



Philadelphia *Observer*

50 Cents

Speaking Truth to Justice

PhiladelphiaObserver.com

Vol. 30 • No. 36

September 7 - September 13, 2023

'STUNNINGLY STUPID!'

said retired CA Superior Ct Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell

**RACIST
BILLIONAIRE
TRUMP
EQUATES HIS
CASE TO
LANDMARK
SCOTTSBORO
BOYS**



US District Judge Tanya Chutkan said the cases are "profoundly different." There's no similarity between the Alabama events and Trump's case. "The trial will start three years, one month, and 27 days after the events of January 6, 2021." And she scheduled the trial for March, 2024, p3



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Georgia republicans seek action against DA Fani Willis in Trump indictment fallout

The controversy has ignited a fierce debate over the intersection of politics and the judiciary.

By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire)

Georgia's political landscape remains ablaze as Republicans in the state explore avenues to address District Attorney Fani Willis' recent indictment of former President Donald Trump and 18 other defendants. The controversy has ignited a fierce debate over the intersection of politics and the judiciary.

State Senate Majority Leader Steve Gooch, a prominent Republican figure, revealed to The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Senate GOP leaders are considering legislative hearings to examine whether Willis is exercising her authority for political gains. This move comes after her expansive racketeering indictment, which has shaken the foundations of Georgia's legal landscape and threatens to turn the 2024 presidential race on its head. Gooch emphasized that Senate Bill 92, a recently enacted law allowing a state panel to investigate and remove prosecutors found to be acting improperly, could serve as a potent tool for Trump's allies to scrutinize Willis's utilization of public resources.

"We believe she is definitely tainted," Gooch asserted. "She's politicizing this, and we want to make sure these people get a fair trial and a fair shake."

The Republican initiatives represent only a fraction of a broader effort by Trump's allies within Georgia and Congress to retaliate against Willis and other high-profile prosecutors handling Trump's ongoing criminal cases. The twice-impeached and four-

time indicted Trump faces 91 felony charges across four jurisdictions related to his 2020 loss to Joe Biden and his alleged mishandling of classified documents. Earlier this year, a civil jury found Trump responsible for sexually assaulting an author and journalist decades ago.

Well-known Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene has urged the House Judiciary Committee to investigate Willis' office's funding from federal sources and any potential coordination with White House officials. Greene has even floated the idea of a state-level inquiry into Willis's actions. Meanwhile, U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde, also from Georgia, is planning to leverage an upcoming appropriations bill to cut federal funding for Willis, Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, and federal special counsel Jack Smith, who have spearheaded the pending legal actions against Trump.

However, Gooch quickly acknowledged that there were limitations to the Republican efforts to reprimand Willis. He, along with other party leaders, condemned a petition by first-term Republican state Senator Colton Moore that aimed to force a special legislative session for the impeachment of the district attorney. Such an action would necessitate support from three-fifths of the legislature, including Democratic members.

"We want to make sure we calm down, we look at this stuff deliberately, and we do it in a mature way," Gooch explained, underscoring the need for a measured approach. He added that he has repeatedly engaged in discussions with Moore, urging him to refrain from derogatory remarks about fellow Republicans. "There's a lot of angry people in this state on both sides of this issue," Gooch told the newspaper. "But there's



still a majority of the Republican base who feel like there was fraud in the 2020 election, and they don't feel like it was completely vetted properly and investigated. And that's why a lot of these people are still upset today. They don't feel like they were heard. And I think Colton Moore resonates with those people, and they support what he's saying, but maybe not the way he's saying it and the way he's conducting himself in the chamber."

In contrast, Moore remains unwavering and unapologetic. He insists that his GOP colleagues should be incensed about the indictment of fellow Senator Shawn Still, who was among those charged in the Georgia indictment. Still maintains his innocence, asserting that he did nothing wrong when he served as a fraudulent GOP elector. "To hear that I need to tone it down when I'm encouraging my colleagues to do their legislative duty is absolutely ridiculous," Moore countered. "And

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Trump's use of Scottsboro Boys case comparison raises eyebrows, ire of judge

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan swiftly rejected the comparison and scheduled Trump's trial for March 2024, one day before Super Tuesday. The judge emphasized that the case's timeline did not reflect undue haste and pointed out Trump's access to a capable legal team and ample resources for a thorough defense.

By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire)

Former President Donald Trump, known for his gaslighting statements and actions to fuel the fire of racism, drew criticism from a federal judge for invoking the 1931 Scottsboro Boys case in a bid to delay his upcoming election interference trial. Trump's legal team cited the landmark Supreme Court decision related to the Scottsboro case, arguing that special counsel Jack Smith wasn't allowing sufficient time for trial preparation.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan swiftly rejected the comparison and scheduled Trump's trial for



March 2024, one day before Super Tuesday. The judge emphasized that the case's timeline did not reflect undue haste and pointed out Trump's access to a capable legal team and ample resources

for a thorough defense. Trump currently faces four charges in the election interference case, including conspiring

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Heroic intervention thwarts potential tragedy: gunman foiled in attempt to target Ambridge Black church

This incident serves as a grim reminder of America's deeply rooted history of racism and the ongoing racially charged attacks against African Americans, even within the confines of their places of worship.

By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire)

In the small Ambridge, Pa., community, a quick-thinking witness and swift police response prevented a potential massacre at Greater Dominion Church on Sunday morning, Aug. 27.

Jeffrey Harris, a 38-year-old white man, now faces a litany of charges, including aggravated assault and making terroristic threats, after attempting to enter the predominantly Black church with murderous intent.

The ordeal unfolded just after 9 a.m. on a quiet Sunday morning when multiple concerned citizens called 911 to report a man clad in a camouflage vest brandishing a long gun and menacingly targeting two women outside the church at 4th Street and Melrose Avenue. According to a criminal complaint, the eyewitnesses watched in terror as Harris threatened the women, all while attempting to gain access to the church.

The frantic 911 calls immediately alerted Beaver County Regional Police to Harris's presence on the 300 block of Merchant Street, and they promptly informed Ambridge police. As an officer approached the suspect, Harris menacingly pointed his weapon.

Bishop Kenneth Crumb of Greater Dominion Church later spoke to WTAE, revealing the chilling possibility that Harris might have succeeded in entering the church had he arrived just one hour later for his Sunday service. "There is a whole lot of mass murders going on, there are shootings," Crumb emphasized, "particularly in the African American community, people targeting our communities." He added that this incident serves as a grim reminder of America's deeply rooted history of racism and the ongoing racially charged attacks against African Americans, even within the confines of their places of worship.

The horrifying episode at Great-

er Dominion Church evokes memories of a painful past, with the killing of nine people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, just one of many attacks targeting predominantly Black churches in the United States. Tragically, several past cases involved the burning of churches by Ku Klux Klan members, highlighting the persistence of racial hatred in some parts of the country.

Among these horrific incidents was the burning of the Macedonia Church of God in Christ in Springfield, Massachusetts, shortly after the election of President Obama in November 2008. In Knoxville, Tennessee, in January 1996, a fire destroyed the Inner-City Baptist Church, which had racial slurs painted on its walls. Similarly, in February 1996, a group of churches within a six-mile radius in Louisiana were set ablaze on the anniversary of the sit-in in Greensboro, North Carolina.

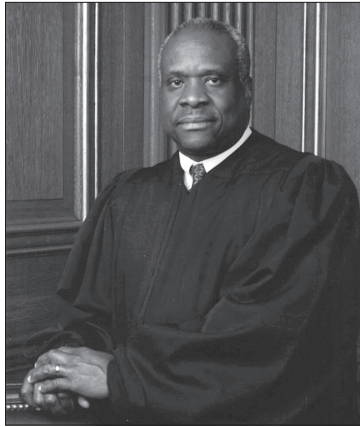
On June 21, 1995, four former Ku Klux Klan members set the Macedonia Baptist Church on fire in Manning, South Carolina. The fire was one of many that plagued predominantly Black churches across the South during that period, and Macedonia Baptist was awarded \$37.8 million in a decision against the Klan. A jury believed that the Klan's rhetoric had motivated the men to commit this heinous act.

This week, U.S. Rep. Chris Deluzio, D-Pa., wrote to the Department of Justice, asking for a federal investigation into the event to see whether Harris had violated any civil rights laws and, if it was determined he committed federal crimes, to pursue him to the maximum degree possible, according to a press release. "With hate crimes on the rise across the country, including against Black Americans, it is understandable that any community would be concerned by an armed individual terrorizing a place of worship," Deluzio wrote to the federal authorities. "A community not too far away from the massacre at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, the Greater Dominion congregation knows too well the harm that an armed individual filled with hate can do."

Clarence Thomas finally discloses Harlan Crow financed trips

In 2022, Crow facilitated several trips for Thomas, including a May visit to a conservative conference in Dallas. Thomas was a featured speaker at an event held at a venue owned by Crow's real estate firm. Crow also arranged for Thomas' return flight from Dallas in February after an unexpected icy storm disrupted travel.

By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire)



Thomas justified Crow's gifts as "personal hospitality," a classification that did not require disclosure under the previous regulations. His recent report elaborated on this viewpoint in a section detailing his methodology. Additionally, the report addressed Crow's acquisition of Thomas' family-owned real estate in Savannah, a transaction that ProPublica initially revealed. According to reports, Crow reportedly acquired several properties, including sites on the same street, for \$133,000. In one of the homes, Thomas' mother resided. The report clarified that Thomas's loss on the transaction resulted from his prior investment of up to \$75,000 in his mother's property. As a financial setback, Thomas said he had neglected to report the sale.

Conservative Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas has acknowledged previously undisclosed travel expenses paid for by billionaire associate Harlan Crow. Thomas's most recent annual financial disclosure report on Thursday included this information.

In 2022, Crow facilitated several trips for Thomas, including a May visit to a conservative conference in Dallas. Thomas was a featured speaker at an event held at a venue owned by Crow's real estate firm. Crow also arranged for Thomas' return flight from Dallas in February after an unexpected icy storm disrupted travel.

The report also mentions a vacation to the Adirondacks in New York State in July 2022, which Crow again funded.

Thomas said he used a private jet for his trip because of security concerns caused by the leaked draft opinion on the Roe v. Wade case. Attorney Elliot Berke, who helped with the report, said that after carefully reviewing Thomas' records, they found no intentional ethical violations. Any mistakes in previous reports were accidental.

The context for this disclosure was a series of criticisms aimed at Supreme Court justices for alleged ethical violations, deriving from a ProPublica exposé detailing Thomas' acceptance of luxurious trips from Crow, a prominent Republican donor. In Thomas' previous financial reports, these visits were not disclosed.

Before the first ProPublica article about Thomas, officials changed the disclosure regulations in March. The changes require disclosing private aircraft travel and staying at privately owned resorts. The U.S. Judicial Conference, the judiciary's policymaking body, is responsible for oversight of judicial ethics.

Justice Thomas and his conservative colleague, Justice Samuel Alito, asserted they utilized a legally permissible postponement to submit their annual reports. The reports, typically due in May and released the following month, were delayed.

Alito's report included information about travels financed by Duke Law School and Notre Dame Law School, with the latter involving a stay in Rome, Italy.

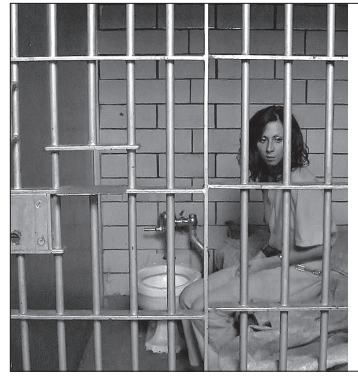
The remaining seven justices upheld the standard practice of submitting their annual financial disclosures, which included their income, assets, gifts, and stock holdings. Justices may request an extension of up to 90 days to meet this requirement.

In response to these revelations, Democratic members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have urged the Supreme Court to implement new ethical guidelines.

Dems introduce bill to eradicate solitary confinement, highlighting racial disparities

The proposed legislation does not merely seek to banish this punitive practice; it also aims to institute vital due process safeguards for individuals where solitary confinement is the sole recourse.

By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire)



A group of House Democrats is spearheading legislative efforts to dismantle the practice of solitary confinement, a punitive measure that disproportionately affects Black and brown inmates within the American penal system.

Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri, a passionate advocate for criminal justice reform, leads this critical initiative. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, Sydney Kamlager-Dove of California, and Jamaal Bowman of New York are among Bush's colleagues joining the effort. Together, they have introduced groundbreaking legislation to abolish solitary confinement within federal prisons and jails, effectively addressing a glaring issue within the nation's correctional system.

The proposed legislation does not merely seek to banish this punitive practice; it also aims to institute vital

due process safeguards for individuals where solitary confinement is the sole recourse. Further, the bill offers incentives to states, encouraging them to adopt similar legislation at the local level, fostering a more equitable and humane justice system.

Bush minced no words in denouncing the practice of isolating incarcerated individuals, referring to it as a "moral catastrophe." She underscored the gravity of the situation, citing United Nations experts who have characterized solitary confinement as psychological torture. "This practice is traumatic for people subjected to it, harmful to communities, and alarmingly, it disproportionately impacts Black

and brown individuals, young people, LGBTQ+ members, and other marginalized communities," Bush passionately asserted.

Rep. Bowman echoed Bush's sentiments, declaring that such a method of imprisonment has no place in the United States. He emphasized the stark reality that harsh practices like solitary confinement directly target marginalized groups, particularly people of color. "We must put an end to this cruel and traumatic form of punishment for the well-being of all," Bowman insisted.

Rep. Kamlager-Dove expressed her profound disapproval of solitary confinement, likening it to a grave human rights violation that would be condemned in any other context or country. She also emphasized the necessity of treating incarcerated individuals as human beings, mainly if the goal is rehabilitation and significantly reducing recidivism rates.

"If we aspire for those within the penal system to emerge rehabilitated and less likely to re-offend, we must prioritize treating them as individuals deserving of dignity and respect," Kamlager-Dove stated.

New color of hate speech: Vivek Ramaswamy's controversial remarks draw condemnation from Congressional Black Caucus

CBC Chair Steven Horsford of Nevada said Ramaswamy's words are not merely the ramblings of a deeply unserious person but count as "part of a dark and calculated attempt to obfuscate the truth about racism in America."

By Stacy M. Brown
(NNPA Newswire)

The Congressional Black Caucus has denounced Republican presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy for his repeated racist remarks that have furthered the racial divide and exposed even more hate in America's political landscape. Though born in Cincinnati, Ohio, Ramaswamy is the child of Indian Hindu immigrant parents, which has left many questioning his controversial statements' true intentions and motives as he seeks an unlikely bid for the GOP nomination.

Ramaswamy's non-European American heritage and immigrant background certainly add a layer of perplexity to his alignment with certain extremist elements within the Republican base, reminding African Americans that true allies remain hard to come by. The candidate's recent town hall event in Pella, Iowa, garnered significant attention for his declaration that "our diversity is not our strength." Such a statement flies in the face of how Ramaswamy and the extreme right in his party have worked against calls for unity and inclusivity nationwide.

During the town hall, Ra-

maswamy made another alarming comparison, likening a Black congresswoman to the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. Ramaswamy, who has derided former Vice President Mike Pence for not helping Donald Trump illegally overturn the 2020 presidential election, compared Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) to the Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan. He also compared the existence of white supremacy in the United States to that of unicorns.

"I'm sure the boogeyman white supremacist exists somewhere in America. I've just never met him," Ramaswamy stated. "Never seen one, never met one in my life, right? Maybe I'll meet a unicorn sooner. And maybe those exist, too." Within 24 hours, a racist white gunman shot and killed three African Americans at a Dollar General in Jacksonville, Florida. Indeed, Ramaswamy's provocative analogy, which is deeply offensive and historically charged, raised questions about his understanding of racial dynamics and his willingness to engage in divisive rhetoric.

"[The shooter] targeted a certain group of people, and that's Black people," Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters stated in a news conference. "That's what he said he wanted to kill. And that's very clear. And I don't know that the targets were specific, but I know that any member of that race at that time was in danger. Of the Black race." Ramaswamy also defended comparing Pressley, who is Black, and author, Ibram Kendi to the leaders of the Ku Klux Klan.



In 2019, Pressley remarked, "We don't need any more brown faces that don't want to be a brown voice" and "we don't need any more Black faces that don't want to be a Black voice." She explained that she attempted to express a desire for leaders to use their lived experiences to inform their decisions and policies and not ignore the realities of race. However, Ramaswamy argued that Pressley was the modern version of the grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, an organization that terrorized, lynched, and killed Black Americans for decades.

"I stand by what I said to provoke an open and honest discussion in this country," Ramaswamy said, doubling down. "Many

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New color of hate speech: Vivek Ramaswamy's controversial remarks draw condemnation from Congressional Black Caucus

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Americans today are deeply frustrated by the new culture of anti-racism that's really racism in new clothing, and we need to have that debate in the open." Commentators like Washington Post columnist Philip Bump have noted that Ramaswamy's discourse encapsulates a distilled form of Republican race rhetoric. For example, Bump noted that when Ramaswamy announced his candidacy earlier this year, he invoked Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech during the March on Washington in 1963.

"That was the speech where he said, 'I hope my four children grow up in a country where they are judged not on the color of their

skin, but on the content of their character,'" Ramaswamy declared his candidacy in a video. "That dream stuck with me. It meant something to me."

In that video, and since then, Bump noted how Ramaswamy explained what that quote meant to him. "In keeping with an inordinate amount of Republican rhetoric in recent years, the candidate sees King's words not in the broader context of his full speech or the historic moment in which it was given but as a sort of Uno-reverse for the race card: that any recognition of racial disparities is at odds with King's vision," Bump wrote.

Ramaswamy seems to selectively interpret King's words, using them as a shield against acknowledging the persistent racial

disparities in the nation despite evoking his legacy and his vision of a world where character rather than skin color is the determining factor. His assertion that "reverse racism is racism" echoes sentiments that have resonated within segments of the Republican Party in recent years. The notion, a cornerstone of Trump's appeal, positions white individuals as victims of discrimination, often sidelining the historical context of systemic racism faced by Black and Hispanic Americans.

Such statements continue to raise alarm bells about the candidate's commitment to addressing issues of racial injustice. "Vivek Ramaswamy's comments against Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley do not provoke 'open and honest

discussion' on race in America. Rather they reveal the depths of his own dishonesty," members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) wrote in a statement on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

CBC Chair Steven Horsford of Nevada said Ramaswamy's words are not merely the ramblings of a deeply unserious person but count as "part of a dark and calculated attempt to obfuscate the truth about racism in America." He asserted that most reasonable-minded Americans understand that the Ku Klux Klan was, and is today, a group that wishes to reestablish white supremacy through intimidation and violence.

"We tragically saw the consequence of that ideology a few days ago in Jacksonville, Florida,"

Horsford noted. "This sort of bad faith comparison about a member of the House who frequently uses their platform to stand against hate and violence is not only an insult to the plight of Black Americans, but to all Americans of moral integrity. Vivek Ramaswamy understands that there is an appetite for racism and bigotry within the base of the extreme MAGA Republican party and he is opting to shamelessly carry the water of white supremacy for his own political gain.

"The Republican Party cannot be silent. If this does not speak to their values, leaders within the Party have an obligation to say so. This rhetoric is beyond dangerous and deserves nothing short of full condemnation."

I asked what kind of family

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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Editorial - Opinion

Labor Day 2023: We've celebrated the union difference and we're building tomorrow's public service workforce



By Lee Saunders
(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

As we celebrated Labor Day, it was an exciting time as any in recent memory to be a part of a union. Working people are seeing what the union difference is all about, and they want to be a part of it.

Unions are overwhelmingly popular as the newest Gallup poll on attitudes toward labor unions shows.

Across the country, there is a bold surge of worker activism, as more people raise their voice on the job and claim their seat at the table. Workers are organizing with renewed vigor and winning some of our best contracts in decades. In the cultural sector, for example, 6,000 workers at museums, libraries, zoos and other cultural institutions have joined AFSCME since 2019. Municipal workers in New Orleans – a part of the country that hasn't historically been labor-friendly – won collective bargaining rights this summer.

In city after city, we are seeing that same energy and enthusiasm during local job fairs that AFSCME is sponsoring as part of "Staff the Front Lines" – our new initiative to recruit qualified people for vacancies in public service. Job seekers are flocking to these hiring events in droves – nearly 200 people

showed up in Philadelphia on a recent Monday afternoon.

They have heard our message that public service jobs are good jobs that can support a family and provide a career path. These are very often union jobs that come with strong protections, plus a unique sense of solidarity and fellowship with your co-workers. You get excellent benefits, including a pension so you can one day retire with dignity. These are also jobs with a purpose that allow you to make a difference in the lives of your neighbors.

Our strategy is working. After a huge drop in public sector employment during the pandemic, we are seeing a bounce back, especially in places where we enjoy strong partnerships with employers. Those best-in-decades contracts we're negotiating are helping retain valued public service workers. And many employers are making steady progress bringing in new people who want to do work that strengthens their communities,

while enjoying the rights and freedoms of union membership. Nationwide, July was the 16th consecutive month of growth in state and local government jobs, with a total of 315,000 added since the beginning of this year.

But there are still many positions to fill, and so we are casting a wide net. In many places, we are doing grassroots outreach to young people, to communities of color and to populations that are underrepresented in these jobs. That means, for example, working with faith leaders, asking them to spread the word in their churches and mosques that public service employers are looking for new talent – for nurses, corrections officers, sanitation workers, school bus drivers and more. We will do what it takes, because it's critical that the public service workforce look like our communities.

Diversity in the public service has a rich history. Jobs in state and local government have been an economic lifeline for generations

of Black people, especially when other doors of opportunity were slammed shut. This is my family's story, so this is personal for me. My father drove a city bus in Cleveland, Ohio – a good union job that gave us some modest security and stability. We weren't living on Easy Street for sure, but there was food on the table for dinner and a roof over my head at night.

We want to give more people of all races that chance – the chance to be one of the everyday heroes of public service, the chance to be a part of something bigger than yourself by joining a union.

This Labor Day, we honored the sacrifice of all working people. And we affirmed that life is better in a union. In the months and years to come, through "Staff the Front Lines" and other campaigns, we will keep fighting to help more people discover the union difference.

Lee Saunders is president, American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees

Trump's use of Scottsboro Boys case comparison raises eyebrows, ire of judge

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to defraud the United States and obstructing an official proceeding—charges previously filed against those involved in the January 6, 2021, Capitol breach. He has pleaded not guilty. The 2024 GOP presidential frontrunner currently faces 91 felony charges in four jurisdictions – New York, Washington, Florida, and Georgia – most related to related to his loss to Joe Biden in 2020. If convicted on all counts, Trump could receive a more than 800-year prison sentence. Due to the complexity of the election interference case in Washington, John Lauro, Trump's attorney, expressed concern that the trial date would compromise the former president's right to effective legal counsel.

But Chutkan scolded the lawyers, and the twice impeached, four-times indicted Trump, whom earlier this year a civil jury found liable for sexual assault. She cited the Supreme Court's Scottsboro Boys ruling at the time, saying, "The court noted that a sizable crowd greeted the defendants at Scottsboro after their arrest and that the community's attitude was one of great hostility. The defendants' trials began six days after indictment. The Supreme Court found that there was a clear denial of due process because the trial court failed to give the defendants reasonable time and opportunity to secure counsel, and the defendants were incapable of adequately making their own defense."

Chutkan continued: "Trump is represented by a team of zealous, experienced attorneys and has the resources necessary to efficiently review the discovery and investigate. I have seen many cases unduly delayed because a defendant lacks adequate representation or cannot properly review discovery because they are detained. That is not the case here."

The Scottsboro Boys rape cases represent the dark racist part of American history where nine Black youths were falsely accused of raping two white women in 1931 while traveling on a train near Scottsboro, Alabama. The accusations led to trials with all-white juries. Clarence Norris, Charlie Weems, Haywood Patterson, Olen Montgomery, Ozie

Powell, Willie Roberson, Eugene Williams, and Andy Wright were all tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. Another defendant, Roy Wright, saw his trial end in a mistrial when some jurors held out for a death sentence even though the prosecution asked for life imprisonment. Over the years, appeals and retrials took place, eventually leading to the 1932 Supreme Court ruling in *Powell v. Alabama*, which stressed the importance of granting defendants sufficient time for legal counsel and trial preparation. This ruling and the 1935 Supreme Court case *Norris v. Alabama* played a crucial role in advancing the cause of racially diverse juries.

Alabama eventually dropped

rape charges against five of the Scottsboro Boys, and Norris, one of the accused, received a posthumous pardon from Gov. George Wallace in 1976. In 2013, the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles issued posthumous pardons to the three Scottsboro Boys who had not previously received or had their convictions overturned.

"It was stunningly stupid," retired California Superior Court Judge LaDoris Hazzard Cordell told CNN of Trump invoking the Scottsboro Boys case. "Because one, the comparison is ridiculous. But second, if you want to alienate a judge in the case, this was exactly what to do. A female judge, a Black judge, and to talk about that case and compare it to Trump's case was absurd."

Georgia republicans seek action against DA Fani Willis in Trump indictment fallout

From page 3

I hope the people of Georgia see what's going on."

In a recent appearance on Steve Bannon's podcast, Moore issued a stark warning about the potential consequences if Willis's prosecution is not defunded. "I don't want a civil war. I don't want

to have to draw my rifle. I want to make this problem go away with my legislative means of doing so," Moore stressed.

Willis, a Democrat, made history as Fulton County's first female District Attorney and assumed office following a landslide victory over six-term incumbent Paul Howard. She has

pledged the restoration of integrity to the district attorney's office while addressing a backlog of cases. Willis's career has seen her transition from the private sector to the role of assistant district attorney for Fulton County in 2001. She gained widespread recognition as a lead prosecutor in the Atlanta Public Schools cheating

scandal, securing convictions in a case that dated back to 2001, resulting in elevated statewide test scores.

In 2018, Willis worked in private practice specializing in criminal defense and family law, focusing on representing fathers in child custody and support battles. Her election

campaign against Howard came when he faced misconduct allegations, including financial mismanagement and sexual harassment. Despite initial reluctance, Willis's friends said she embraced the challenge, "motivated by her conviction that it was a call from a higher power."

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Hiroshima's African connection

(GIN) -

August marks the anniversary of the first use of an atomic bomb, developed in the U.S. and dropped on a Japanese city to deadly effect.

Little is known, however, of the African connection to this deadly weapon – namely the use of uranium in making the bomb and subsequent atomic weapons – all of the mineral sourced from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

To develop the weapon, the U.S. started The Manhattan Project in 1939, stationed in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and headed by the American physicist, J. Robert Oppenheimer.

A large amount of uranium used in making the first atomic weaponry was sourced from the Shinkolobwe mine in the Katanga province of the DRC. First discovered in 1915 and under Belgian colonial rule, the mine was manned by Congolese laborers to produce uranium for the U.S.

These laborers worked under secret contracts and low wages for the United States national security. To prevent information from leaking, Shinkolobwe was erased from maps and the then Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill, referred to the uranium as an 'indispensable raw material for the project'.

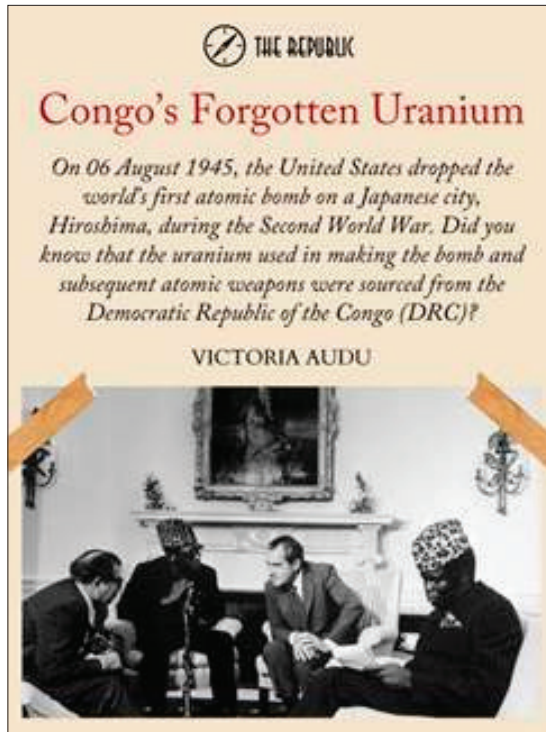
Misinformation was also spread to make it appear that they were sourced from Canada, whose ores yielded 0.03 per cent uranium while Congolese ores yielded 65 per cent uranium.

The Shinkolobwe mine in the Katanga province of the Belgian Congo provided two-thirds of the Manhattan Project's uranium from an extraordinarily rich pitchblende deposit averaging more than 2 percent uranium content.

"The word Shinkolobwe fills me with grief and sorrow," says Susan Williams, a historian at the UK Institute of Commonwealth Studies. "It's not a happy word, it's one I associate with terrible grief and suffering."

Few people know what, or even where, Shinkolobwe is. But this small mine in the southern province of Katanga, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), played a part in one of the most violent and devastating events in history.

This month, more than 7,500 miles away, bells



tolled across Hiroshima, Japan, to mark 75 years since the atomic bomb fell on the city. Thousands of lanterns carrying messages of peace will be set afloat on the Motoyasu River. Three days later, similar commemorations were held in Nagasaki.

No such ceremony will take place in the DRC. Yet both nations are inextricably linked by the atomic bomb, the effects of which are still being felt to this day.

"When we talk about the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombing, we never talk about Shinkolobwe," says Isaiah Mombilo, chair of the Congolese Civil Society of South Africa. "Part of the second world war has been forgotten and lost."

Ultimately, the Congolese mine furnished nearly two-thirds of the uranium used for the bomb (nicknamed "Little Boy") dropped on Hiroshima, and it also contributed to the production of much of the plutonium used in the bomb ("Fat Man") dropped on Nagasaki three days later.

U.S. extends protected status as Sudanese crisis worsens

(GIN) -

In a long-awaited acknowledgment of the worsening crisis in Sudan, the United States has extended its temporary protected status to Sudanese nationals for 18 months – from Oct. 20, 2023 through April 19, 2025.

Officials of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security cited Sudan's "extraordinary and temporary conditions in Sudan that prevent individuals from safely returning to their country." They also cited an "eruption of violent clashes ... the killing of hundreds has triggered political instability, violence, and human rights abuses against civilians."

Further, food and clean water shortages; intercommunal violence; and internal displacement is ongoing. Recent fighting has resulted in tens of thousands of persons fleeing from their homes to neighboring cities and countries. These conditions currently prevent Sudanese nationals and habitual residents from safely returning.

"Since the military takeover of its government and the recent violent clashes, Sudan has experienced political instability and ongoing conflict that has resulted in a humanitarian crisis," said Secretary Alejandro N.

Mayorkas. "Under this visa extension and redesignation, we will continue to offer safety and protection to Sudanese nationals until conditions in their home country improve."

The extension allows approximately 1,200 current beneficiaries to stay in the U.S. through April 19, 2025, if they continue to meet TPS eligibility requirements. An estimated 2,750 additional individuals may also now be eligible for TPS. This population includes nationals of Sudan residing in the United States in nonimmigrant status or without lawful immigration status.

Extensive fighting in the area risks returning Darfur to the bloody attacks of the early 2000s when "Janjaweed" militias—from which the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) was formed—helped the army crush a rebellion by mainly non-Arab groups.

Some 300,000 people were killed, the UN estimates, and Sudanese leaders are wanted by the International Criminal Court for genocide and crimes against humanity.

The UN's special representative to Sudan, Volker Perthes, warned in July that the conflict showed no signs of a quick resolution and "risked morphing into an ethnicized civil war."



Diplomatic mediation efforts has so far failed and ceasefires have been used by both sides to regroup.

A release this week from the U.N. read: "Ahead of World Humanitarian Day on August 19, we mourn the loss of our beloved colleagues, call for perpetrators of attacks on aid workers and assistance to be held accountable, and once again remind parties to the conflict that humanitarians and the aid they deliver should never be a target."

"The deaths of three World Food Program employees are yet another sign that Sudan is being pulled back into one of the grimmest chapters in its history," said Eddie Rowe, U.N. relief coordinator. "Not since the height of the Darfur conflict between 2003 and 2006 has Sudan seen so many fatal attacks on aid workers."

Humanitarian facilities have also been repeatedly attacked, with at least 53 warehouses looted, 87 offices ransacked, and 208 vehicles stolen as of August 13.

Tel Aviv riots upend Eritrea's historic ties to the Jewish community

(GIN) -

Violent clashes in Tel Aviv over the weekend between supporters and opponents of the Eritrean regime of Isaias Afwerki threaten to break ties between Jews and Eritreans dating back to the 19th century.

Some 170 people were injured in clashes with police and in-fighting between groups of supporters and opponents of the Eritrean regime.

About 25,000 African migrants live in Israel, mainly from Sudan and Eritrea, who say they fled conflict or repression. Israel recognizes very few as asylum seekers, seeing them overwhelmingly as economic migrants, and says it has no legal obligation to keep them.

The melee was the latest violence to break out at global festivals marking 30 years of Eritrean independence but which have sparked fury among the opponents of longtime Eritrean President Afwerki, one of the most repressive leaders in the world.

Clashes have also flared at recent Eritrean events across Europe and North America. Government critics have sought to use the celebrations as a way to draw attention to the human rights abuses carried out under Afwerki.

In Canada last month, at least two state-sponsored Eritrean festivals were canceled in Toronto and Edmonton after violence broke out among protesters and government supporters.

Activists criticize the events as propaganda for the government, which rights groups call a "one-man dictatorship." Eritrea has "no legislature, no independent civil society organizations or media outlets, and no independent judiciary," Human Rights Watch wrote in its annual report this year.

In Israel, Eritrean activists said they warned police that there could be violence Saturday and requested that the event be can-

celed. "We said there would be violence," an Eritrean resident told Haaretz newspaper. "They didn't listen to us."

About 18,000 Eritreans live in Israel, according to government figures. They are some of the tens of thousands who have fled Eritrea in recent years, escaping repression that includes forced labor and the possibility of lifelong military conscription.

Eritreans typically fled to Israel across the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, where they were often ensnared in human trafficking networks and forced to pay ransoms for their release, according to rights groups. Israel built a fence along its border with Egypt in 2010, effectively cutting off the flow of African refugees and asylum seekers, mainly coming from Eritrea and Sudan.

Once in Israel, Eritreans and other Africans have no pathway to asylum. Instead, the state classifies those who enter illegally as "infiltrators," subjecting them to restrictions that limit where they can live and work.

The Israeli government has also offered to pay African migrants to leave the country or face prison time if they are caught.

After the recent clashes, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said "a red line" had been crossed. He ordered a new plan to remove all African migrants that he described as "illegal infiltrators."

Jews first settled in Eritrea in the late 19th century, emigrating from Yemen. Many Jews came to the country in search of economic and commercial opportunities. In 1905, the Asmara Hebrew Congregation was formed.

During the 1930s, many Jews arrived in Eritrea fleeing Nazi persecution in Europe.

Under international law, Israel cannot forcibly send migrants back to a country where their life or liberty may be at risk. w/pix of Eritrean facing arrest



Thousands gather at Lincoln Memorial for 60th Anniversary March on Washington

By Hamil R. Harris

Martin Luther King III speaks as his wife, Andrea Waters King, and daughter, Yolanda King, prepare to march alongside him.

Rev. Al Sharpton gives the last speech before leading the march from the Lincoln Memorial to the King Memorial. PHOTO: Roy Lewis/Trice Edney News Wire

March on Washington 2023. PHOTO: Roy Lewis/Trice Edney News Wire

Sixty years after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood at Lincoln Memorial and offered his dream for a racially diverse America, his 15-year-old granddaughter, Yolanda Renee King, said her generation is ready to carry MLK's unfinished legacy in new ways.

While the size of the crowd on Saturday was a fraction of the 250,000 people who gathered in Washington on August 28, 1963, the gathering was more diverse and those who spoke said racial and economic challenges were more daunting than ever before.

"If I could speak to my grandfather today, I would say I'm sorry we still have to be here to rededicate ourselves to finishing your work and ultimately realizing your dream," she said. "Today, racism is still with us. Poverty is still with us. And now, gun violence has come for places of worship, our schools, and our shopping centers."

Miss King's speech came before her father, Martin Luther King III, and Rev. Al Sharpton spoke. They, along with her mother Andrea Waters King, organized the event that brought thousands to the nation's capital to essentially continue the 1963 fight for freedom, justice and equality.

Martin Luther King III said, "I'm very concerned about the direction our country is going in. And it is because instead of moving forward, it feels as if we're moving back. The question is, what are we going to do?"

In his speech, Sharpton said it is time to push back against racial and social injustices at a time when conservatives are fighting more than ever to turn back the clock.

"Sixty years ago Martin Luther King talked about a dream. Sixty years later we're the dreamers. The problem is we're facing the schemers," Sharpton said. "The dreamers are fighting for



voting rights. The schemers are changing voter regulations in states. The dreamers are standing up for women's right to choose. The schemers are arguing whether they are going to make you stop at six weeks or 15 weeks...They are trying to tell gays to go back in the closet but we are not going back in the closet," said Sharpton. "We are going to stand up for who we

are and where we are and what we are and we are going to make changes. They are not going to turn back the clock."

Like at the August 28th, 1963 March on Washington, busloads of people rolled into DC from Detroit, Cleveland, and Atlanta while others drove in or flew in from cities across the country.

Dr. Ben Chavis, President and CEO of the National Newspaper

Publishers Association didn't speak at the March but had a special moment when he ran into Larry Hirsh, a Jewish man who recognized him.

"We were here 60 years ago and we were both 15," Chavis said. "As I reflect on the last 60 years there is a tendency to underestimate the progress we have made," Chavis said. We still have problems, racism is still alive, an-

tisemitism is still alive and hatred is still alive however we have made significant progress."

In her speech, young Yolanda King challenged veterans of the movement.

"All my life we have worried about environmental Justice for communities of color and under-resourced people but this summer we will be worried about global boiling," she said. "We need to do more than to end racism on our planet, we need to do more than to end poverty on our planet, we need to save our planet."

On Sunday, Rev. Sharpton told students at Howard University's Rankin Chapel that African-Americans have come far since the 1963 March on Washington but often they can't believe what is being said about people of color.

Sharpton, who quoted from the 13th chapter of Numbers in the Old Testament, said the problem with the children of Israel was not the size of their enemies but they were reading a bad report.

"And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, who come of the giants. And we were in our sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight," he quoted Numbers 13:33.

"The problem we had in America is that we were getting a bad report, we had a grasshopper complex," Sharpton said. "Sixty years ago we came to Washington in the back of the bus because they couldn't ride in the front, they came with paper bags because they couldn't stop in the road to eat in a restaurant. It was against the law. They had to go into the woods to relax and release their bodies because they couldn't use the toilet."

Sharpton said after the March he learned about the fatal shooting of three Blacks by a white man with an AK-47 at a Family Dollar in Jacksonville Florida.

"This shooting was racially motivated, and he hated Black people," Jacksonville Sheriff T.K. Waters told reporters at a press conference. Reports say that the assailant attempted to enter Edward Waters College, an HBCU, but was turned away.

"Before we could rest, hate jumped back up again to remind us," said Sharpton who reminded the students that despite the oppression African Americans have endured there were "some folks who didn't have a grasshopper complex."

Sharpton's message was preceded by musical selection by the student choir that included one of Martin Luther King's favorite songs: "If I Could Help Somebody. Then my living shall not be in vain."

Sharpton reminded the students that their parents, and grandparents sacrificed so they could come to Howard, which just completed its first week of classes. "Don't forget that people paid a price for you."

Sharpton reminded the students that in their lifetime, "We have elected the first Black President, one of your alumni is the Vice President, and if you have faith over few things you can be rulers over much."



On the scene

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Dave Rodney displays Ardenne Alumni Award

Dave Rodney among six inducted into Hall of Fame

Posted By Don Thomas

Dave Rodney, a marketing specialist was among six Ardenne High School past students who were recently inducted into the Ardenne Alumni Association Hall of Fame in Kingston, Jamaica. The induction gala for the distinguished achievement award took place at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston and it was part of the Ardenne High School Homecoming celebrations that brought together hundreds of past students from all over the world.

Rodney was hailed for his outstanding efforts to promote the cultural elements of Jamaica and other Caribbean destinations on media platforms, including network television. He has been a passionate promoter of tourism resorts and destinations, reggae music, cuisine, art and diaspora consumer products.

Dave generated the first dancehall signing to Atlantic Records and he started a reggae radio show in French for the Canadian market in

Montreal that was syndicated to eleven Quebec markets. He is also an author and has played a lead role in a number of high profile travel generating events such as Motown's Soul by the Sea, MTV Spring Break, Hot 97 Hot Nights and the HBO Sinbad Soul Music Festival. Rodney regularly orchestrates travel sections for Jamaica with the New York Daily News and he's part of the marketing team for New York's premier reggae event, Groovin in the Park.

A citation read by Florence Holness Darby, chairman of the Ardenne Alumni Foundation under the signature of Paul Barnett, chairman of the selection committee read in part, " Dave has an enduring passion for Ardenne High School, and his frequent visits to the school and the many articles written in newspapers and on social media about Ardenne's accomplishments have added to the amplification of the school's positive image and brand".

Among those celebrating with Rodney were his sister Lorna

Rodney Suite, Canadian Olympian Brendon Rodney, Broadcaster Fae Ellington, Dawn Neufville, niece and educator, Marsha Jones, a Brooklyn-based educator and friend, childhood friend Patricia Spence and Clive Blackwood, Ardenne past student and executive vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Other inductees included Gloria Wallen, Jennings Gordon, Philbert Solomon, Howard Mahoney, Glen Davidson, Denzil Davis and Alok Jain. Funds were raised at the event to move forward with the construction of the Ardenne Wellness Center to be constructed on the school's campus on Ardenne Road in Kingston.

Also in attendance were School Principal Nadine Molloy, former Principal Esther Tyson, Jermaine Heslop, president of the Ardenne Alumni Association, Vilma McDonald, event executive producer, Dr. Henley Morgan, social activist and Ardenne hall of famer, and alumni chapter presidents from Florida, Toronto, Atlanta and New York.

Kool Kids Foundation presents grants to music education

Posted By Don Thomas

Robert "Kool" Bell, co-founder/leader of Grammy legends Kool & the Gang, presented grants to two organizations on behalf of the Kool Kids Foundation – the Bell family non-profit founded by the late Sakinah Bell (Bell's wife) to help support music education for youth. The event took place Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023, at the offices of the Kool Kids Foundation in Montclair, New Jersey.

The Glenfield PTA (a non-profit supporting music education in the Montclair Public Schools) and the Malcolm X Shabazz High School Marching Band will each receive a grant from the Kool Kids Foundation. The honorariums being the result of proceeds raised during the Foundation's Celebrity Golf Tournament Fundraiser, held on July 11th, 2023.

"The Kool Kids Foundation is Instrumentally helping children in music education to find their rhythm and melody in life so we can all live in harmony. It's what my wife Sakinah wanted – to support music education for kids in schools that may not have the budgetary means to even purchase instruments," said Kool. The Foundation is currently headed by along with his sons, Hakim (President) and Muhammad (Vice President).



Robert Kool Bell and Sakmah Bell

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How's Wendy Doing?

Wendy Williams opens secret bank account

By RadarOnline.Com

Wendy Williams 59, former TV gabber is allegedly trying to do an end run around her bank by reportedly opening a secret account — but she doesn't know how to use it, RadarOnline.com has learned. She sued Wells Fargo demanding they provide her access to her accounts. MEGA.

"Wendy has secretly opened up a new bank account to divert any money she makes moving forward away from Wells Fargo, where they froze her accounts when her financial adviser told them she was of 'unsound mind,'" a source told The National Enquirer.

The insider also added that Williams is allegedly trying to sell off her personal stuff to friends, "but she doesn't know her account number and refuses to accept checks. It's a mess!" RadarOnline.com has reached out to Williams' rep for comment.

This wouldn't be the first time the embattled star tried to offload her personal goods after The Wendy Williams Show ended in June 2022. In March of this year, Williams was trying to sell several items from her \$3 million New York penthouse, including the show's iconic purple "Hot Topics" chair.

"Wendy is getting rid of items for spring cleaning, this is what people do this time of year," her rep at the time stated. "It's a new chapter for Wendy and she wants new things. This is a common gesture people do and Wendy is no different." Wells Fargo told the judge it wanted a guardian to be appointed to take control of her account. MEGA.

Williams' decision to "spring

cleaning" came weeks after she was spotted bar hopping following her rehab stint for "extreme alcohol abuse," sparking concern from fans and her inner circle. In June, Williams' manager, Will Selby, confirmed that the former television personality was back at a wellness center receiving treatment after her son, Hunter Jr., said he feared for her life. He told The Sun that he believed her death was imminent and blamed her team for her downward spiral.

"Does anybody even ask like, 'How's she doing? Does anyone even care ... I feel like everyone just puts out negative information about her and that's the focus,'" Selby said. "Just understand that she's a human being that's going through a lot. She's dealing with a lot and support her, please."

Williams has been struggling since being hospitalized for "psychiatric services" in September 2021. A source revealed that the former Wendy Williams Show host's apartment was in disarray due to her alleged addiction. Wendy's mental health and alleged addiction has made headlines since 2021.

"It was pretty much a mess," the insider spilled. "She was in her robe, it was soiled, she was catatonic, she was in a very, very bad state. She was looking at the ceiling. She was just not responsive, but her eyes were open, but she was definitely in a catatonic state." RadarOnline.com revealed that Williams spent three months in rehab last year. She left the Malibu wellness facility in October 2022, with her inner circle claiming the talk show host's "severe" dependency on alcohol was worse than anyone knew. Post-rehab, Wendy's behavior has continued to raise concerns.



Wendy Williams with son Hunter

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Dr. Ephraim Martin delivers upbeat message during IRAWMA held in Kingston, Jamaica

Posted By Don Thomas

The red carpet, star-studded staging of the 40th Anniversary of the International Reggae and World Music Awards (IRAWMA), lived up to its objective of bringing nations together through music and culture under the theme of "Reggae Rise" at the Pegasus Hotel, in Kingston, Jamaica. Subscribe for free and watch the broadcast on www.YouTube.com/irawma.

Spice, who walked away with one of the biggest honors, the Global Queen of Dancehall, and Red Carpet co-host and performer D'Angel buried their 4-year hatchet on the red carpet, then performed together on stage, which instantly sent the 40th IRAWMA viral, worldwide.

Bounty Killer walked away with a total of four honors. He gave an outstanding performance after accepting his Lifetime Honor on stage. DJ Khaled, Beenie Man (3 wins), and Sharon Burke were bestowed with IRAWMA Lifetime/Hall of Fame Honors.

This year, Dr. Ephraim Martin's International launched the IRAWMA Best Song contest. The five finalists were: Blacspade with "Not A Grammy It's IRAWMA Awards," Jaymon with "Legendary," Dainjah Rus with "IRAWMA 40th Reggae Love Song," History Man with "Big-Up IRAWMA Not A Drama," and Docta Flow with "IRAWMA Strong."



Dr. Ephraim Martin addresses the audience during the IRAWMA held at the Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica

The Jamaican performer History Man, whose entry best chronicled the IRAWMA roads travelled, won the honor in this inaugural IRAWMA song contest. In the YouTube IRAWMA song likes, it was the Ghanaian, Docta Flow, who topped the likes, to win the Most Favorite Song online.

In his 40th annual IRAWMA

remarks, Dr. Martin's International Founder and IRAWMA's Chairman/President, recounted that in 1982, when he established the Reggae Awards, there was no forms of recognition for reggae or worldbeat music, but with the encouragement of entertainers such as Peter Tosh, Dennis Brown, the Staple Singers, the Press Association of

Jamaica and others, he was able to inaugurate the Awards.

"In those days reggae music was the voice of the people, Nelson Mandela was behind bars, and it was to the music of Bob Marley that the people of Zimbabwe jumped, to celebrate their independence. Our objectives for the Awards were to use reggae music

as an art form and as a vehicle of expression for the voiceless peoples of the world.

"To push for an end to Apartheid, the Freedom of Nelson Mandela, and for freedom and democracy throughout the world. Now here we are 40 years later, still beating the drums for Jamaica, its music, arts and culture, and for world beat music worldwide, especially, in Africa and the Caribbean," said Dr. Martin.

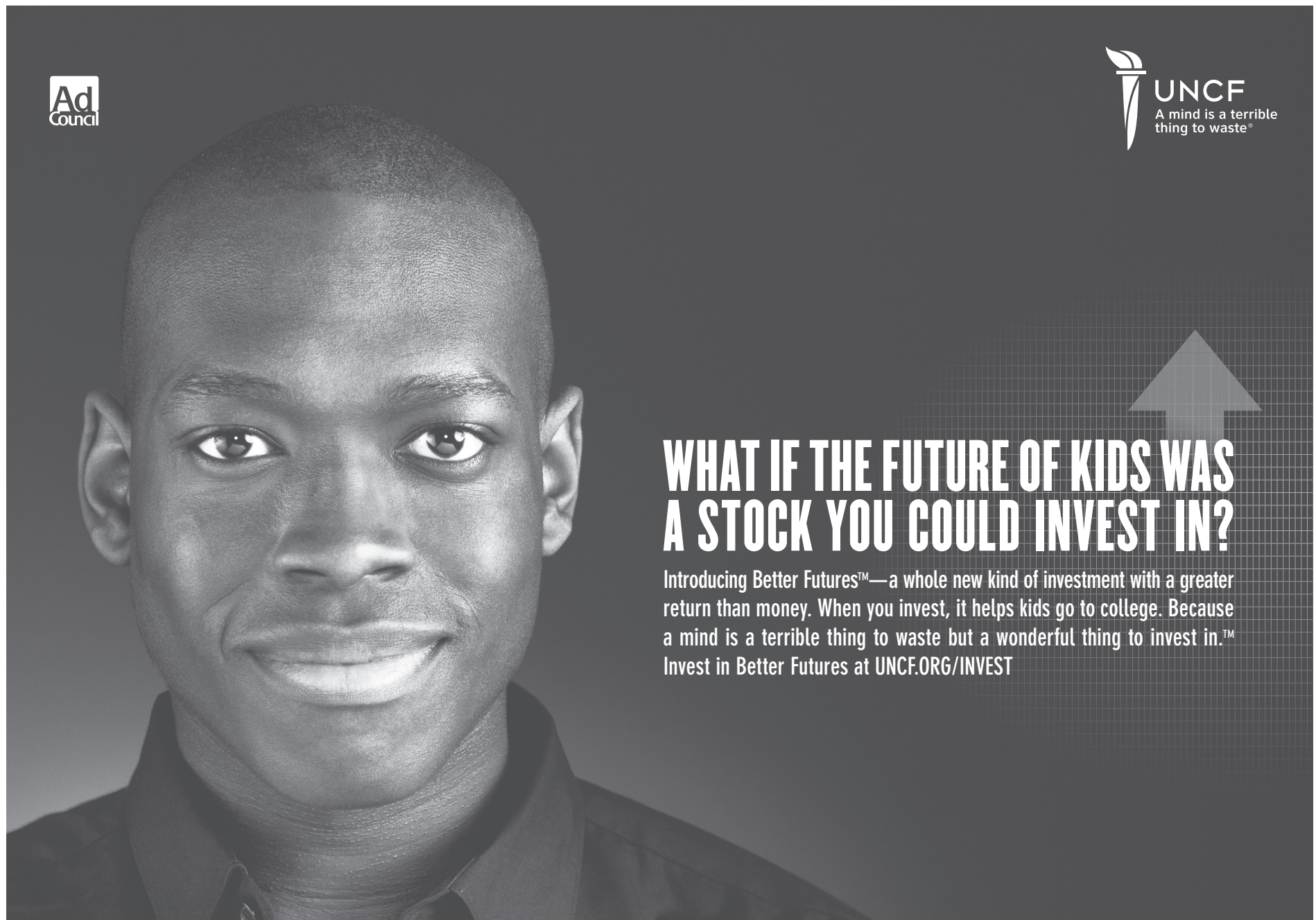
While Dr Martin acknowledged the worldwide contribution of IRAWMA over the last 40 years, he admitted that the information was more than he could share in just one night. He did however reveal that the stories would soon be told, and encouraged the audience to follow the official website atmartinsinternational.com for more on this matter.

Dr Martin concluded with a promise, "We intend to uphold the integrity of Martin's International and the annual IRAWMA, giving credits only where credit is due, and to respect and honor those who have been overlooked over the years." IRAWMA operates under the umbrella of Martin's International Foundation, a nonprofit 501 © 3 organization. For the fortification of IRAWMA, your tax-deductible donation or sponsorship of one of the Awards categories would be most appreciated and welcomed. For more information visit www.irawma.com, email irawma@gmail.com

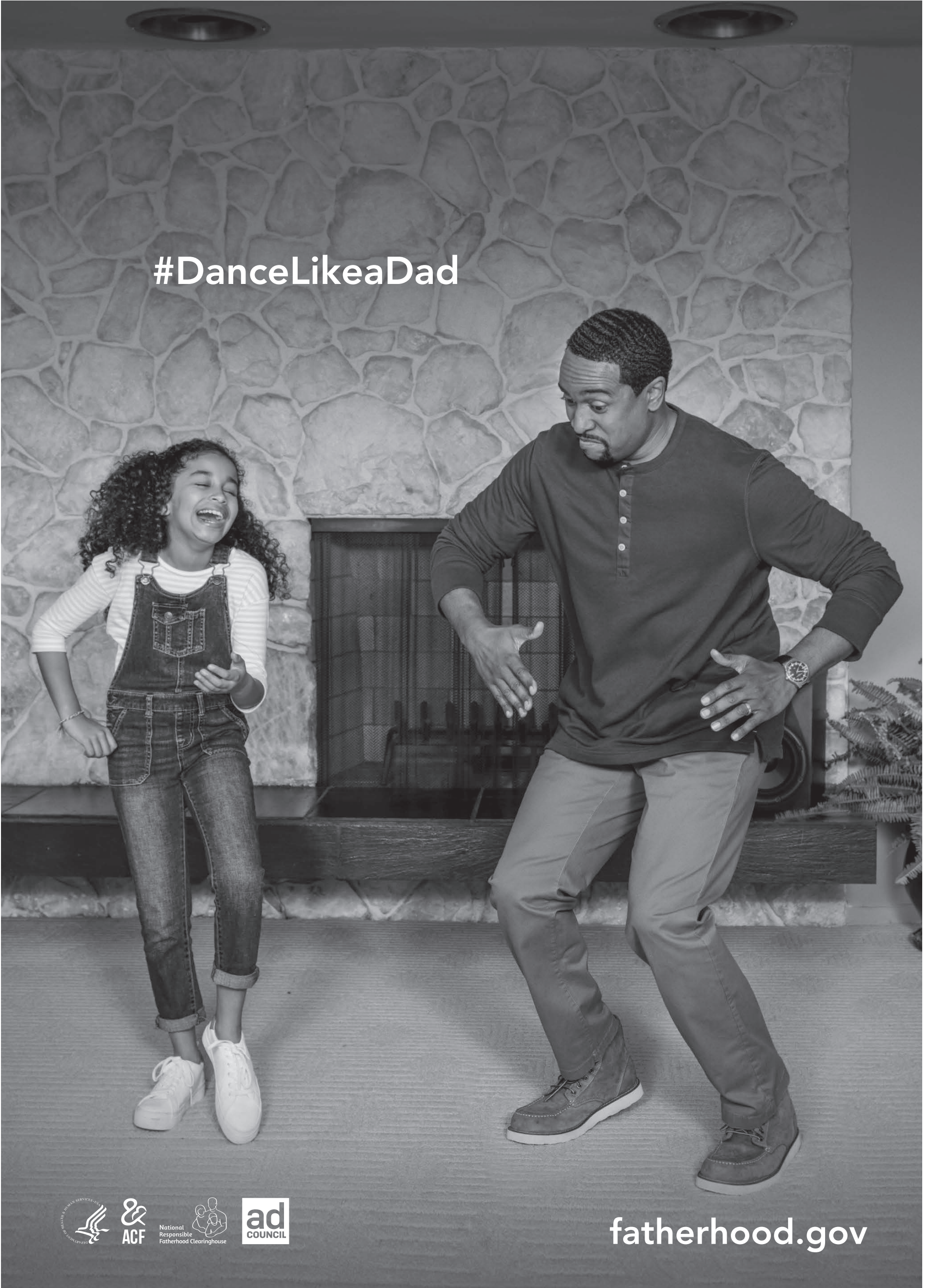


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By Don Thomas

Rapper IDK partners with Dior for collab

Rapper IDK is giving a masterclass in high fashion. He revealed his exclusive collaboration with luxury fashion house brand Dior, which is outfitting uniforms for the Fall return of No Label Academy. With the support of The Northwest Labs at Harvard University, IDK and No Label's 10-day music business seminar made its return Aug 19 - Aug 27, 2023.

25 BIPOC students from diverse backgrounds attended this year's tuition-free course (which is open to students ages 18-25) and received the knowledge, skills, and resources required to jumpstart their careers in the music industry. On top of this, as WWD details, students "are going to be dressed in Dior." This innovative feat will change the public's perception of high fashion and higher education.

IDK and Dior men's Artistic Director Kim Jones have come together to provide students with a uniform that's just as unique as the course they're participating in. For the occasion, Kim Jones and IDK have initiated a passionate dialogue with a view to dreaming up exclusive uniforms in the emblematic colors of the prestigious American university, from burgundy to navy blue and cream - fusing the House's fundamentals and the creative singularity of the artist.

Inspired by the preppy spirit, these looks include a sweatshirt, a t-shirt - made from precious Sea Island cotton - and a pair of chino pants. Each item is adorned with a patch illustrating this exceptional collaboration. The final touches are Dior Explorer moccasins, punctuated with CD Diamond or Dior Oblique graphics, a multi-faceted and socially engaged encounter forever guided by the power of dreams and the love of art. "I'm very happy to create those uniforms for the No Label Academy students and proud to work with IDK on this project," said Kim Jones

"The purpose of this project is not only to support No Label Academy students with uniform/casual wear, but also to show that underrepresented communities belong at Harvard and other Ivy League



schools. This will bring us one step closer to breaking the barriers that people of color face when considering an Ivy League education," said IDK.

"The exclusive uniforms will include a sweatshirt, T-shirt made from Sea Island cotton and chino pants, all adorned with a Dior patch specific to the collaboration and in Harvard's colors - burgundy, navy blue and cream. Dior Explorer moccasins with the CD diamond or Dior oblique graphics serve as the finishing touch," state WWD.

ABOUT IDK

IDK (Ignorantly Delivering Knowledge) is an innovator with few equals. The Maryland-raised rapper and producer subverted genre tropes with his 2015 debut project Sub-Trap, a nuanced and inventive exploration of the intersection of drug dealing and addiction. Since then, he's continued to make unprecedented moves both in and outside of the studio. After becoming the first artist to premiere an album

with Forbes (2016's money-minded Empty Bank), he partnered with Adult Swim to release 2017's IWasVeryBad, which featured everyone from DOOM to Chief Keef. Is He Real?, IDK's 2019 major label debut, is an ascent to another creative plateau. Released jointly via Warner Records and IDK's new label Clue, Is He Real? features rapping, singing, and production from the Prince George's County native that's unlike any he's done before.

ABOUT NO LABEL

Founded in 2018 by Marcello HD and Miles Weddle, No Label is a first-of-its-kind education nonprofit that uses popular culture to make education more accessible. No Label works with cultural agents to improve education and highlight underrepresented voices. To date, the organization has worked with some of the most culturally influential artists of our time, including Travis Scott, Bad Bunny, Saweetie, and Cordae. You can donate to No Label at nolabel.live.

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Culture

MVAAFF celebrates cinematic excellence at 21st Annual Run & Shoot Filmworks

By Dedra N. Tate

The 21st Annual Oscar-qualifying, Run & Shoot Filmworks' returned to the Martha's Vineyard African American Film Festival (MVAAFF) and again raised the bar for cinematic excellence in presenting the *Best of the Best* in the Short, Feature and Documentary film categories. Festival Founders Floyd A.B. Rance III, Stephanie Rance, and their team curated a diverse 9-day program packed with multi-cultural, multi-topic films from independent production companies to the nation's top studios and networks.

From the time festivalgoers touched down in Oak Bluffs it was non-stop action and entertainment, including screenings, day parties, brunches, luncheons, beach workouts and afterparties. In addition to the full line-up of around-the-clock screenings at the Martha's Vineyard Performing Arts Center (MVPAC), the MVAAFF team stepped up their game this year with The Vineyard Lounge, a beautifully tented space adjacent to the MVPAC, that hosted free Clips & Conversation events, talk-back discussions, music, food, art, networking, and giveaways.

As always, the competition was fierce, so kudos for the Top 3 category winning films – Tari Wariebi's *We Were Meant To* (Best Short Film), Tamika Miller's *Honor Student* (Best Feature Film), Harriet Marin Jones' *King of Kings: Chasing Edward Jones* (Best Documentary).



Al Roker, Professor Thomas Mitchell, Tharalyn Fox, Director Eternal Polk



Music Industry Mogul Michael Bivins



Chris Spencer, Derrick "D-Nice" Jones



Oak Bluffs' summer residents attend MVAAFF (L-R) Jeanine Tate, Alison Higgenbotham, Tonie Willis, Robbie Tate-Brickle, Richard Simon, Dedra N. Tate, Jian Rice, Robert A. Tate, Jr., Sandy Tate, Erica Ortiz, Tanya Cunningham, and Michele Tucker



Floyd A.B. Rance III, Reggie "Rock" Blythewood, Olympian John Carlos, E. Monique Floyd



Misty Copeland, Layla Fayya

From newbies to veterans, the filmmakers, directors, and producers came out in full force to present their projects. Hip-Hop icon Chuck D was on hand for *Fight the Power: How Hip Hop Changed the World*, MC Lyte did a guest DJ set and talkback discussion for her film *Ladies First: A Story of Women in Hip Hop*, and New Edition/Bell Biv Devoe member and industry icon Michael Bivins celebrated his 55th birthday screening his directorial debut, *The Hustle of @617Mike Biv*.

Other notables included Al Roker's documentary *Gaining Ground: The Fight for Black Land*; Chris Spencer's comedy *Back on The Strip*;

Reggie Rock Blythewood's TV Series *Swagger*; Misty Copeland's *Flower* and Kristen M. Johnson's *The Music Got Me*, to name a few. SheaMoisture teamed up with The Roku Channel & MACRO Television Studios to debut *The Next Black Millionaires*, a docuseries that captures the journey of three ambitious entrepreneurs – LaToya Stirrup, Co-Founder & CEO of Kazmaleje; Dorian Morris, Founder & CEO of Undefined; Neil Hudson, Co-Founder of Scotch Boyz – growing their passions into million-dollar businesses.

Derrick "D-Nice" Jones and former NBA star turned commen-

tator Jalen Rose were amongst the distinguished moderators and film topics ranged from hazing, cloning and sports to mental health, and space exploration. Linda Wilson, Executive Director, Fund II Foundation hosted an engaging Clips & Conversation for *Listen to Me*, a documentary that weaves the stories of four women on the frontlines of maternal health, walking the tightrope of racism and birth in America. As the Q&A was winding down, the audience erupted in

applause as Wilson presented the filmmakers with a \$100,000 gift to complete their project.

MVAAFF concluded with OWN's spotlight documentary *Time of Essence: 50 Years of Defining Culture* and *The Color Purple* Clips & Conversations with director Blitz Bazawule and choreographer Fatima Robinson, followed by a Hip-Hop themed closing night party with MVAAFF's resident DJ, The Legendary Chris Washington. (Photos by Jeanine Tate)



Fund II Foundation Executive Director Linda Wilson



Hip Hop Icon Chuck D



SheaMoisture CEO Cara Sabin, LaToya Stirrup, Neil Hudson, Dorian Morris

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