, they had not gone through and looked at this in any real way, how a child, a Black child would feel coming into a space with Confederate insignia and flags all over the place."

Black nurse, aides allegedly called 'N****rs,' 'slave girls' by Alabama assisted living staff, neglected Black residents, lawsuit

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Nine Black nursing professionals filed a civil lawsuit for unlawful race discrimination after claiming they endured hellish, bigoted conditions at an Alabama assisted living facility where they were the victims of several instances of racial abuse and harassment.

According to the lawsuit obtained by Atlanta Black Star, the women allege that they have been "subjected to a racially discriminatory hostile environment that encompasses racial slurs by coworkers, racially tinged taunts and verbal abuse, and unequal enforcement of disciplinary rules" at Florala Health and Rehabilitation.

Shekeya Thomas, Angelia Williams, Kierra Blue, Keonna Critten-

den, Cassandra Westry, Chantel Mayes, Melissa Hobdy, Courtney Love, and Michelle Carswell are named as plaintiffs in the suit.

The suit is filled with a compilation of experiences and interactions these women say they have undergone with staff and residents alike where they were overtly referred to as "n****rs" and "slave girls" numerous times. One of the plaintiffs even overheard a white coworker say, "These black girls need to service their people like the slaves they are."

Another white coworker was heard telling another staff member, "You've got to be kidding me. I have to work short every night and those motherf****ing n****rs have three down here!" the complaint details.



The outside of the Florala Health and Rehabilitation facility. (Photo: Florala Health and Rehabilitation)

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On the scene

Christopher Nolan's 12th cinematic creation is one of the greatest films of all time!



By Audrey J. Bernard

Universal Pictures' acclaimed film – Oppenheimer — is one of the greatest films of this century! Written and directed by Christopher Nolan, Oppenheimer is an IMAX-shot epic thriller that draws audiences into the riveting mindset of an intense physicist who must risk destroying the world to save it. The gripping film, which premiered on July 21, 2023, is based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning biography titled American Prometheus: The Triumph and Tragedy of J. Robert Oppenheimer, played by Cillian Murphy, the scientist who famously led the Manhattan Project — the effort to create an atomic bomb during World War II. The film is larger than life, screened in a combination of IMAX 65mm and

65mm large-format film photography including, for the first time ever, sections in IMAX black and white analogue photography. The film is scary, and the premium cast gives phenomenal performances. Oppenheimer unsurprisingly surpassed expectations on opening weekend, earning \$82.4 million at the box office and continues to stay on top of the box office. Do not let this film pass you by as it will be a top nominated film for Oscar Awards.

OPPENHEIMER SYNOPSIS: Oppenheimer is a 2023 biographical drama film written and directed by Christopher Nolan, and produced by Emma Thomas, Charles Roven and Christopher Nolan. Based on the 2005 biography American Prometheus by Kai Bird and Martin J. Sherwin, the film chronicles the life of American theoretical physicist and polymath J. Robert Oppenheimer. Oppenheimer and a team

of scientists spent years developing and designing the atomic bomb. Their work comes to fruition on July 16, 1945, as they witness the world's first nuclear explosion, forever changing the course of history.

Cancellation of the red carpet at the U.S premiere of director Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" amid the SAG-AFTRA strike. However, the show must go on and the movie was screened at the AMC Loews Lincoln Square theater on Monday, July 17, 2023, at 7pm. Nolan sans his Oppenheimer star-studded cast – Cillian Murphy, Florence Pugh, Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Robert Downey Jr., Rami Malek, Josh Hartnett — appeared alongside his wife Emma Thomas. The NYC premiere came four days after its U.K. premiere in London where its stars walked the red carpet but left soon after to support the upcoming strike.



Christopher Nolan and Emma Thomas at the New York City premiere of Oppenheimer on July 17, 2023



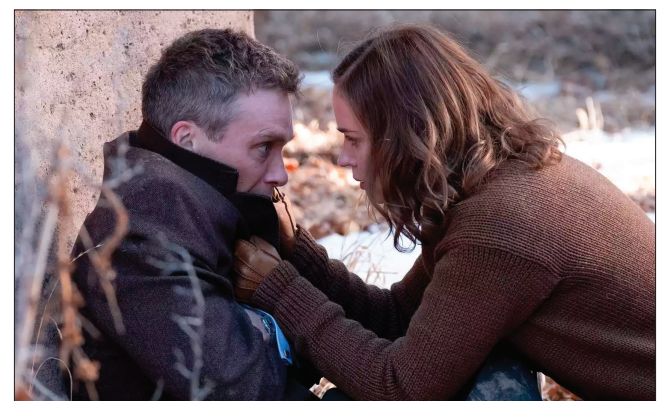
Director Christopher Nolan on set of Oppenheimer

OPPENHEIMER CAST: The film stars Cillian Murphy as J. Robert Oppenheimer and Emily Blunt as his wife, biologist and botanist Katherine "Kitty" Oppenheimer. Oscar winner Matt Damon portrays General Leslie Groves Jr., director of the Manhattan Project, and Robert Downey, Jr. plays Lewis Strauss, a founding commissioner of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Academy Award nominee Florence Pugh plays psychiatrist Jean Tatlock, Benny Safdie plays

theoretical physicist Edward Teller, Michael Angarano plays Robert Serber and Josh Hartnett plays pioneering American nuclear scientist Ernest Lawrence. Rounding out the star-studded film is Oscar winner Rami Malek and reunites Nolan with eight-time Oscar nominated actor, writer and filmmaker Kenneth Branagh, and more. (Oppenheimer production photos courtesy Universal Pictures) (Red carpet photos provided by Getty Images for Universal Pictures)



Cast of Oppenheimer (L-R) Kenneth Branagh, Rami Malek, Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, Florence Pugh, Cillian Murphy, Christopher Nolan, and Josh Hartnett at the London premiere of Oppenheimer on July 13, 2023



Cillian Murphy and Emily Blunt in Oppenheimer



Cillian Murphy and Matt Damon in Oppenheimer



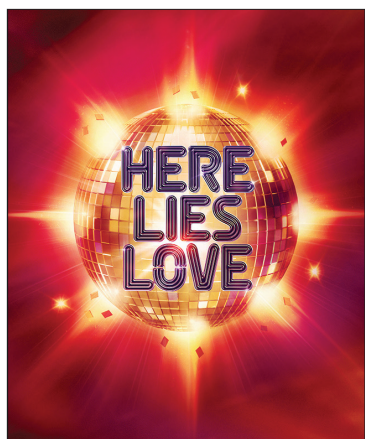
Cillian Murphy creates the Atomic Bomb



Robert Downey Jr. and Cillian Murphy in Oppenheimer

On the scene

'Here Lies Love' is a spectacular saga of the rise & fall of Imelda Marco

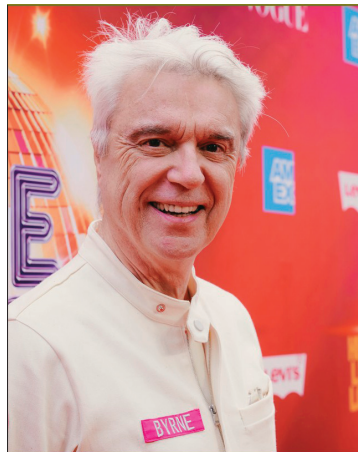


By Audrey J. Bernard

If you haven't seen one play on Broadway yet, you must see *Here Lies Love*! The new musical from David Byrne (Academy Award, Grammy Award, and Tony Award winner) and Fatboy Slim (Grammy Award winner), developed and directed by Alex Timbers (Tony Award winner) and choreographed by Annie-B Parson (Olivier Award nominee), officially opened on Broadway Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the Broadway Theatre (1681 Broadway, NYC) to resounding praise! What makes this revolutionary play must see theater is that it features the first all-Filipino cast to perform on Broadway and bring to life the epic story of former Filipina First Lady Imelda Marco's power grabbing rise to power and historical fall at the hands of the Philippine People Power Revolution. The enthralling cast sing and dance their way into your heart. Timbers has sprinkled his magical dust all over the iconic Broadway Theatre and transformed the massive space into a disco dance club complete with moving stages, and a performance catwalk. The audience is immersed throughout the story

with a balcony hovering over the dance floor and VIP seating and standing room only space like the famous Studio 54. And as a disco ball twirl in the air over the audience below, a DJ spins hot disco music. *Here Lies Love* is a collaborative play wherein everyone gets their fifteen minutes of fame on a Broadway stage because of a wide variety of standing and seating options available throughout the theater's reconstructed space. A highlight of the play is a special guest appearance by Tony and Olivier Award Winner Lea Salonga who will play the role of Aurora Aquino through August 19. The critically acclaimed show played sold-out runs at The Public Theater, London's National Theatre, and Seattle Rep. Now it's Broadway's time to feel the greatness of Timber's AH-mazing architectural genius. See *Here Lies Love* and feel the Byrne!

CAST: The show features the first all-Filipino cast to perform on Broadway: Arielle Jacobs (In The Heights, Aladdin, Between The Lines) as "Imelda Marcos," Jose Llana (The King and I, The 25th Annual Putnam Country Spelling Bee) as "Ferdinand Marcos," Conrad Ricamora ("How to Get Away with Murder," The King and I, Soft Power - Grammy nominations) as "Ninoy Aquino," Melody Butiu, Moses Villarama, Jasmine Forsberg, Reanne Acasio, Jaygee Macapugay, Julia Abueva, Renée Albulario, Aaron Alcaraz, Carol Angeli, Nathan Angelo, Kristina Doucette, Roy Flores, Timothy Matthew Flores, Sarah Kay, Jiegh Madjus, Aaron



David Byrne

"AJ" Mercado, Geena Quintos, Shea Renne, and Angelo Soriano. Tony and Olivier Award winner Lea Salonga, a global Filipina legend, will also join the cast for a special guest engagement this summer, performing for five weeks from Tuesday, July 11 through Sunday, August 13.

CREATIVES: The creative team for *Here Lies Love* on Broadway includes three-time Tony Award nominee David Korins (scenic design), Tony Award winner Clint Ramos (costume design), Tony Award winner Justin Townsend (lighting design), M.L. Dogg & Cody Spencer (sound design), and three-time Tony Award nominee Peter Nigrini (projection design), with casting by Tara Rubin CSA, Xavier Rubiano CSA, Gail Quintos and general management by Foresight Theatrical. Additional creative team members include ATW Jonathan Larson Grant recipient J. Oconer Navarro (music director), Billy Bustamante (assistant director), Renée Albulario (assistant choreographer), Bobby Garcia (casting consultant/Philippines), Gregory T. Livoti (production stage manager), and Ryan Gohsman and Sheryl Polanco (assistant stage managers). Giselle "G" Töngi is the show's Cultural and Community Liaison.

DEETS: *Here Lies Love* is produced by Hal Luftig/Kevin Connor, Patrick Catullo, Clint Ramos, Jose Antonio Vargas, and Diana DiMenna & Plate Spinner Productions, with Aaron Lustbader serving as Executive Producer. They are joined by Lea Salonga, H.E.R.,



Melody Butiu (*Estrella Cumpas*) and the cast of *Here Lies Love*



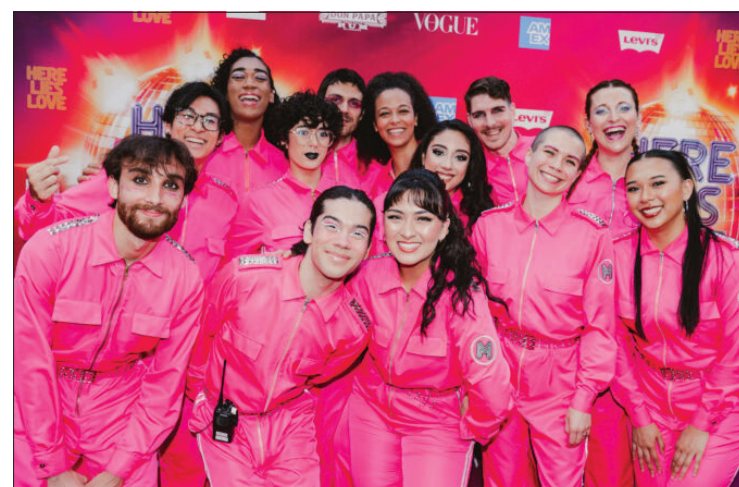
Conrad Ricamora (*Ninoy Aquino*) and the cast of *Here Lies Love*



Arielle Jacobs (*Imelda Marcos*), and the cast of *Here Lies Love*



Jose Llana (*Ferdinand Marcos*), Arielle Jacobs (*Imelda Marcos*), and the cast of *Here Lies Love*



Crew of *Here Lies Love*

Jo Koy, Apl.de.Ap, Rob Laqui, Eva LaBadie, Marikit Ventures/Georgina Pazcoguin, Bobby Garcia/Girlie Rodis, Miranda Gohh/Adam Hyndman, Don Michael H. Mendoza/Lora Nicholas Olaes, Celia Kaleialoha Kenney/ Giselle "G" Töngi, No Guarantees, Yasuhiro Kawana, Elise K. Haas, Shira Friedman, Len Blavatnik Warner Music Entertainment, Wendy Federman/Suzanne Niedland, Cathy Dantchik, James L. Nederlander, Elizabeth Armstrong, John Gore Organization, The Shubert

Organization, Hunter Arnold, LaChanze, The Public Theater, Eastern Standard Time, Triptyk Studios, Iris Smith, Michael Robin Productions/Anastasia Muravyeva, Alexi Melvin/Beesham A. Seecharan, Andrew Diamond/Patrick Trettenero, Buzzy Geduld/Gilad Rogowsky, Laura Ivey/Janet Brenner, and David Brendel/Charlotte Cohn. (Production Photo Credit: Billy Bustamante, Matthew Murphy and Evan Zimmerman) (Opening Night Photos by Michaelah Reynolds/Playbill)



Conrad Ricamora, Arielle Jacobs, Lea Salonga, Jose Llana



Annie-B Parson



Lea Salonga



Jo Koy



David Byrne



Jackson Lee, Spike Lee, Satchel Lee



LaChanze



Alex Timbers



Melody Butiu



H.E.R.

International

Melba Moore receives star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame

Posted By Don Thomas

Melba Moore will be honored with the 2,760th star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, on Thursday, August 10, 2023. The star will be unveiled at 1645 Vine Street near the historic corner of Hollywood & Vine. Moore will be awarded her star in the category of Live Theatre/Live Performance. Guest speakers will include Emmy winner Sheryl Lee Ralph, Comedian Katt Williams and Veteran R&B hit maker Freda Payne.

The Hollywood Chamber of Commerce administers the legendary Hollywood Walk of Fame for the City of Los Angeles and has hosted ceremonies for decades. Millions of people from around the world have visited the cultural landmark since 1960.

"We are very proud to honor

Melba Moore who has lent her beautiful 5-octave voice to various genres of music. Not only is she an entertainer, she is an activist, a trailblazer and so much more," stated Walk of Fame Producer, Ana Martinez. "We know that many of her long-time fans will be lining up the day of her ceremony to see this musical gem as she is honored with her well-deserved Walk of Fame Star."

Born in the Village of Harlem and raised in Newark, New Jersey, Melba Moore is an American prolific 5-octave singer, Tony Award-winning actress, and a four-time Grammy-nominated artist. She has conquered the genres of Broadway, Contemporary Soul/R&B, Pop, Rock, Jazz, Gospel, and Classical music. Her success only continued to expand with her recording career. Her remake of her friend Aretha Franklin's classic

"Lean On Me" earned her a Grammy nomination and has become just one of her signature songs. "Read My Lips" made Moore one of three African American women nominated for a Grammy in the Rock category (the others being Tina Turner and Donna Summer).

An entertainer who also happens to be a civil and equal rights activist, Melba has served as an outspoken advocate for minorities, children's, and women's rights. She marched arm in arm with Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Rev. Jesse Jackson, and worked closely with Dr. Betty Shabazz, Dr. Dorothy I. Height (National Council of Negro Women), and Dr. C. Delores Tucker (National Political Congress of Black Women). Melba Moore's latest work is the album, IMAGINE, which contains her new single – a remake of the Ashford & Simpson R&B classic, "It Seems To Hang On."



Melba Moore (center) poses with Ray Chew and wife Vivian Scott Chew at the Sugar Bar Restaurant during her CD release party for "It Seems To Hang On." (Photo: Ronnie Wright)

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Nicki Minaj fans outraged over her exclusion from trailer for Ladies First: A story of women in Hip-Hop

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Nicki Minaj arrives for the world premiere of “Barbie” at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, on July 9, 2023. Photo: Michael Tran / AFP (Getty Images)

With the 50th anniversary of hip-hop less than a month away, Netflix is shining a light on the women who’ve been instrumental in taking the genre to the next level in the upcoming docuseries, *Ladies First: A Story of Women in Hip-Hop*. But fans of Nicki Minaj aren’t too happy about the recently released trailer which doesn’t feature the *Pink Friday* rapper at all.

Split between four parts, the forthcoming project is set to re-contextualize the irrepressible women of hip-hop and their role in the genre’s 50 years by reinserting them into the canon where they belong: at the center, from day one to the present day. Each of

the installments features a parade of iconic emcees, like MC Lyte, Queen Latifah, and Rah Digga; up-and-comers and artists currently at the top of the charts, like Latto and Tierra Whack; and more alongside key figures from record labels, stylists, and journalists.

Ladies First: A Story of Women in Hip-Hop | Official Trailer | Netflix

Upon seeing the trailer, however, the Barbz (as Nicki fans are so affectionately referred to as) took to Twitter to express their disdain over not seeing their fave, given her cultural and musical impact.

“Imma just say this: you don’t even have to be a Barb to understand Nicki Minaj and her impact on female rap,” wrote one user. “She’s the queen. Period. It is what it is. To exclude her from this is criminal and I hope it’s just the trailer she’s missing from and not the actual documentary.”

Another user also noted the lack of inclusion from other notable female rappers in the trailer in addition to Nicki such as Missy Elliott, Foxy Brown and Lauryn Hill.

“Starting a documentary about black women in hip-hop with Cardi B AND excluding Nicki Minaj, Lauryn Hill or Foxy Brown from the trailer?! Y’all are sick,” said another.

However, two producers on the film are coming to the project’s defense. Shawn Allen, who claims to have co-produced the series, offered an explanation as to why the “SuperBass” rapper wasn’t in the trailer and further implied that she may not be featured at all.

“Nicki didn’t let us license her music and videos,” he explained on Twitter. When asked by a fan if the plan was to include her at all, Allen responded: “Yes, but it didn’t make sense because she didn’t give us any licensing. Her nor Missy.”

University Of Colorado welcomes its first officially registered Black fraternity, Omega Psi Phi

Philadelphiaobserver.com

NFL Hall of Famer Deion Sanders has decided to apply his coaching skills to the University of Colorado Boulder football team for this upcoming season. But another change took place before Sanders went to Colorado: A Black fraternity made its way back to the campus as well.

According to CBS Colorado, a former football player and current coach on Sanders’ staff successfully brought the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, which had a presence on campus in the 1990s, back to the university in November 2022.

Former Buffaloes center Joshua Jynes, who played for the school from 2018 to 2021, had a hand in making the historically Black fraternity return and officially register at CU Boulder.

they didn’t have it.”

It was family tradition that led Jynes to join the frat, since his father and uncle were also members. A phone call from his uncle to De’Ron Jasper, the assistant athletic director and assistant services and operations at CU, got the ball rolling.

“He was like, ‘Oh, I wanted to be an Omega,’ but he didn’t know at the time that Omegas were even around,” Jasper said. “And I had the opportunity to already kind of gauge him, and I was like, I can see him fitting in. How he could help.”

With the help of another frat brother, TJ Labree, the three men secured provisional status on campus through fraternity and sorority life. It took a year to make it happen and was finalized in November 2022.

“I didn’t look into it because I assumed every college had, you know, fraternities. So, Black fraternities and sororities,” Jynes said. “When I got on campus, I was looking for it, and they was like,

“I think it’s important to just have that representation so that they can say, ‘Hey, I have the opportunity. I see it’s there, and if I want to strive to be in that, then I have the opportunity to do that,’” Jasper said.



#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov



Ponder this!

Thankful and joyful entering the Third Quarter



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

As an Octogenarian moving into the second year of the fourth quarter of my life this month, I am a Lioness who rejoices with everyone that continues to blossom where they are planted and are thankful for how far they have come. I was in awe on July 13th when I arrived at the Riverside Cathedral's South Hall as an invitee to the Diamond Jubilee 75th Birthday Soiree for Jackie Rowe-Adams. Seventy-five is a big number that cannot be denied. It is a birth year, which is the entry into the third quarter of one's life cycle.

The joint was jumping with Disney characters Mickey and Minnie Mouse serving as the welcoming couple at the lobby entrance. The NYPD Jazz Band and vocalists were belting out a hot bevy of mixed melodies onstage. The DJ was on point with the memorable soulful sounds we could sing along to. A decorative splash of black and silver spread throughout from table to table, from wall to wall.

With all of that splendor, none of it could compare to the joy and enthusiasm oozing from this star of the night. Jackie Rowe-Adams circled the room, greeting and

spreading her cheer, accepting birthday wishes with glee, dancing, and stepping lively to the rhythm of the African drums.

If you are wondering why I am sharing this good news, I ask you to PONDER THIS! Life has not always been as spectacular for Jackie as it appeared to be on that evening. She has fought hard to overcome the loss of two sons to gun violence. Instead of dwelling on her personal pain, her courageous heart went out to other families who suffered the same experience.

In 2006, with the support of then, New York Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright, Jackie co-founded Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E. (Stop Another Violent End). As a single-issue non-profit organization, Jackie's steadfast commitment to the cause has been onward and upward to serve in three areas: victim services, education, and activism.

Her purpose and mission remain the same, Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E. is focused on ways to prolong the life of our youth by preventing violence, its social causes, and costs. This good work on behalf of the youth remains a necessity and Mayor Eric Adams and prominent Harlem folk took to the microphone to tell Jackie how important she has been and continues to be to our community.

It was a moment to show up and show out for a woman who always finds time to lend a helping hand, and the full house verified the love. Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson proclaimed July 13 as Jackie Rowe-Adams Day in the Bronx, NAACP Hazel Dukes expressed longtime praise and friendship, a citation arrived from former NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, and NYPD Mark T. Stewart, Deputy Commissioner of Community Affairs spoke, among others.

Jackie Rowe-Adams has every right to declare the status of Elder as a woman of wisdom, worthy



Jackie Rowe-Adams (Photo: Renee Yearwood)

of respect and honor. I hope she felt all of that and even more on her 75th Birthday. KEEP SHINING!

[Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director for Help Somebody Theatrical Min-

istries. Retired, former Managing Editor of the New York Beacon. Contact: misshazel@twc.com]

Fiorette Vassall, recipient of History Makers Award

Posted By Don Thomas

Fiorette Vassall, president of "EVVY"(c) Cultural Interchange and founder of The Annual New York "EVVY"(c) Fashion Awards, was recently presented with the Laureana Wright Hacedora De La Historia recognition award after completing 50 years of a successful life in Acapulco, Mexico. She lived in Acapulco from 1963 through 1967.

During that time she contributed her talents in three schools as a teacher of English, French and Spanish. She opened as a dancer in the first discotheque called the Tequila A GoGo in Latin America. After her return to New York, Vas-

sall continued to contribute her talents to the popular resort.

During her visits there, she directed and coordinated fundraising, fashion shows, produced cultural exchange jazz concerts combined with international fashion presentations, and was a member of the U. S. Navy League and several charitable organizations that aid the needy children of Acapulco.

Her program, "EVVY"(c) Cultural Interchange is seen Saturdays on Bric Free Speech Channel 2. Brooklyn: Optimum 68 throughout NYC: Verizon Fios 43 from 3:30 to 4pm. Vassall continues to be a patron of the arts and is pleased to again co-host the International American Ballet with the Prima Ballerina/Di-

rector Analia Farfan. She welcomes all to The International American Ballet Summer gala performance "Timeless Echoes" that will be held on Saturday, August 5th at 7pm at St Jean's Theater in the heart of Manhattan.

After the program there will be a reception to meet and greet with the Artists!

If you are unable to participate, kindly refer friends as this will be our final presentation. For tickets search on Eventbrite.com: International American Ballet. For Fiorette Vassall's friends discount code: "Angel". or write checks to: "EVVY"(c) Cultural Interchange. Cash at the door \$15.00 dollars. Corporate sponsors for "EVVY"(c)



Fiorette Vassall accepts award

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Wednesday's Woman



Audrey J. Bernard

Florence LaRue of The 5th Dimension embraces her seniority in her debut book

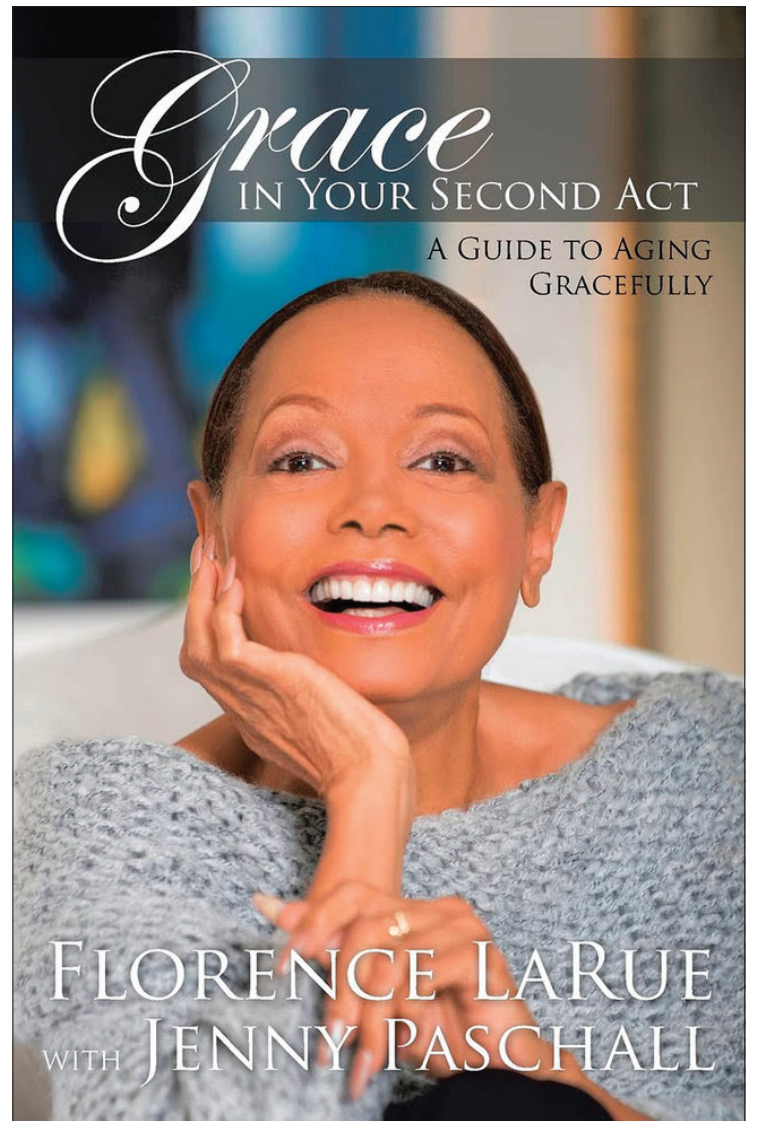
Singer, writer, actress, and activist Florence LaRue — best known for her role as the lead vocalist of the legendary group, The 5th Dimension, is in the grace of her life! Revered for her melodic, soulful voice, and beauty, she is now sharing insights on style, beauty, fitness, diet, attitude, and aging gracefully in her debut book "Grace in Your Second Act: A Guide to Aging Gracefully," with Jenny Paschall and published by WestBow Press. After years of tremendous success with the group earning a staggering six Grammy Awards together, LaRue is now venturing into the realm of the written word with her first book sharing insights on how to have maximum mental, physical, and spiritual health in your Senior Years. The book is filled with reflections on the wisdom and knowledge of her experiences, sharing style tips, life advice, and inspiring anecdotes on how to get the most out of the second half of life. Far from pessimistic, she embraces her seniority, sharing an empowering philosophy of excitement and freedom because of her age, rather than in spite of

it. The principles in these pages are based on the experience of Florence who continues to have a healthy life and a successful career at the age of 81. Filled with lessons learned over 58 years as a performer and lead singer in a pop group, the book encourages mature people to embrace their senior years rather than fear them. Young people can also benefit from beginning a life of good health at an early age so as to lead a more productive and fulfilling life. "I want my readers to take away from my book that there is a significant difference in getting old and growing old!" states LaRue. "With care and preparation, one can have a healthy and productive second part of one's life — still be productive and happy — and that it's never too late to start — and young people — start now!" LaRue dominated the Billboard charts with The 5th Dimension, earning a staggering six Grammy Awards together. Additionally, she pioneered a solo theatrical career met with critical acclaim for her one-woman show, "Just as I Am," and her lead role in the Canadian play "Mo Magic" and



Florence LaRue

extraordinary cabaret show "Musique A LaRue." Over the course of her award-winning career, she has earned 14 gold records and three platinum records, has sold over 35 million albums and received numerous other awards. When not performing and giving back to her community, LaRue enjoys spending as much time as possible with her family which includes six great-grandchildren. "Grace in Your Second Act" will appeal to readers of all ages who want to live a fulfilled, blessed, and happy life.



Grace in Your Second Act book cover



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Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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