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'WHEN GOOD PEOPLE WRITE BAD POLICY'

Coalition of Law Enforcement Executives, experts ask government
for Racial Impact Study before a Federal Menthol Ban



**BAN COULD CREATE
AN ILLICIT "BLACK
MARKET" FOR THE
PRODUCTS.
USERS MAY SEEK
ILLICIT SOURCES WHO
DON'T CHECK IDS AND
WHO SELL SMUGGLED
COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS**

Could give police another reason to stop and frisk leading to
more potential deaths, p3



EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEYS OF THE CHEVROLET DTU FELLOWS

Watch as these talented HBCU students Discover The Unexpected!



Jordan Jennings
Florida A&M University
-
Chevrolet Marketing Fellow



Jada Tullos
Alabama A&M University
-
Chevrolet Marketing Fellow



Carmen Graham
Delaware State University
-
Chevrolet Marketing Fellow



Janiya Pearson
Hampton University
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Eshé Ukweli
Howard University
-
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Antonio Sweeney
Morehouse College
-
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Jacob Bellevue
Howard University
-
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Brielle Smith
Howard University
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Robertney Harlan
Howard University
-
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Solomon Hayes
Morehouse College
-
NNPA Fellow

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HBCU New York Classic 2023 kicks off week-long celebration of culture, education, football

The event, billed as the world's largest HBCU homecoming and one that celebrates HBCU culture, promises various activities beyond the football field, aiming to immerse attendees in the vibrant tapestry of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)



In a grand celebration of HBCU excellence, the 2023 Toyota HBCU New York Classic (HBCUNY) kicks off a week-long extravaganza from September 12th to 16th. The event, billed as the world's largest HBCU homecoming and one that celebrates HBCU culture, promises various activities beyond the football field, aiming to immerse attendees in the vibrant tapestry of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

HBCUNY Classic President Albert Williams and other organizers were enthusiastic about the big week. "We can't wait to celebrate HBCU football and culture for a full week this Fall," Williams, the president of 1105 Sports, which produces the Classic, said during an appearance on the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Let It Be Known. "Bringing the game to the New York area allows us to expose youth in New York, New Jersey, and beyond to HBCUs and the bigger HBCU community. Our goal is to showcase the HBCU culture and life experience through a full week of events. We want fans, students, and alumni from all HBCUs to come out and participate."

The week's pinnacle is the showdown between Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) rivals Albany State and Morehouse College. Both teams are gearing up to launch their season with hopes of clinching the SIAC championship, with the introduction of a new divisional

format adding an extra layer of excitement.

The game will be aired live on CNBC, Peacock, and the NBC Sports App on Saturday, September 16th, at 3 p.m. EST.

Schedule Highlights:

Tuesday, September 12th, 2023
 • Mayor's Kickoff Lunch – 12–2 p.m. ET

• Mayor Eric Adams, Morehouse College President David A. Thomas, and Albany State President Marion Ross Fedrick will officially launch the 2023 HBCU New York Classic at Sylvia's in Harlem, NY. This exclusive event sets the tone for an extraordinary week.

• NYC High School Education Day – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET

• High school sophomores, juniors, seniors, and community college students are encouraged to attend. Admissions representatives from Morehouse College and Albany State University will be on hand at the Borough of Manhattan Community College to illuminate the importance of higher education and unveil the exciting programs and experiences HBCUs offer.

Wednesday, September 13th, 2023

• NJ High School Education Day – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET

• A similar event will take place at the New Jersey Institute of Tech-

nology in Newark, with admissions offices from both Morehouse College and Albany State University providing insights into the invaluable opportunities presented by HBCUs.

Thursday, September 14th, 2023

• "HBCU Inspired" + The Great Debate at the Apollo – 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. ET (Doors open at 6 p.m. ET)

• Marking the 35th anniversary of Spike Lee's School Daze and A Different World, cast members will share their journeys and how HBCUs played a pivotal role. Notable personalities, including Jasmine Guy, Kadeem Hardison, and Darryl M. Bell, are scheduled to attend. Additionally, a spirited debate between Rutgers and Morehouse College on Affirmative Action promises to ignite intellectual sparks.

Friday, September 15th, 2023

• Greek Step Show – 7:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m. ET (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ET)

• The Divine 9 takes center stage at the New Jersey Institute of Technology for a dazzling performance. This ticketed event guarantees an evening of high-energy entertainment.

Saturday, September 16th, 2023 (Game Day)

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National Coalition of Justice Practitioners (NCJP) unite against the (FDA) proposed ban on menthol cigarettes

NPA Newswire — The August 10 "When Good People Write Bad Policy" panel event urged lawmakers to study the effects of a menthol ban by launching a Racial Impact Study that gathers input from law enforcement, health experts, and Black and Latino communities.

Experts Ask Government for Racial Impact Study Before a Federal Menthol Ban

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Coalition of Justice Practitioners (NCJP), a group of Black and Hispanic law enforcement executives and experts, hosted the "When Good People Write Bad Policy" National Press Club panel event to educate people about the racial and criminal implications of a menthol ban. The panel met before the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) announcement anticipated to come this month.

"There are many groups who still do not understand the unintended consequences of this proposed ban," said Dr. Benjamin Chavis, President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and panel moderator. "For leaders in Washington to consider this ban without consulting Black and Brown officers is disastrous. Let's sit down with the proponents and first conduct a Racial Impact Study. Targeting in the past doesn't justify targeting now. We are against racial targeting and profiling. All of it."

Panelists Commissioner Jiles Ship, Major Neill Franklin (Ret.), NYS Trooper EAP Director Elliot Boyce (Ret.), Deputy Inspector Corey Pegues (Ret.), Captain Sonia Pruitt (Ret.), Lt. David Daniels III (Ret.), Chief John I. Dixon (Ret.) and Ron Hampton, DC Metro Police (Ret.) asked that President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris pull back on this menthol ban until further studies, like a Racial Impact Study, be done and more experts are heard.

The August 10 "When Good People Write Bad Policy" panel event urged lawmakers to study the effects of a menthol ban by

launching a Racial Impact Study that gathers input from law enforcement, health experts, and Black and Latino communities.

The law enforcement experts listed these unintended consequences:

Anything you ban becomes illegal, and it is a policing issue.

Enforcement of the menthol ban will be in more urban and Latino communities and used as a tool in racial profiling, stop-and-frisk, and arrests.

The police do not need another reason for a stop-and-frisk that leads to life-threatening casualties in the Black community.

Former Law Enforcement Action Partnership executive director, Retired Major Neill Franklin, stated, "Illicit markets breed violence. This menthol ban will flood the streets, especially Black & Latino communities, with unregulated products, and if you think the products are unhealthy now, wait until the unregulated products are pushed into our communities. You don't want substances like fentanyl added to a street cigarette."

Overall, adult and youth smoking rates in the U.S. are the lowest they have ever been in public health history. Since over 80% of African Americans and 48% of Latinos who smoke prefer menthol cigarettes, a proposed FDA ban is racially discriminatory since cigarettes preferred by White smokers will not be banned. There is no scientific basis to regulate menthol and non-menthol cigarettes differently. Health concerns are more effectively managed through education, treatment, and counseling, not by police.

The proposed U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA) ban on menthol cigarettes could be announced this month.

Learn more about the implications of a menthol ban and ask leaders in Washington for a Racial Impact Study http://ncjp.info/menthol_ban_detail.cfm?banID=21. Watch the panel event here. See photos from the event here.

Washington bracing for federal government shutdown

The House and Senate face substantial differences in their funding proposals, with McCarthy's prior deal with the White House crumbling under the pressure of demands from the conservative wing of his party. As a result, the two chambers are hundreds of billions of dollars apart, increasing the urgency to find a compromise.

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)



As Congress reconvened after their routine summer break, there was nothing to suggest what many Washington insiders and pundits have believed all along: a federal government shutdown will happen. "The questions flying around the Capitol come in two categories. Top of mind are the logistical ones: When will the government shut down? And for how long?" Philip Elliott wrote for TIME.

The critical issue is the passage of a short-term spending bill to

stave off the looming government shutdown scheduled for October 1. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, caught in the crossfire of a political maelstrom, finds himself in a most precarious position. According to CNN, during a recent private conference call, the Speaker urged his colleagues to support a short-term spending deal to avert an impending shutdown. He proposed

postponing the larger funding fight until later in the fall, a strategy that some view as prudent to ensure the government continues to function.

The House and Senate face substantial differences in their funding proposals, with McCarthy's prior deal with the White

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Panelists Commissioner Jiles Ship, Major Neill Franklin (Ret.), NYS Trooper EAP Director Elliot Boyce (Ret.), Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., Deputy Inspector Corey Pegues (Ret.), Captain Sonia Pruitt (Ret.), Lt. David Daniels III (Ret.), Chief John I. Dixon (Ret.) and Ron Hampton, DC Metro



Chevrolet's discover the unexpected scholarships, stipends top \$750,000, closes 2023 HBCU Fellowship Program

NNPA Newswire

During this year's DTU program, students took a road trip in the all-new 2024 Chevy Trax to create content around the vehicle's array of safety features, such as Chevy Safety Assist* — a standard suite of six advanced features designed to help keep occupants safe on the road.

Marketing and journalism interns develop career-building skills through immersive experiences.

DETROIT – Chevrolet and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) have concluded the seventh year of Discover the Unexpected (DTU), a 10-week immersive internship and scholarship program for 10 HBCU students to explore marketing roles focused on Chevrolet's innovative vehicles and community-based journalism with the NNPA.

"Chevrolet is proud to continue our collaboration with the NNPA for DTU, providing HBCU students an opportunity to develop career skills while gaining valuable on-the-job knowledge," said Steve Majoros, chief marketing officer of Chevrolet. "We hope this is a life changing experience for the fellows that will be carried with them throughout their careers."

During this year's DTU program, students took a road trip in the all-new 2024 Chevy Trax to create content around the vehicle's array of safety features, such as Chevy Safety Assist* — a standard suite of six advanced features designed to help keep occupants safe on the road. The Marketing fellows drove impact within the Chevrolet brand through contributions to the Social, Cars/Crossover, Experiential, and CRM teams. Other immersive experiences included the NNPA National Convention, Tennessee State University DTU content shoot, MLB Swingman Classic attendance with player interview opportunities, and a Chevrolet Ride and Drive behind-the-scenes opportunity.

The 2023 DTU mentors, all of them HBCU graduates, included Terrence Jenkins (Terrence J), STEM advocate Justin "Mr. Fascinate" Shai-fer, and ESPN sports journalist and HBCU Southwestern Athletic Conference alum Tiffany Greene. Mentors shared valuable marketing and communications insights to guide fellows throughout their college and career journey. Additionally,

publicist and content creator Brandi Merriweather, socially known as The-GenZPublicist, presented insights on how A.I. technology is being used in the media industry.

"The NNPA and Chevrolet collaboration continues to be fruitful as we foster the next generation of aspiring journalists and infuse our newspapers with great talent," said NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. "Our publishers provide platforms serving as the community voice, allowing students to bring a future generation perspective to help bridge traditional and new storytelling."

To date, DTU has provided 59 HBCU students from 22 different HBCUs with more than \$750,000 in scholarships and stipends. Of the past DTU students, three have been hired into GM, one returned as a 2023 GM intern, and more are working for NNPA publications, aiding in a diverse pipeline of talent. Learn more about the Chevrolet Discover the Unexpected fellowship at <https://www.nnpa.org/chevydtu/>.

*Safety or driver assistance features are no substitute for the driver's responsibility to operate the vehicle in a safe manner. Read the vehicle's owner's manual for important feature limitations and information.

ABOUT CHEVROLET

Founded in 1911 in Detroit, Chevrolet is now one of the world's largest car brands, available in nearly 80 countries with nearly 2.7 million cars and trucks sold in 2021. Chevrolet models include electric and fuel-efficient vehicles that feature engaging performance, design that makes the heartbeat, passive, and active safety features and easy-to-use technology all at a value. More information on Chevrolet models can be found at www.chevrolet.com.

ABOUT NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NNPA is a trade association of more than 200 African-American-owned community newspapers from around the United States. Since its founding 79 years ago, NNPA has consistently been the voice of the Black community and an incubator for news that makes history and impacts our country. As the largest and most influential Black-owned media resource in America, NNPA delivers news, information, and commentary to over 20 million people each week.

VP Harris launches nationwide college tour to galvanize youth advocacy

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

As students return to campuses nationwide, Vice President Kamala Harris is embarking on a month-long college tour, rallying young people to champion fundamental freedoms and rights. The ambitious initiative, dubbed the "Fight for Our Freedoms College Tour", will see Harris crisscrossing a dozen campuses in at least seven states, uniting thousands of students in high-energy, large-scale events.

The whirlwind tour will put a spotlight on critical issues disproportionately affecting young Americans. From reproductive freedom and gun safety to climate action, voting rights, LGBTQ+ equality, and the banning of books, the vice president aims to engage and empower the next generation to be at the forefront of these battles.

"This generation is critical to the urgent issues that are at stake right now for our future," Harris emphasized in a statement issued by The White House. "It is young

leaders throughout America who know what the solutions look like and are organizing in their communities to make them a reality. My message to students is clear: We are counting on you, we need you, you are everything."

The "Fight for Our Freedoms College Tour" will encompass historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, community colleges, apprenticeship programs, and state schools. During her visits, the vice president will not only highlight the accomplishments of the Biden-Harris Administration for young people but also outline the forthcoming work required to safeguard these crucial liberties. The White House said she will engage "directly with students who are leading the charge in these pivotal fights, encouraging them to register to vote, use their voices, and remain actively involved in shaping their future."

The tour builds upon the vice president's recent travels and follows her Summer of Action, which encompassed visits to 17 states. In 2023 alone, Harris has already



graced 11 college campuses, following 14 schools visited in 2022.

The Vice President's "Fight for Our Freedoms College Tour" includes the following stops:

- Hampton University in Hampton, VA on 9/14
- North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, NC on 9/15
- Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA on 9/26
- University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, WI
- College of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas, NV
- Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, AZ

The White House said further campus visits and additional details will be unveiled in the coming days.

Warnock highlights critical issues ahead of 52nd Annual Legislative Conference

The ALC, renowned as one of the nation's premier policy forums concerning African Americans and the global Black community, brings together a diverse

array of lawmakers, activists, scholars, and thought leaders. The conference fosters critical discussions, explores innovative solutions, and charts a path forward for progress and equity.

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.), the co-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), emphasized the importance of fortifying democracy, safeguarding fundamental freedoms, and celebrating cultural heritage as the 52nd Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) approaches.

The event begins Sept. 20 at



the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in D.C., offering a platform for vital discussions on

policy, social justice, economic empowerment, healthcare, education, and more. Organizers have selected "Securing Our Democracy, Protecting Our Freedoms. Uplifting Our Culture" as this year's theme.

"This year's Annual Legislative Conference theme underscores the pressing need to fortify our democracy, safeguard our fundamental freedoms, and celebrate the richness and vibrancy of our cultural heritage. It also serves as a call to action for individuals and communities to unite in the pursuit of a just and equitable society for all," Warnock stated in an interview with the National Newspaper Publishers Association's Let



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Woman claims she was fired after accidentally receiving email referring to her as 'dark meat,' boss reportedly claims she sent it to herself

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A Kansas City physical therapy office is under fire after a Black former employee alleged she was fired after reporting to the owner that her supervisor accidentally sent her a racist email.

The woman, Tiffany Griffin, took to social media to share what happened to her and claims she was demonized by the owner of ETC Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine, with the owner once saying he would investigate her claim.

Popular TikToker AuntKaren0, right, and Tiffany Griffin, left, discuss email Griffin claimed she received. (Photo: TikTok/AuntKaren0)

Popular TikToker AuntKaren0 championed her cause, noting that the woman got the email on Friday, and by Tuesday of the next week, she was fired. She then posted a copy of the email on her page and has actively worked to get Griffin's story out to the masses.

"Dude, Next time you guys hire DARK MEAT make sure she

is not DUMB and NOT A BRAID QUEEN!!!!!" the email began.

"This morning was a disaster," it continued. "SO GLAD she's not going to be with me all the time, DO NOT LIKE BEING HOT. By the looks of the schedule Jim will not need her after we all take out PTO. Hope she is not out here when FALL COMES it gets dark out pretty early, DON'T want her to run into any trouble."

According to Griffin, she told the owner about the email. He allegedly sent her back a text message expressing his commitment to getting to the bottom of the accusation.

"I am going to go over there and pull the videos to show her (Michelle) sitting there at 10:45 sending this email and take the appropriate actions, we don't tolerate discrimination of any kind to anyone, no matter what. I won't do that until Friday 31st. Is there anything you want to add to this at this time?" the owner allegedly texted Griffin.



Washington bracing for federal government shutdown

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House crumbling under the pressure of demands from the conservative wing of his party. As a result, the two chambers are hundreds of billions of dollars apart, increasing the urgency to find a compromise.

According to NBC News, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, (R-Ky.) has made clear that he and his fellow Republicans intend to stick to the previous terms of the deal. "The speaker and the president reached an agreement which I supported in connection with raising the debt ceiling to set spending levels for next year," McConnell said, according to the network. "The House then turned around and passed spending levels

that were below that level. Without stating an opinion about that, that's not going to be replicated in the Senate."

The White House and senators from both sides of the aisle advocate tying the short-term funding bill to critical provisions such as \$24 billion in aid to Ukraine and an additional \$16 billion for communities devastated by natural disasters. However, a vocal faction of House conservatives opposes swiftly passing additional aid to Ukraine.

The procedural hurdle of securing a rule vote in the House adds another layer of complexity. Some hard-right conservatives have declared their willingness to block the rule vote for the spending bill if their demands are not met.

McCarthy must decide whether to align with conservative hardliners, risk a head-on collision with the White House, or forge a compromise with Democrats, passing the spending bill by a two-thirds majority. The latter option could jeopardize his standing among the MAGA wing and possibly lead to his being removed as Speaker. "Certainly, I'm willing to shut the government down," Kansas Republican Sen. Roger Marshall stated. "Whatever it takes to force the issue, to slow down the government spending up here, I'm willing to do it."

Meanwhile, Reuters said investors have concerns over a possible shutdown, which could have ramifications for the economy heading into the year-end and beyond. A significant portion of government

functions could grind to a halt, and Goldman Sachs strategists estimate that such an event could lead to a 0.2% reduction in U.S. economic growth for each week it persists.

A shutdown would represent the fourth in the last ten years, affecting most federal civilian workers. Military institutions could experience severe impacts, but troops and some Defense Department civilians would be required to stay at their posts without receiving pay.

Hundreds of thousands of federal workers also could be furloughed without pay, causing disruptions in services ranging from passport applications to national park maintenance. Workers deemed essential would remain on duty without pay, but mail delivery,

tax collection, and debt payments would continue. Most Social Security payments would continue, because of automated processes. However, depending on the shutdown's length, customer service for Social Security claimants and beneficiaries could face significant disruptions.

"Our seniors deserve to be a priority," Max Richtman, a former staff director at the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and president and CEO of the nonprofit National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, wrote in an op-ed. "And they shouldn't have to worry about their earned benefits because MAGA House members once again are willing to hold the government hostage to their extremist aims."

Warnock highlights critical issues ahead of 52nd Annual Legislative Conference

From page 4

It Be Known

The ALC, renowned as one of the nation's premier policy forums concerning African Americans and the global Black community, brings together a diverse array of lawmakers, activists, scholars, and thought leaders. The conference fosters critical discussions, explores innovative solutions, and charts a path forward for progress and equity.

Warnock, who twice won runoff elections in Georgia to secure his Senate seat, asserted the historical significance of the CBC's role in advancing civil rights and democracy.

"The CBC, I believe, when the history of our country is written, will be recognized for the central

role it has played in securing our freedom, in protecting our democracy, in uplifting the ways in which a culture defined by the struggle against oppression has been so important for liberating the whole country," Warnock said.

Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.) co-chairs the 52nd Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. (Photo: Senator Raphael Warnock at the Delta Flight Museum mass vaccination site / Flickr)

Highlighting the current challenges facing the United States, Warnock urged vigilance. "This is a moral moment in our country, literally witnessing an assault on democratic principles that make us a free country," he pleaded. "The fact that someone like me got elected in Georgia, a state in

the heart of the old Confederacy, it's good news, but it should not lull us into sleep into thinking we have arrived; we have a great struggle ahead."

The Morehouse graduate and Senior Pastor at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, the former pulpit of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Warnock outlined the key focus areas for this year's conference. "We'll be focused on voting rights, protecting our various other civil and human rights," he inserted. "We will be bringing together a wonderful constellation of policymakers, critical thinkers, elected officials, and ordinary citizens to make our country as great as its ideals."

He further emphasized that the conference would address a

HBCU New York Classic 2023 kicks off week-long celebration of culture, education, football

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• Yardfest-10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 • The MetLife parking lot transforms into a vibrant tailgate experience. Attendees can revel in full-service tents, offering everything from game tickets to exclusive field and press conference access. HBCU enthusiasts, fraternities, sororities, fans, students, and alumni are all invited to partake in the festivities.

• Career Expo – 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 • In Lot F of MetLife Stadium, a career fair featuring major companies like the New York Jets, Wells Fargo, Johnson & Johnson, and MetLife offers up-

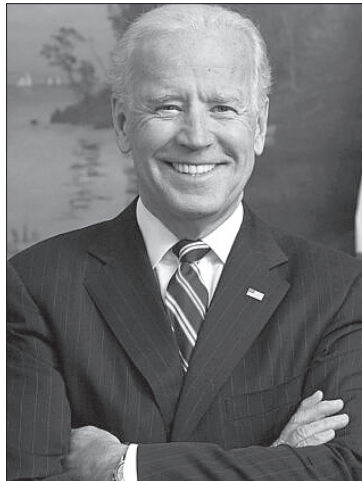
coming and recent graduates, career seekers, and switchers opportunities. This event is open to all, emphasizing the inclusive spirit of HBCUs.

"Our mission is to amplify HBCUs and folks that have been positive in the African American community," Williams stated. "You don't have to be an HBCU graduate or African American as long as you're doing something positive for the African American community." Williams asserted that the event transcends football. He called it a cultural immersion, "a chance to experience what HBCU students and graduates live daily."

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Editorial - Opinion

Biden needs a reparations commission for 2024



NNPA Newswire

Leaders within the Democratic Party in the last Congress demonstrated their political will for a reparations commission. 217 confirmed yes votes in the House and half of the Senate Committee chairs, along with the Senate Leader, and many of their colleagues, signed on to the Senate bill.

Mr. President, the call for justice in America is at a historic high. This current call for justice is founded squarely on the issue of Reparations. This is an American call for justice – not only has it been identified as the major issue by Black Americans via a 2021 Congressional Black Caucus poll, but

in a recent USA Today poll, 83 % of Americans said racism is a problem facing the US. This explains why an array of Americans has enthusiastically joined this call for reparatory justice – allied ethnic groups, many of the largest social justice organizations in the country, a diversity of religious orders, America's most prestigious universities, major US corporations, some of the largest philanthropies in America, and of immense importance, following Evanston, Illinois – numerous municipalities and States within the Union. This is proof that much of America wants to see this issue addressed and resolved now!

Leaders within the Democratic Party in the last Congress demonstrated their political will for a reparations commission. 217 confirmed yes votes in the House and half of the Senate Committee chairs, along with the Senate Leader, and many of their colleagues, signed on to the Senate bill. However, as you are aware, Mr. President, the bipartisanship that is needed to pass the bill in the Senate does not exist. Thus, the only way to move this issue forward, which much of America is demanding, is through an Executive Order.

This must be done immediately as the next Presidential election is approaching. On one side of this issue are those calling for "No Reparations No Vote", in their attempt to drive



Black voters to the Republican Party. On the other side, are those of us who fully understand the significance of the Black vote for a Democratic Party win. Statistics have shown that since 1960, except for 1964, the Black vote was the deciding factor in each of the Democratic Party's wins in presidential elections. In essence, the Black vote gave American Presidents Kennedy, Carter, Clinton, Obama, and you Mr. Biden.

A growing number of major publications have recognized this dependence of the Democratic Party on the Black vote. Immediately after your election, Vox

reported – "The Black Vote is key to Democratic success" - saying you "could not have been competitive without it." At this same time, the New York Magazine shouted, Joe Biden Owes It All to African American Voters. In April of this year, Time Magazine wrote, Black Voters Gave Biden the White House. They May Determine Whether He Stays There – the writer concluded "Put plainly: you can't win the nomination or the White House as a Democrat without the Black vote. And finally, just last month, the Washington Post echoed the Times writer, by saying the Black vote

"will be crucial in a Biden bid for reelection."

We are 20% of your base Mr. President, more than all other people of color combined. When we come out and vote, Democrats win! Certainly, Mr. Biden, the Republicans are fully aware of this as they have directed enormous resources to suppress the Black vote – by spending nearly \$1 billion in the last election and introducing over 900 pieces of legislation, according to Marc Morial of the National Urban League. The Democratic Party needs to both counter these efforts by Republicans and address the low enthusiasm for the Democratic Party in the Black community.

This counter-offensive must be an immediate statement announcing the implementation of an HR 40-like Reparations Commission via Executive Order by the President of the United States of America. This, and only this, will generate the turnout in the Black community necessary for a Democratic Party victory in 2024. The Democratic Party can no longer waffle on this issue of reparations. We need a Reparations Commission Now! You, Mr. President, need a Reparations Commission now – for any hope of a 2024 victory.

EO40 Now!. EO 40 now! EO40 now!

Text – Reparations Now to 202-347-9797 to support this call.

Warnock highlights critical issues ahead of 52nd Annual Legislative Conference

From page 3

wide range of issues, reflecting the work of Congress. "Everything from protecting our democracy and voting rights to dealing with the need to cap the cost of prescription drugs to make sure people have access to affordable healthcare, which I believe is a human right, to dealing with the issue of gun violence," Warnock continued.

The 54-year-old expressed pride in welcoming Migos front-

man Quavo and grassroots organizations to discuss gun violence while highlighting the tragic loss experienced by Rep. Lucy McBath, who lost her son to racialized gun violence many years ago. He emphasized the importance of a national conversation on this issue.

"It's a conference that never disappoints," Warnock assured. "We bring together the best and brightest, not just elected officials, but people who are activists at the grassroots level who help us

understand the work we must do on everything from voting rights to healthcare to gun violence to creating jobs and opportunities in communities across our country."

Additionally, Warnock emphasized the impact of federal policies on elections, the importance of addressing student debt, and the fight for equity in higher education.

"Federal policy makes a difference, and elections matter," Warnock said. "Before I was Senator, I was a Head Start kid,

a program that gives young preschool kids access to the kind of learning they need that both instructs and inspires. I'm a product of Upward Bound, Pell Grants, and low-interest student loans. The data is clear if we can relieve some of the student debt which this [Biden-Harris] administration has made quite a bit of progress on, particularly when you think of how that fight has been enjoined by those who don't want equity in our country; if we can get more of that done,

it would begin to close the racial wealth gap, but all of this is happening at a time when we are seeing an assault on affirmative action especially in the higher education space."

Warnock concluded by underscoring the role of the CBC in advancing crucial issues and pushing the country toward a more equitable future. "The CBC has always been central to the fight, and I'm proud to be a part of that caucus and proud to do that work," Warnock stated.

#DadJokesRule

fatherhood.gov





Ex-French President charged as influence peddler held racist views toward Africa

(GIN) –

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy has had anything but a stellar record since stepping down from office more than a decade ago.

The 68-year-old has already been convicted twice, once for corruption and influence-peddling involving attempts to influence a judge and another for breaking campaign spending limits during his 2012 re-election attempt.

But what Africans may remember most about the one term official are his speeches that left Africans dismayed if not horrified at his colonial views of the continent.

During his first visit to Africa after winning power, Sarkozy outraged public opinion in Senegal with allusions to colonialism and the suggestion Africa had failed to embrace progress.

Speaking at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar in what became known as the Dakar Address, he said “the African peasant only knew the eternal renewal of time, marked by the endless repetition of the same gestures and the same words. In this realm of fancy ... there is neither room for human endeavor nor the idea of progress.”

“The colonizer took, used, exploited, plundered resources [...] They were wrong. [...] They were wrong but some were sincere”, he continued, adding “Your heartbreak and your suffering are ours and are therefore mine”.

He also invited Africa to make its own self-criticism—the present failures of the continent counterbalancing the wrongs of the colonizers. “Africa has its share of responsibility in its own misfortune: colonization is not responsible for the bloody wars that the Africans waged among themselves, the genocides, dictators, fanaticism, corruption and prevarication”.

In the most controversial passage, he suggested that the obstacles to the development of the continent should be sought within an African identity: “The tragedy of Africa is that the African has not fully entered into history ... They have never really launched themselves into the future.”

Cameroonian scholar Achille Mbembe, professor at South Africa’s prestigious Witwatersrand university said the attitudes reflected in Sarkozy’s speech were worthy of the 19th century.

“Who gave him the right to talk about Africa and Africans in a manner of a master who has the habit of ill-treating his slave?” Mbembe

said in an open letter to Sarkozy.

Alpha Oumar Konare, chairman of the 53-nation African Union Commission, labelled Sarkozy’s speech a “declaration of a bygone era”.

The speech drew criticism from politicians and intellectuals across Africa who denounced it as unacceptable and based on long-discredited stereotypes. For many, it was a throwback to France’s murky colonial past.

The former leader will be tried in 2025 to hear evidence that he, along with 12 co-defendants, accepted millions of euros in cash from the regime of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to finance his 2007 bid for the presidency.

The Paris Court of Appeals has already upheld a three-year prison sentence against Sarkozy, but it ruled that two years would be suspended and Sarkozy would wear an electronic bracelet instead of going to jail for the remaining year.

His predecessor, Jacques Chirac, was also convicted in a criminal trial for corruption but received a two-year suspended sentence in 2011.

Sarkozy, who has faced a litany of legal problems since his one term in office, has denied the Libyan allegations – the most serious he faces. w/pix of N. Sarkozy

Facebook’s parent company sued by African staffers citing ‘Trauma’

(GIN) –

Meta, Facebook’s parent company, is facing a \$1.6 billion lawsuit from content moderators in Kenya over poor working conditions, insufficient mental health support and low pay for moderators.

The content moderators told the Associated Press that their job required them to watch horrific content for eight hours a day that would overwhelm many of them while being paid 60,000 Kenyan shillings, or roughly \$414 U.S. dollars a month.

They accused Sama, a San Francisco subcontractor that describes itself as an ethical AI company, of doing little to ensure post-traumatic professional counseling was offered.

The suit was brought by 184 moderators from several African countries.

The job entailed screening user content in 12 African languages and removing any uploads deemed to breach Facebook’s community standards and terms of service.

Earlier this year, Sama, which left the content moderation business, laid them off.

The lawsuit in Kenya is the first known court challenge of its kind outside the United States. In 2020, Facebook agreed to pay \$52 million to U.S. content moderators who filed a class action lawsuit after they were repeatedly exposed to beheadings, child and sexual abuse, animal cruelty, terrorism and other disturbing content.

Under the terms of the deal, more than 10,000 content moderators who worked for Facebook from sites in four states will each be eligible for \$1,000 in cash. In addition, those diagnosed with psychological conditions related to their work as Facebook moderators can have medical treatment covered, as well as additional damages of up to \$50,000 per person.

The African moderators expressed despair as money and work permits run out and they wrestle with the traumatic images that haunt them.

“If you feel comfortable browsing and going through the Facebook page, it is because there’s someone like me who

has been there on that screen, checking, ‘Is this okay to be here?’” Nkunzimana, a father of three from Burundi, told The Associated Press in Nairobi.

The 33-year-old said content moderation is like soldiers taking a bullet for Facebook users, with workers watching harmful content showing killing, suicide and sexual assault and making sure it is taken down.

For Nkunzimana and others, the job began with a sense of pride, feeling like they were “heroes to the community,” he said.

But as the exposure to alarming content reignited past traumas for some like him who had fled political or ethnic violence back home, the moderators found little support and a culture of secrecy.

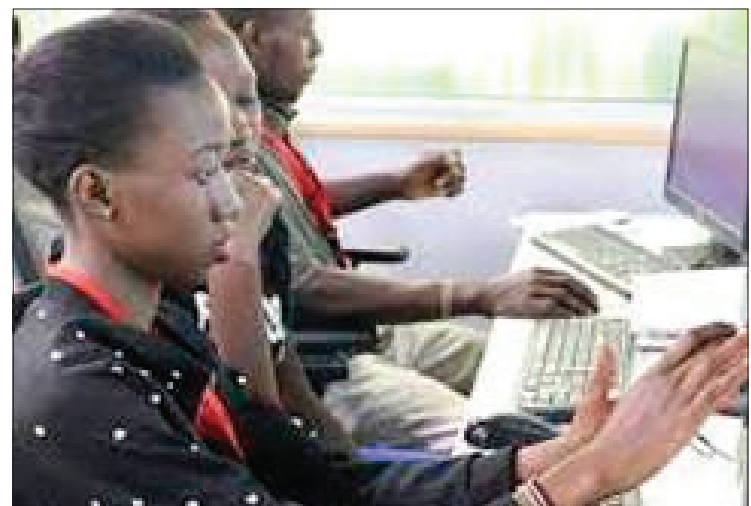
They were asked to sign non-disclosure agreements. Personal items like phones were not allowed at work. Facebook and Sama have defended their employment practices in June.

Meta said its contractors are officially obliged to pay their employees above industry standard rates where they operate and provide on-site support by trained practitioners. A company spokesman said Meta could not comment on the Kenya case.

In an email to the AP, Sama said the salaries offered in Kenya were four times the local minimum wage and that all employees had unlimited access to one-on-one counseling.

In countries like Kenya, where there is plenty of cheap labor available, the outsourcing of such sensitive work is “a story of an exploitative industry predicated on using global economic inequity to its advantage, doing harm and then taking no responsibility because the firms can say, ‘Well, we never employed so-and-so, that was, you know, the third party,’” Sarah Roberts, an expert in content moderation at the University of California, Los Angeles, told AP.

The Employment and Labor Relations court said they have 21 days to reach a settlement and that former Kenyan chief justice, Willy Mutunga, and labor commissioner, Hellen Apiyo would co-mediate the dispute. w/pix of Kenyan content moderator

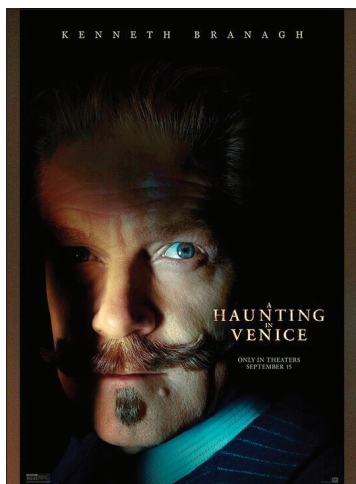


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Film



By Audrey J. Bernard

"A Haunting in Venice," an unsettling supernatural thriller based upon the novel "Hallowe'en Party" by Agatha Christie and directed by and starring Oscar winner Kenneth Branagh as famed detective Hercule Poirot, is so beautifully crafted that you might forget to be afraid as you are mesmerized by the breathtaking set design by John Paul Kelly and cinematography by Haris Zambarloukos and hauntingly beautiful music by Hildur Guðnadóttir. What a boost for the Venice economy as after seeing this film tourists will flock to Venice where it was made. But you must see the film first! What I liked most about "A Haunting in Venice" was its small cast, which enabled me to get to know and appreciate what each actor brought to the game – one scarier and more mysterious than the other, but all enthralling. It's a thrill seekers' delight! The murder mystery reunites many of the filmmakers behind 2017's "Murder on the Orient Express" and 2022's "Death on the Nile." This movie checks all the suspense boxes and Branagh is everything and still reigns as the number one sleuth in

A chilling 'A Haunting in Venice' will give you goosebumps. Just chill!

the world. He is magnificent!
SYNOPSIS: It is all Hallows' Eve in an eerie Venice in the years following World War II, where celebrated sleuth, Hercule Poirot (Kenneth Branagh), now resides, retired, and living in self-imposed exile. Poirot has said goodbye to all that. His experiences in crime, investigation, and seeing the worst of humanity via another war, have caused him to give up. He spends his time doing everything he can to avoid thinking about crime; but of course, crime comes to him. Poirot receives a visit from an old friend, the world's number one mystery writer Ariadne Oliver (Tina Fey), who has something she just has to show him, and promises it is not a crime. She wants him to join her at a séance and help her prove that it is not real. Despite his better judgment, Poirot finds himself intrigued and reluctantly agrees to attend the séance at a decaying, haunted palazzo owned by famed opera singer Rowena Drake (Kelly Reilly). When one of the guests is murdered, the guests in attendance are all considered suspects, thrusting the Belgian detective into a sinister world of shadows and secrets.

CAST: A brilliant acting ensemble portrays a cast of unforgettable characters, including Kenneth Branagh, Kyle Allen ("Rosaline"), Camille Cottin ("Call My Agent"), Jamie Dornan ("Belfast"), Tina Fey ("30 Rock"), Jude Hill ("Belfast"), Ali Khan ("6 Underground"), Emma Laird ("Mayor of Kingstown"), Kelly Reilly ("Yellowstone"), Riccardo Scamarcio ("Caravaggio's Shadow"),



Seance (Facing front, L-R) Jude Hill as Leopold Ferrier, Camille Cottin as Olga Seminoff, Michelle Yeoh as Mrs. Reynolds, Jamie Dornan as Dr. Leslie Ferrier, and Kyle Allen as Maxime Gerard in 20th

and recent Oscar winner Michelle Yeoh ("Everything Everywhere All at Once").
CREATIVES: 20th Century Studios Presents "A Haunting in Venice" A Kinberg Genre/Mark Gordon Company/ Scott Free/Agatha Christie Limited Production, A Kenneth Branagh Film
 Directed by Kenneth Branagh. Screenplay by Michael Green based upon the novel "Hallowe'en Party" by Agatha Christie. Produced by Kenneth Branagh, p.g.a., Judy Hofflund, p.g.a., Ridley Scott, and Simon Kinberg. Executive

producers are James Prichard, Louise Killin, and Mark Gordon. Director of Photography Haris Zambarloukos BSC, GSC. Production Designer John Paul Kelly. Editor Lucy Donaldson. Music by Hildur Guðnadóttir Costume Designer Sammy Differ. Casting by Lucy Bevan, CSA. Production Manager Liza Carmel. First Assistant Director Martin Curry. Second Assistant Director Anna Brabbins. Associate Producer Martin Curry. Hair & Makeup Designer Wakana Yoshihara. VFX Supervisor Artemis. "A Haunting in Venice" Original

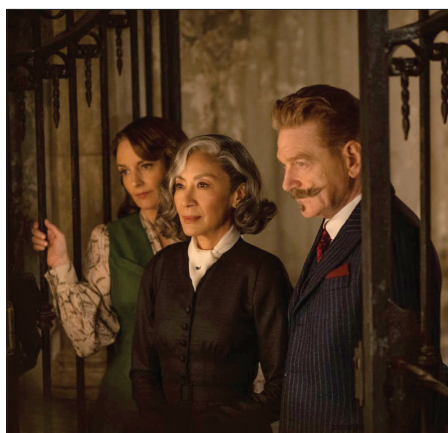
Motion Picture Soundtrack featuring score by Hildur Guðnadóttir is available September 15, 2023. "A Haunting in Venice" will be distributed Friday, September 15, 2023, by 20th Century Studios. These breathtaking photos should whet your appetite to see this daunting film which will dazzle you from beginning to end! (Production Photos by Rob Youngson. © 2023 20th Century Studios. All Rights Reserved) (Scenic and set photos courtesy 20th Century Studios. © 2023 20th Century Studios. All Rights Reserved)



Rowan Robinson as Alicia Drake and Kelly Reilly as Rowena Drake



Riccardo Scamarcio as Vitale Portfoglio and Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot



Tina Fey as Ariadne Oliver, Michelle Yeoh as Mrs. Reynolds, and Kenneth Branagh



Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot



(L-R) Director Kenneth Branagh and Cinematographer Haris Zambarloukos on the set,



A scene from 20th Century Studios' 'A Haunting in Venice'



A scene from 20th Century Studios' 'A Haunting in Venice'



(L-R) Director Kenneth Branagh as Hercule Poirot and crew on the set.



Cadillac All Electric Celestiq (Photo courtesy GM)



Sandy Tate and Audrey in Cadillac suite (AJB)



Cadillac Suite hosts (AJB)



Don Lemon and Tim Malone (AJB)

Cadillac has triumphant return as Official Vehicle of the US Open

Last year, the ultimate luxury car company Cadillac announced with the USTA a multi-year sponsorship making Cadillac the Official Vehicle of the US Open in Arthur Ashe Stadium. The new partnership was successful beyond expectations and set the tone for what to expect in 2023! This year's US Open with Cadillac returning as the Official Vehicle of the US Open with a purpose was bigger and better than ever! As a champion of big dreams and bold ambitions, Cadillac is honored to celebrate the iconic Billie Jean King and 50 years of pay equity at this year's tournament. Cadillac is committed to partnering with

the USTA to continue to drive social change both now, and into the future. I was invited back this year to celebrate Cadillac's triumphant return to the 2023 US Open on Friday, September 8 for session 22 that included the Men's Doubles Final and the Men's Semifinals.

I brought along a longtime friend, Sandy Tate, who is an avid sports enthusiast with a love for tennis. She was thrilled beyond words, and I was happy to be able to share this stellar sports event with her. Before making our way to Cadillac's Suite 118, we walked around and enjoyed seeing all the festivities surrounding the stadium as well as many

sports stores, restaurants, and kiosks selling a wide selection of international cuisine. We finally made our way to Cadillac's Suite 118 in Arthur Ashe Stadium where we were swept off our feet. The staff was flawless and could not do enough to make our experience a fabulous one and make us feel comfortable. We enjoyed sumptuous food, delicious desserts, and beverage options with outstanding views of the center court in a premium, lounge setting. It was fabulous. The weather was sweltering but that did not stop anyone from enjoying the event's signature drink The Honey Deuce, made of Grey Goose vodka, raspberry liqueur

and lemonade, and garnished with honeydew melon in the shape of tennis balls. This special libation has been the signature cocktail of the U.S. Open since 2007. Our friendly bartender in the Cadillac suite made an excellent Honey Deuce and enjoyed telling the story about this delicious libation. I learned that the drink was celebrating its 17th anniversary this month, having sold a record-breaking 405,000 cocktails in 2022. So, until next year, Cheers!

The matches were riveting! Coco Gauff and Ben Shelton received wild applause after every win – and shouts of support after every bad play. Coco

won the 2023 US Open women's championship and although Ben lost the game to Djokovic, he won the admiration of the fans with special mention of his third-set tie-break which created a cacophony of noise in the stadium. While visiting the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, everyone was invited to experience the Cadillac ELECTRIQ Theater. This 360-degree cinematic experience transports you into the iconic world of Cadillac while showcasing the brand's vision for an all-electric future. US Open guests were also able to preview the first ever, all-electric GM Electric ESCALADE IQ and the meticulously crafted CELESTIQ.



Famous The Honey Deuce signature drink served in Cadillac suite (AJB)



Coco Gauff (USTA)



Novak Djokovic wins his 24th Grand Slam singles title (Arthur Kapetanakis)



Coco Gauff (Photo by Simon Bruty-USTA)



Coco Gauff winner of women's championship of US Open and parents pose with trophy in front of fountain at Billie Jean King Tennis Center. (Photo by Getty Images)



Men's doubles champions Joe Salisbury and Rajeew Ram (Mike Lawrence-USTA)



Ben Shelton (Photo by Garrett Ellwood-USTA)

Entertainment



By Don Thomas

A momentous affair: Caribbean Music Awards hosted by Wyclef Jean

The Caribbean Music Awards hosted by 3 times Grammy Awards winner recording artist Wyclef Jean was held on August 31st at the Kings Theater in Brooklyn, NY. The inaugural event brought together over 3,000 people from performing artist and honorees to fans of Caribbean music. Recapping the turnout and support for this inaugural event brought together more than 3,000 people ranging from performing artists and honorees to fans of Caribbean music. Recapping the turnout and support from the inaugural event, the Caribbean Music Awards team shared, "This year was a great first step to what's to come. The love and appreciation for what Thursday night planted is the beginning to something special. Thank you to everyone who attended, tuned in and understood why this was important... and now that we have the world's attention, we look forward to shining an even brighter and wider spotlight on the Caribbean Music scene as a whole."

The night kicked off with DJ Young Chow as he welcomed everyone in attendance and ignited a carnival melody with a performance by Alison Hinds of her smash hits "Fuluma," "Togetherness," and Rupee as he performed his legendary Soca single "Jump." Trinidadian Soca star JW proceeded the mash-up with a performance of his single "Palance" accompanied by a carnival parade of dancers dressed in Caribbean festival fashion. Eliciting excitement in the room from all, the stage was set for the night as Wyclef Jean formally introduced himself to the audience.



Wyclef Jean served as host (Photo: Caribbean Music Awards)

"Tonight is a very important night as we celebrate the Caribbean region" Wyclef Jean shared with the crowd before he announced the night's first award, 'Best New Soca Artist,' which went to artist Tempa. Buju Banton received the first honors of the night with a Humanitarian Award, which highlighted the invaluable efforts of his philanthropic foundation the 'Buju Banton Foundation.'

Kes delivered a heartwarming speech honoring Trinidadian artist David Rudder with an Elite Calypso Music Award honor. Carel Pedre saluted and honored the

late Mikaben with a Kompa Music Award honor. Mikaben's brother, Lionel Benjamin accepted the honor award on behalf of the artist whose music continues to enrich the global music landscape.

Morgan Heritage welcomed a special tribute to Beres Hammond, which included performances by Dexta Daps, Kranium, Toni-Ann Singh and Romain Virgo. Hammond was officially honored with the Elite Icon Award by the president of VP Records Chris Chin. Shortly after accepting his honor in person, New York City Council Member Rita Joseph presented Hammond with a New York City

Honor on behalf of the city. DJ Stephen and Doug E. Fresh welcomed an honor to Machel Montano with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

More of the performances included Wyclef Jean, who ushered in a soulful acoustic melody with Teddyson John, Nailah Blackman, and Jada Kingdom, who performed a rendition of her cinematic single "GPP." Dancehall artist Ding Dong, who also received two award wins for the night, unleashed a medley of high-energy performances of some of his most acclaimed hits.

Angela Hunte, Farmer Nappy & Skinny Fabulous also per-

formed their respective Soca hits. Doug E. Fresh introduced the closing set of performances for the night by saying, "There would not be no Hip Hop, without Caribbean Music" as he ushered in an electric performance between himself and Vicious (p.k.a. Lil' Vicious) with "Freaks," Skeng, Shanel Muir, Laa Lee followed suit with performances as well. Wayne Wonder performed a melody of his hit singles, including "Saddest Day of My Life" "No Letting Go" as Baby Cham performed "Ghetto Story" before Dexta Daps joined him for an official conclusion performance of the night.

Presenters of the night included MYA, Spice, Renée Neufville (Zhané), actor Leon Preston (The Five Heartbeats, Cool Runnings), Michael Rainey Jr. (Power on STARZ), Kes, Kabaka Pyramid, Majah Hype, Shanel Muir, Toni-Ann Singh, Ver-shon, Shireen B, Karlie Redd, Tanisha Scott, Ricardo Drue, Tosh Alexander, Baby Cham and more.

Award winners of the night included Vybz Kartel for 'Artist of the Decade,' Nicki Minaj and Skeng for their collaboration single «Likkle Miss," Popcaan and Toni-Ann Singh for 'Video of the Year (Dancehall/Reggae)' and Spice for 'Female Artist of the Year.' Kes took home the 'Peoples Choice Awards,' powered by Spotify's Frequency as Viking Ding Dong, Samora, Patrice Roberts, Masicka, GBM & DJ Spider, Kabaka Pyramid, Dexta Daps, and more received award wins for the night as well. The complete list of winners of the 2023 Caribbean Music Awards was officially unveiled by Billboard.



Machel Montano accepts Lifetime Achievement Award (Photo: Caribbean Music Awards)



Beres Hammond accepts Elite Icon Award (Photo: Caribbean Music Awards)



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\$2.7B settlement pending federal court approval: Fake credit repair, debt relief scams date back to 2016

By Charlene Crowell

As consumers complain about the real-life challenges of keeping pace with the rising costs of living, key financial reports reveal that the challenges are as high and widespread as this summer's scorching heat.

In early August, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York released its quarterly report on household debt and credit. At mid-year, the nation's total household debt rose to \$17.06 trillion – a \$2.9 trillion increase since the start of the pandemic recession in late 2019.

Little wonder then, that millions of consumers became susceptible to phone calls and advertising that promised financial relief. At the same time, businesses looking to make major profits from others' financial woes have been busy. Chief among these financial predators are debt relief and credit repair firms that make promises, collect up-front fees and never deliver for consumers.

On August 28, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) announced a \$2.7 billion judgment against major members of this industry. An order now awaiting federal court approval would also ban these firms from telemarketing credit repair services for 10 years for illegal actions dating back as far as 2016.

"Americans across the country looking to improve their credit scores have turned to companies like CreditRepair.com and Lexington Law. These credit repair giants used fake real estate and rent-to-own opportunities to illegally bait people and pad their pockets with billions in fees," said



CFPB Director Rohit Chopra. "This scam is another sign that we must do more to fix the credit reporting and scoring system in our country."

CFPB's lawsuit charged its defendants with failure to perform legitimate credit monitoring services. Its legal challenges cited the Telemarketing Sales Rule (TSR) that requires fees for tele-marketed credit repair services be paid after – not before – the promised credit repair has been completed. The rule also requires that credit repair firms provide documentation that substantiates the promised results were achieved within six months. Additional counts in the complaint charged that the defendants used deceptive acts and practices in violation of the

Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (CFPA).

Two of the lawsuits' defendants, Lexington Law and CreditRepair.com, are the largest credit repair brands in the country. The credit repair services are marketed and offered through a web of lesser known but related entities operated nationwide and had more than 4 million customers who were subjected to telemarketing. In 2022 alone according to CFPB, the defendants had combined annual revenues of approximately \$388 million.

To generate credit repair sales for Lexington Law and CreditRepair.com, defendants used a network of marketing affiliates that advertised a variety of products

and services, often related to consumer credit products. Typically, according to CFPB, telephone agents pitched so-called credit repair services to the consumer, and later transferred calls to agents employed by a separate firm who would attempt to close the credit repair sale. This second firm would be paid by defendants for each sale closed with the deceptive practices that led consumers to believe only a single entity was involved.

Court approval of the settlement will:

Ban the perpetrators from telemarketing for 10 years: The companies will be banned from telemarketing credit repair services or selling credit repair services that others marketed through

telemarketing for 10 years. The companies will also be banned from doing business with certain marketing affiliates. These bans will attach to the companies even after the bankruptcy proceedings are complete.

Require notices to consumers: The companies will be required to send a notice of the CFPB settlement to any remaining enrolled customers who were previously signed up through telemarketing. The notice will inform consumers of the CFPB's lawsuit, the court's summary judgment holding, the settlement, the consumer's right to cancel their credit repair services, and the process for canceling the service.

Impose a \$2.7 billion judgment for redress: The order would impose a \$2.7 billion judgment against the companies for redress. Due to the companies' financial insolvency, the CFPB will determine whether the CFPB's victims' relief fund can be used to make payments to those harmed by the perpetrators.

Impose more than \$64 million in civil penalties: The order would impose a \$45.8 million civil money penalty against Progrexion Marketing and a \$18.4 million civil money penalty against the Heath law firm.

"Credit repair companies that offer quick fixes are often scams that disappear with consumers' hard-earned money," noted Pamela Hernandez, a regional manager with the Better Business Bureau.

Charlene Crowell is a senior fellow with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

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Coco Gauff youngest U.S. Open Champion since Serena Williams in 1999

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

Coco Gauff has etched her name in tennis history as she clinched the U.S. Open singles title, becoming the youngest player since Serena Williams' historic victory in 1999 when she was just 17 years old. Gauff's remarkable triumph came after an intense three-set battle against Aryna Sabalenka, with a final score of 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Amidst the crowd's roar and the flashbulbs of countless cameras, Gauff stood on the iconic Arthur Ashe Stadium, her trophy shining brightly, and her victory speech filled with a sense of readiness for the fame that will undoubtedly come her way. "I'm ready," Gauff proclaimed, her youthful confidence evident. "I embrace it. I know how to keep my peace but also embrace all of this around me."

As Gauff accepted her winner's check of \$3 million, she took a moment to graciously thank tennis legend Billie Jean King, who stood alongside her on the stage. The gesture highlighted Gauff's perspective, humor, and charm that has set the stage for American sports' next global superstar. "She is so humble," said Pere Riba, Gauff's coach, in the post-match



interview. "Her work ethic is so strong, so professional, and she has very good manners. Put all of that together, and she will only get better. She can handle it all."

Gauff has long been earmarked as one of tennis' next superstars. Her maturity on and off the court, intelligence, and ability to articulate herself have endeared her to the American public and the global tennis community.

Even prominent figures in the political arena couldn't contain their excitement. President Joe Biden took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to congratulate the young

champion. "Congrats to U.S. Open Champion Coco Gauff," he tweeted. "You electrified Arthur Ashe stadium and the entire nation – the first of more to come and proof that anything is possible if you never give up and always believe. You've made America so proud."

Former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michelle Obama, who cheered Gauff during her first-round match against Laura Siegmund, also extended congratulations. "We couldn't be prouder of you on and off the court – and we know the best is yet to come," Barack Obama wrote. The former First Lady paid tribute to Gauff's "hard work and grit" and shared a cherished photo of their meeting after that memorable first-round match.

Former President Bill Clinton joined the chorus of praise, describing Gauff's victory as "incredible" and expressing optimism for the future of American tennis. Serena Williams, whom Gauff credits for inspiring her dreams, shared her excitement on Instagram, writing, "Ahhhhh!!!! Amazing!!!!"

Gauff reflected proudly on her victory. "My dad took me to this tournament, sitting right there, watching Venus and Serena compete, so it's really incredible to be here on this stage," she stated.

Coco Gauff receives praise from Serena Williams, Roger Federer after winning US Open

Philadelphiaobserver.com

Coco Gauff is getting love from the biggest names in the world after winning the US Open on Sunday. Tennis legend Serena Williams is among those who congratulated the 19-year-old for her big accomplishment.

"Ahhhhhhhhhh!!!! Amazing!!!!!! @cocogauff," Williams wrote on her Instagram Story, posting a photo of the young star.

Gauff paid tribute to Serena and Venus Williams as she celebrated her U.S. Open title, Tennis 365 reported.

"Crazy. They're the reason why I have this trophy today," she said.

"To be honest, they've allowed me to believe in this dream. Growing up, there wasn't too many just Black tennis players dominating the sport. It was literally at that time when I was younger, it was just them that I can remember."

Many more icons praised Gauff on her big day. Tennis legend Roger Federer said Gauff's win was inspirational.

"Been watching you and following you for years. It's great to see so much hard work and passion being rewarded. You shine brighter than ever," Federer wrote as he posted a side-by-side photo of Gauff lifting the U.S. Open trophy and another pic of himself posing with the star many years ago.



Dionne Warwick chats about love, joy and hope

Posted By Don Thomas

Harper Celebrate, a gift book imprint of HarperCollins Focus, has announced a forthcoming book with six-time Grammy Award-winning Icon Dionne Warwick. Set to release in January 2025, the full-color book—tentatively titled "What the World Needs Now: Messages of Love and Hope (But No Advice Cause No One Listens Anyway)"—will include heartfelt, humorous, and wisdom-filled stories from Dionne's personal and professional life, alongside positive affirmations—and classic Dionne-isms.

"Harper Celebrate is giving me an opportunity to give you an insight into my feelings about love, joy, hope and inspiration. Some quite serious and most with a touch of humor. I'm excited to share with all of you!" says Warwick, a former Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nation's Food & Agriculture Organization.

"Dionne is an iconic figure in American music and culture," said Michael Aulisio, vice president and publisher, Harper Celebrate. "We're thrilled that she's bringing her distinctive voice to the page. Her signature sophistication, poignancy, and wit is electric."

About Harper Celebrate

Harper Celebrate publishes projects such as daily readers; lifestyle books on topics like hospitality,



home decorating, organization, and crafting; journals; photography-driven books and anthologies; poetry; mindfulness; and occasion-focused books such as holiday celebrations, graduation, and gifts for special persons. For more information,

visit www.harpercollinsfocus.com/harper-celebrate

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to lead lives of significance, integrity and purpose. The company is based in Nashville, TN. For more information, visit www.harpercollinsfocus.com For media inquiries contact Double XXposure - angelo@dxxnyc.com

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