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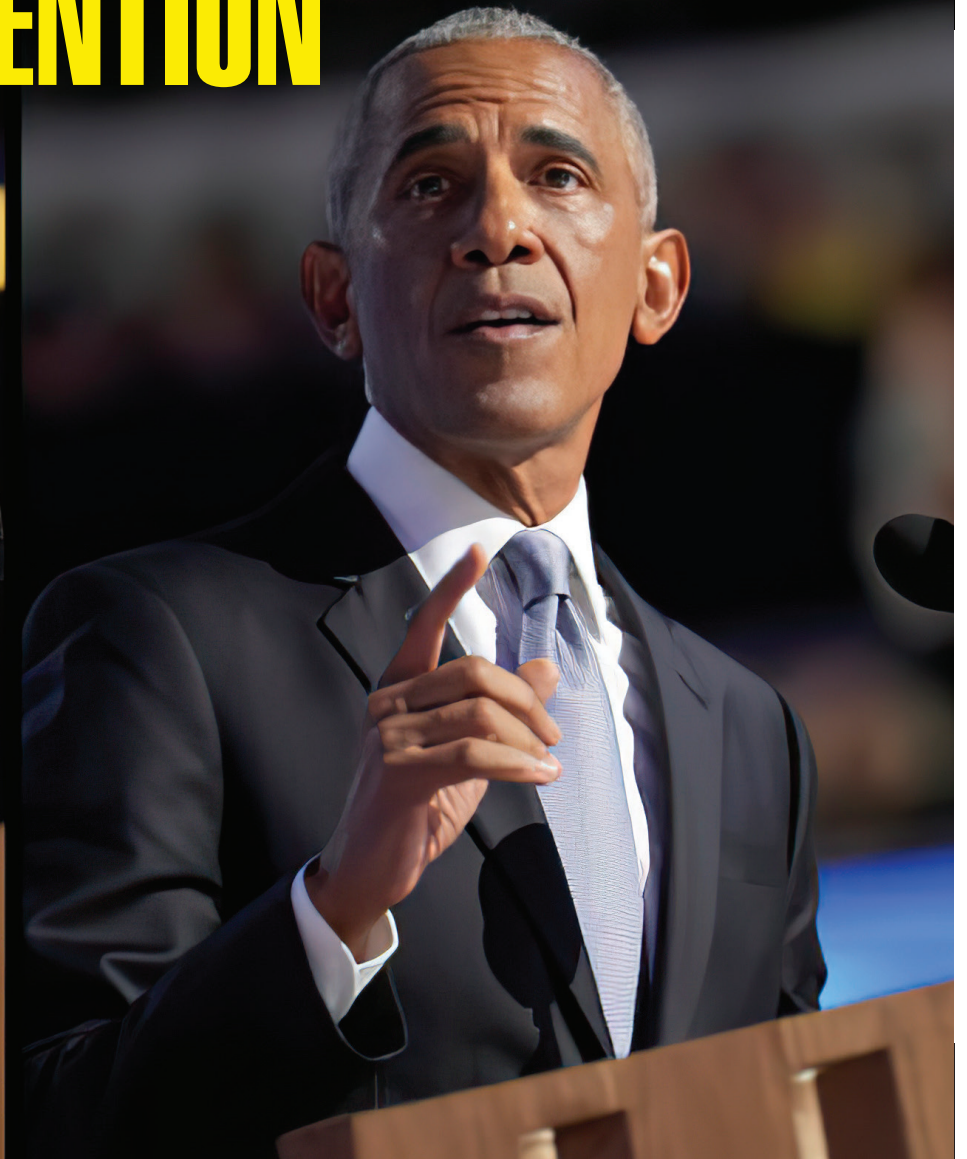
Speaking Truth to Justice

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OBAMAS ELECTRIFY TAKE CENTER STAGE AT DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION



Michelle's marching orders were to not complain but "Do something" as Kamala Harris was taught to always do throughout her youth, p3

Inflation cools to below 3%, paving way for potential Fed rate cuts

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

Inflation in the United States showed promising signs of easing in July, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) falling below 3% for the first time in over three years. The unexpected slowdown in price hikes could lead the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates as early as next month, potentially easing borrowing costs and providing a boost to economic growth.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, consumer prices rose 2.9% over the past year, down from June's 3% annual increase. On a monthly basis, prices ticked up by 0.2%, reversing a slight decline of 0.1% in the previous month. The primary driver of this increase was housing costs, with the shelter index climbing by 0.4%, accounting for nearly 90% of the overall monthly increase.

According to FactSet consensus estimates, economists had anticipated a 0.2% monthly rise and a 3% annual increase. Meanwhile, core CPI, which strips out the volatile categories of food and energy, also rose by 0.2% from June, with its annual rate slowing to 3.2% from 3.3%—the lowest rate since April 2021. Various financial experts said these figures suggest that the inflationary surge seen earlier this year is beginning to wane.

This latest report builds on June's positive data, which saw

the overall CPI decline for the first time since April 2020. The steady cooling of inflation has given the Federal Reserve and financial markets increasing confidence that the worst inflationary pressures may be behind us.

However, the Federal Reserve has been cautious, holding off on reducing interest rates until there was more consistent evidence of sustained progress in curbing inflation. However, recent developments in the labor market, including a weaker-than-expected jobs report for July—where only 114,000 jobs were added, and unemployment rose to 4.3%—have shifted the landscape.

Financial experts said those labor market weaknesses have reignited fears of a potential recession, leading to heightened expectations that the Fed could begin cutting rates as soon as next month. Reducing interest rates would bring much-needed relief to borrowers, particularly those with mortgages, credit cards, and auto loans. Analysts predict the Fed will likely start with a modest rate cut, possibly around 0.5 percentage points.

Even with potential rate cuts on the horizon, experts predicted that high-yield savings accounts, which currently offer some of the best rates at up to 5.35%, are expected to remain attractive. Certificates of deposit (CDs), which have been popular amid the high-interest-rate environment,



may still offer favorable returns. However, financial experts advise caution in locking long-term high-yield CDs ahead of potential rate reductions.

As the Fed's decision looms, consumers are advised to focus on paying down credit card debt to position themselves favorably for improved borrowing conditions. Mortgage rates, currently averaging 6.55% for a 30-year fixed-rate loan, have already spurred a 16% surge in refinancing demand, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association. A possible rate cut by the Fed could push mortgage rates even lower, making now a suitable time for homeowners and prospective buyers to consider refinancing.

The automotive sector has also seen fluctuations, with the aver-

age interest rate for new vehicle loans in July at 9.72%, down from 10% in June but still higher than a year ago. The average monthly auto loan payment rose slightly to \$727. As dealerships clear out inventory for new models in the coming months, consumers may find opportunities for discounts.

President Joe Biden responded to the July inflation report, highlighting the progress made in controlling inflation. "Today's report shows that we continue to make progress fighting inflation and lowering costs for American households. Inflation has fallen below 3%, and core inflation is at its lowest level since April 2021. While there's still more work to do, we are seeing real progress, with wages rising faster than prices for 17 consecutive months," Biden

stated.

The President also criticized large corporations for maintaining high prices despite record profits and emphasized ongoing efforts to reduce costs for American families. "We are taking on Big Pharma to lower prescription drug prices, cutting red tape to build more homes, and tackling price gouging to reduce everyday costs from groceries to air travel," Biden added. He contrasted these efforts with Republican proposals, which he claimed would raise prices for middle-class families while cutting taxes for the wealthy and large corporations, vowing to continue fighting for economic progress.

"While they try to take us back, we will fight for the future," Biden declared.

Biden secures historic victory in Medicare drug price negotiations, projected to save billions

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire Senior)

In a move hailed as a significant win for seniors, the Biden administration announced it has successfully negotiated substantial price reductions for 10 of Medicare's most expensive and widely used prescription drugs. The result of intense negotiations with pharmaceutical giants, the move is expected to deliver billions in savings for both U.S. taxpayers and millions of older Americans who rely on these medications to manage chronic and life-threatening conditions.

The White House revealed that the newly negotiated prices could save U.S. taxpayers a staggering \$6 billion. In comparison, Medicare

beneficiaries are projected to save an estimated \$1.5 billion in out-of-pocket costs during the first year of implementation. The price cuts are a direct outcome of the Inflation Reduction Act, a legislative victory that has empowered the federal government to negotiate drug prices directly with manufacturers for the first time in history.

Dramatic Price Reductions Across Critical Medications

The impact of these negotiations will be felt across a range of critical medications, including drugs that treat heart disease, cancer, diabetes, and other severe conditions. Among the most notable price reductions:

Eliquis, a blood thinner from Bristol Myers Squibb and Pfizer, will drop its price from \$521 to

\$231—a nearly 60% reduction.

Imbruvica, a blood cancer treatment from AbbVie and Johnson & Johnson, will be reduced from \$14,934 to \$9,319, with a monthly savings of more than \$5,600.

Januvia, a diabetes medication from Merck, will now cost \$113, down from \$527—a 75% reduction.

The price changes, which will take effect in 2026, represent a seismic shift in Medicare's interaction with the pharmaceutical industry, marking a new era of accountability and affordability.

A Landmark Moment for Medicare

"This is a historic moment," declared Neera Tanden, White House

domestic policy adviser, during a press call. "For the first time, we are harnessing the power of Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices, and millions of seniors and others on Medicare will soon see their drug costs go down on some of the most common and expensive drugs."

Medicare, which currently insures over 65 million Americans, has long been barred from negotiating drug prices. Officials said this restriction left millions of seniors grappling with skyrocketing prescription costs, but the Biden administration's successful negotiation represented a dramatic reversal of the status quo and a significant step toward making healthcare more affordable.

The Inflation Reduction Act, which officials said made the negotiations possible, also includes other critical provisions to reduce healthcare costs, such as capping insulin prices at \$35 per month and placing an annual cap on out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare beneficiaries.

Strong Leadership and Continued Commitment

Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, who played a vital role in the negotiations, described the process as "intense," noting that it required "hard-nosed bargaining" to secure these deals. Vice President Kamala Harris called the agreement

"life-changing" for millions of Americans and said it reaffirmed the administration's commitment to continuing the fight against Big Pharma's "price-gouging practices."

"For years, millions of Americans were forced to choose between paying for medications or putting food on the table, while Big Pharma blocked Medicare from being able to negotiate prices on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities. But we fought back—and won," President Biden added.

Officials said the administration has already set its sights on expanding these negotiations. In 2025, the administration plans to negotiate prices for up to 15 additional drugs under Medicare Part D, with more to follow in subsequent years.

A Turning Point for American Healthcare

White House officials said the move signals a new era in which the federal government can take on powerful pharmaceutical interests and deliver actual savings to millions of people who need it most.

"Every American should be able to access the health care they need, no matter their income or wealth," Harris said. "Today's announcement will be life-changing for so many of our loved ones across the nation, and we are not stopping here."



Kamala Harris ignites DNC with surprise appearance and Biden, Dems call for fierce defense of democracy and working-class values

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

In an electrifying moment at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) that likely set the tone for the party's campaign, Vice President Kamala Harris made a surprise appearance on the opening night, seizing the stage to the triumphant anthem of Beyoncé's "Freedom." The crowd erupted with fire in her voice as Harris declared, "I want to kick us off by celebrating our incredible president, Joe Biden. Thank you for your historic leadership, for your lifetime of service to our nation, and for all you will continue to do. We are forever grateful to you."

The first night of the DNC was more than a celebration; it was a battle cry. Democrats from all political backgrounds came together to honor President Biden's legacy, which includes unwavering efforts to reduce costs for middle-class Americans, repair a deteriorating infrastructure, and defend democracy from unprecedented threats. The message was clear: Biden's work is not done, and Vice President Kamala Harris and Governor Tim Walz are ready to continue that fight.

Speakers who are most familiar with Biden, such as Senators Raphael Warnock and Chris Coons, as well as Dr. Jill Biden and Ashley Biden, shared stories that painted a picture of a president who is unwaveringly dedicated to the American people. "In public and in private, President Biden never backed down from his vision for an America where everyone has a fair shot," Warnock emphasized. Dr. Biden and Ashley Biden gave heartfelt tributes to the man who led the nation and his family with steadfast devotion.

The emotional high point of the evening came when Biden, introduced by his daughter Ashley, took the stage to a thunderous ovation as "Your Love Has Lifted

Me Higher" filled the arena. The crowd's response was deafening, with chants of "We love Joe" and "Thank You, Joe" reverberating throughout the hall, a powerful testament to Biden's connection with the American people.

In a speech that was as much a rallying cry as it was a reflection on his presidency, Biden delivered a stark reminder of what's at stake. "Let me ask you... Are you ready to vote for freedom? Are you ready to vote for democracy and America? Are you ready to elect Kamala Harris and Tim Walz?" Biden's words resonated as he recalled the perilous moment of his inauguration, just weeks after supporters of the twice-impeached former president stormed the U.S. Capitol. "You cannot say I love my country only when you win," Biden asserted. "The winter of peril and possibility has passed, and with a grateful heart, I stand before you to report that democracy has prevailed. But now, democracy must be preserved."

Biden highlighted the progress made under his administration, pointing to economic recovery, healthcare expansion, and the battle against corporate greed. He singled out Harris's critical role in these achievements. "We've gone from economic crisis to the strongest economy in the world... More Americans have health insurance than at any time in American history. And we finally beat big pharma. Guess who cast the tie-breaking vote? Vice President and soon-to-be President Kamala Harris. Now it's the law of the land—\$35 a month for insulin."

The evening was charged with passionate speeches that struck at the heart of the nation's issues. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton delivered a searing indictment of Donald Trump, contrasting Harris's steadfast dedication to American values with Trump's chaotic legacy. "Kamala won't disrespect our military and our veterans," Clinton declared to thunderous applause.



"She will defend democracy and our Constitution and will protect America from enemies foreign and domestic. Donald Trump fell asleep at his own trial, and when he woke up, he made history as the first person to run for president with 34 felony convictions."

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez delivered a fiery endorsement of Harris, framing her as the champion the middle-class needs. "In Kamala Harris, we have a chance to elect a president who is for the middle class because she is from the middle class," Ocasio-Cortez proclaimed. "She understands the urgency of rent checks, groceries, and prescriptions. She is as committed to our reproductive and civil rights as she is to taking on corporate greed. She is working tirelessly to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and bring hostages home."

Ocasio-Cortez didn't hold back in her critique of Trump, accusing him of being a self-serving demagogue. "Donald Trump would sell this country for a dollar if it meant lining his own pockets and greas-

ing the palms of his Wall Street friends," she said. "I, for one, am tired of hearing about how a two-bit union buster thinks of himself as more of a patriot than the woman who fights every single day to lift working people out from under the boots of greed trampling on our way of life."

The night was filled with moments that galvanized the crowd. Golden State Warriors Head Coach Steve Kerr, invoking the words of Steph Curry, declared, "After the results are tallied that night, we can tell Donald Trump, 'Night, night.'" UAW President Shawn Fain tore off his jacket to reveal a shirt emblazoned with the words "TRUMP IS A SCAB," igniting the crowd into a fervent chant of "Trump's a scab! Trump's a scab!"

In one of the night's most pointed moments, Rep. Jasmine Crockett drew a stark contrast between Harris and Trump: "She became a career prosecutor while he became a career criminal. Who would you hire? Donald Trump or Kamala Harris? Kamala Harris

has a resume, and Donald Trump has a rap sheet with 34 felonies, 2 impeachments, and 1 porn star to prove it."

The NAACP President Derrick Johnson and Melanie Campbell, the President and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, led a standing ovation for civil rights icon Rev. Jesse Jackson during the celebration.

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson also delivered a powerful message that resonated deeply with the audience. "I know that my daughter will see not only a reflection of herself in the White House, but she will experience the deepest part of American values... Kamala Harris—she's got us."

Harris's words from earlier in the night echoed as the event ended: "We are at a pivotal moment. The choices we make now will determine the future of our nation. Together, we will fight for the soul of America and build a future where everyone has a fair shot. Our best days are still ahead, and we are ready to lead."

Obamas take center stage at Democratic National Convention

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

On the second day of the Democratic National Convention, the Obamas took center stage and delivered electrifying speeches that reverberated through the United Center in Chicago. The convention, already energized by a capacity crowd in Milwaukee where Vice President Kamala Harris spoke during a rally, reached new heights as the former First Lady and former President rallied Democrats with their powerful words.

Harris, who spoke to a packed arena in Milwaukee, had her speech live streamed into the United Center, effectively connecting the two cities in a show of Democratic unity and strength. Her presence set the tone for the evening, with her words filling both venues.

Michelle Obama took the stage before her husband in Chicago, immediately captivating the au-

dience. "Something wonderfully magical is in the air, isn't it? I'm talking about the contagious power of hope," she declared as the United Center enthusiastically rocked. "America, hope is making a comeback. Kamala Harris is one of the most qualified people to ever seek the office of president. And she is dignified."

Obama didn't shy away from addressing the twice-impeached and 34-times convicted felon and former President Donald Trump directly. "For years, Donald Trump did everything in his power to try to make people fear us," she remarked. "His limited, narrow view of the world made him feel threatened by the existence of two hardworking and highly educated, successful people who happen to be Black. Who wants to tell him that job he's seeking just might be one of those Black jobs?" she asked, eliciting raucous applause from the crowd.

She continued to dismantle Trump's rhetoric, particularly his at-

tempts to question the blackness of Harris and other Democrats. "No one has a monopoly on what it means to be an American, no one," Obama declared, her words striking a chord with the audience.

Barack Obama then took the stage and immediately lifted the energy in the arena to a fever pitch. "I don't know about you, but I'm feeling fired up," he began, his voice booming across the United Center. "Even if I'm the only person stupid enough to speak right after Michelle Obama."

Obama then turned his focus to Harris, praising her as a leader who embodies the best of what America stands for. "This country has a chance to elect someone who's spent her whole life trying to give people the same chances America gave her," Obama said. "Someone who sees you and hears you and will get up every single day and fight for you: the next president of the United States of America, Kamala Harris."

He also drew a sharp contrast

between Harris's vision for the country and the policies of Trump and his allies. "For them, one group's gain is another group's loss. For them, freedom means that the powerful can do what they please, whether its firing workers trying to organize a union, poisoning our rivers, or avoiding paying taxes like everyone else has to do," he said, highlighting the fundamental differences in their approaches to leadership.

Throughout the night, other prominent Democrats joined the Obamas in rallying the crowd. Illinois Senator Tammy Duckworth delivered a searing critique of Trump's attacks on reproductive rights. "I take it personally when a five-time draft-dodging coward like Donald Trump tries to take away my rights and freedoms in return—especially when it concerns my daughters," Duckworth said.

Maryland Senate candidate Angela Alsobrooks reflected on her close relationship with Harris, emphasizing the vice president's

dedication to justice and public safety. "Kamala Harris knows how to keep criminals off the streets," Alsobrooks said. "And come November, with our help, she'll keep one out of the Oval Office," a line that drew loud cheers from the Chicago crowd.

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham contrasted Harris's healthcare policies with Trump's, criticizing the former president's attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act. "Donald Trump and JD Vance want to dismantle our healthcare system, repeal the Affordable Care Act, and eliminate protections for preexisting conditions. Either these guys don't get it, or they don't care," Grisham said.

Barack Obama left the crowd with a final, resonant message: "If we work like we've never worked before, we will elect Kamala Harris as the next president and Tim Walz as the next vice president. And together, we too will build a country that is more secure, more just, more equal, and free."

Chicago becomes a fortress as Democratic National Convention begins amid heightened security

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

CHICAGO – Chicago has transformed into one of the most fortified locations in the world this summer as the Windy City plays host to the Democratic National Convention (DNC). With the influx of thousands of delegates, media personnel, and political dignitaries, the city has seen unprecedented security measures involving the Secret Service and state and local police, turning downtown Chicago into a near-impenetrable fortress.

Security preparations have been visible across the city, particularly in the downtown area. To stop any attempts to vandalize the courthouse, towering security gates with concrete pillars appeared overnight at the Dirksen Federal Building in the Loop. Similarly, residents and visitors along the Magnificent Mile and Gold Coast were met with unexpected road closures and additional security barriers, even miles away from the primary DNC venues. Roads near Chicago Avenue have been blocked, with police officers stationed on standby and large security gates restricting sidewalk access.

In the South Loop, manhole covers have been sealed with tamper-evident markers, a precautionary measure to detect any unauthorized access. The DNC Public Safety Joint Information



Center, which includes local and federal law enforcement agencies, has warned of additional road closures throughout the convention.

Some closures will last the entire duration of the DNC, while others will be more temporary. The security measures extend

to the city's hotels, where 15,000 media members, thousands of delegates, and volunteers are staying. These hotels have become largely inaccessible by vehicle due to barriers that include city trucks and steel walls, forcing guests to walk several blocks with their luggage. In response to security concerns, congressional officials have advised House Democrats to exercise extra caution when planning their travel, including booking lodging under different names to avoid detection. Officials have also cautioned against visiting certain areas where violent encounters may be more likely to occur.

"The protesters aren't staying in a designated protest site... and there are people who are going to go and really try to cause trouble," one lawmaker warned, echoing concerns about potential disruptions.

While demonstrations from Trump supporters are anticipated, the primary concern for law enforcement is the potential for violence from tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian demonstrators expected to protest U.S. funding for Israel's war in Gaza. In a welcome packet sent to Democratic attendees, convention officials emphasized that the Secret Service has been working closely with various law enforcement agencies, including the Capitol Police and the Chicago Police Department, to ensure the safety of the event. High-profile speakers like Vice

President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz are set to deliver speeches at the convention, and numerous dignitaries, including President Joe Biden, former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, and former First Ladies Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton, are expected to attend. The rumor mill is abuzz with speculation that celebrities like Beyoncé and Taylor Swift might make surprise appearances.

Monday marked the first of a week-long briefing at the Office of Emergency Management and Communications, where the Secret Service coordinates the efforts of federal, state, and local agencies. The office is also responsible for disseminating information if any unplanned situations arise.

As the first wave of protests swept through downtown, Chicago Police responded with a robust presence, including shoulder-to-shoulder patrol officers and bike units along the protest routes. Federal dog teams screened vehicles at the United Center, and U.S. Coast Guard teams patrolled the lakefront. Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling assured the public that the city is prepared to handle any situation.

"We want people to exercise their First Amendment rights," Snelling stated. "We will protect them while they're doing it, but we will not guarantee that we're not going to make arrests if they start to act violently or commit crimes."

HUD announces significant policy changes to aid homeless veterans

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has announced significant policy changes to help veterans experiencing homelessness. The new regulations ensure that veterans receiving service-connected disability benefits are not ineligible for supportive housing projects supported by project-based rental assistance through the HUD-Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program.

Previously, VA benefits, provided for injuries or illnesses acquired or worsened during military service, were considered income when determining eligibility for housing assistance. The agency said this caused some veterans to exceed the income threshold for these programs. The updated policy will now exclude these benefits from income calculations, allowing more veterans to qualify for housing assistance. Alongside this change, HUD awarded \$20 million to public housing agencies to further improve the HUD-VASH program.

"No veteran should ever have

to experience homelessness, but when they do, they should not face barriers to getting help they deserve," said Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman. "This policy change will ensure that veterans who are receiving the disability benefits they earned through service and sacrifice can access the housing assistance and supportive services they need to resolve their homelessness."

The HUD-VASH program is a vital resource for housing veterans experiencing homelessness. It pairs rental assistance through housing vouchers from HUD with case management and other supportive services provided by the VA. The homeless program staff at local VA medical centers identify veterans experiencing homelessness and refer them to public housing agencies, which issue vouchers to eligible veterans and their families. Officials said VA staff provide case management and other supportive services to help veterans find and maintain housing, and connect them to healthcare, employment, and other support services.

VA Secretary Denis McDonough emphasized the importance of the new policy, stating, "The days of a

veteran having to choose between getting the VA benefits they deserve and the housing support they need are finally over. This is a critical step forward that will help veterans nationwide – and bring us one step closer to our ultimate goal of putting an end to veteran homelessness for good."

To expand access to HUD-VASH for veterans, HUD is:

Requiring public housing agencies (PHAs) that administer HUD-VASH to set the initial income eligibility for veterans at 80% of Area Median Income, rather than 50%. This higher initial income eligibility threshold was previously optional but is now mandatory.

Adopting an alternative definition of annual income for applicants and participants of the HUD-VASH program that excludes veterans' service-connected disability benefits when determining eligibility.

According to HUD officials, the agency has been collaborating with the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assess the impact of the alternative income definition for HUD-VASH participants looking to receive Low Income Housing Credits-subsidized housing. Treasury officials said that agency expects

to issue guidance on this issue soon. HUD will also encourage state and local governments to make corresponding changes in their subsidy programs to ensure that all veterans experiencing homelessness have access to supportive housing.

"Every veteran deserves a roof over their head, and the Biden-Harris Administration is doing everything we possibly can to end veteran homelessness," said White House Domestic Policy Advisor Neera Tanden. "Today's actions reflect President Biden and Vice President Harris's commitment to breaking down barriers to housing so that every veteran gets the benefits they have earned."

The revised HUD-VASH operating requirements also include additional policy changes that will improve the administration of the HUD-VASH program. This will allow PHAs to:

Make non-competitive awards of project-based HUD-VASH contracts to housing projects or units on VA facilities that serve HUD-VASH families.

Approve Exception Payment Standards as Reasonable Accommodations up to 140% of the Fair Market Rent.



Set a separate minimum rent policy (including a zero minimum rent) for HUD-VASH participants.

Additionally, HUD awarded \$20 million for additional administrative fee funding to 245 public housing agencies in 43 states currently administering HUD-VASH. With this funding, officials said they're encouraging PHAs to expand their housing search assistance to support veterans, expand landlord recruitment for the program, offer incentives and retention payments, help veterans with security deposits, and provide landlord-tenant mediation activities.

Since the program's inception, HUD-VASH has assisted more than 200,000 veterans in exiting homelessness and obtaining permanent, affordable housing. The HUD-VASH program has been crucial in reducing the number of veterans experiencing homelessness by more than 50% since 2010.

For more details on the revised HUD-VASH operating requirements, visit HUD's website.



By Ben Jealous
(TriceEdneyWire.com)
News Analysis

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) still our biggest step toward a brighter future for our children

children to fight every day for a better, livable future? For more clean energy jobs, in big cities and rural communities across the country, that will power our economy – and our homes – for generations to come?

Around this anniversary, the news has been filled with reflection on what the IRA has achieved and what still needs to be done. It is – as it should be – a major focal point at the Democratic National Convention happening now in Chicago.

You do not have to look hard to find examples of its success. More than 334,000 new clean energy jobs have been created across the country. More than 3 million U.S. households have collectively saved over \$8 billion on upgrades that will save them money and make their homes more energy efficient. In Illinois alone, for example, nearly 140,000 residents claimed more than \$260 million in tax credits on their 2023 tax returns for installing solar or making other energy efficiency improvements on their homes.

One fact should loom larger than most: the IRA is still this nation's biggest single step ever toward securing a healthy and livable planet for all. No other single piece of legislation has done more to address our climate

goals and support the clean energy revolution already underway. Through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program, the IRA is projected to reduce greenhouse gas pollution by as much as 971 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050. That's equivalent to the emissions from about 5 million homes' energy use every year for more than 25 years.

Need a reminder of the urgency and necessity of this investment in combating the climate crisis? Just turn on the news. Or step outside. We are experiencing the hottest summer on record ... in the hottest year on record. Supercharged storms and wildfires from all that heat are impacting more and more Americans. Hurricane Ernesto is just the latest storm to batter homes and businesses and leave hundreds of thousands of Americans without power. With so many people hurting and at risk, the IRA remains one of our most powerful tools to mitigate climate change's harm. We must continue to learn from our experience implementing it, fill gaps where we see them, and double down on our efforts to protect people, places and the planet we call home. And we must remember that throwing everything we have at combating the climate

crisis is also the way America wins in the next economy.

In the decades since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the shipping of U.S. jobs overseas has helped destroy towns and cities across America. Now, the IRA is fueling a manufacturing re-birth that is creating good-paying jobs while bringing our energy economy into the 21st century.

Plans to build a new solar cell factory near Minneapolis, Minnesota are currently underway. This factory will create more clean energy jobs in the Midwest while addressing the need for more American-made solar cells. The solar company Heliene, which co-owns the project, publicly credits the IRA's tax credits for inspiring its decision to invest in U.S. solar manufacturing.

Just an hour drive away from Minneapolis is the town of Becker. It is the home to one of the largest coal-burning power plants in the country. Yet Becker will soon be known for something else: being a national leader in the transition to clean, renewable energy. Xcel Energy is fully retiring the Sherco coal-burning power plant by 2030. Literally within eyesight of the old plant, they are building what will become the fifth largest solar project in the United States. Taking advantage of new and

extended tax credits and grant programs, the Sherco solar and energy storage facility will bring 1.8 million solar panels online in 2026. It will employ hundreds of workers – many of them moving over from the coal plant – and power more than 150,000 Mid-west homes each year.

The IRA was always designed to set us up for long-term economic success. Part of how it achieves this is by putting money back into Americans' pockets and ensuring that no community is left out of the transition to cleaner, safer, and more affordable clean energy. Tax credits and rebates are lowering the cost of home improvements and electric vehicles that themselves will save consumers money. The Solar For All program is awarding \$7 billion to projects across the country that will help over 900,000 low-income households benefit from solar energy.

We owe it to ourselves and to our kids to build on this momentum. On this IRA anniversary, I think of those children in Dalton and children in communities big and small across the country. I am excited for all the pictures to come if we get this right.

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.

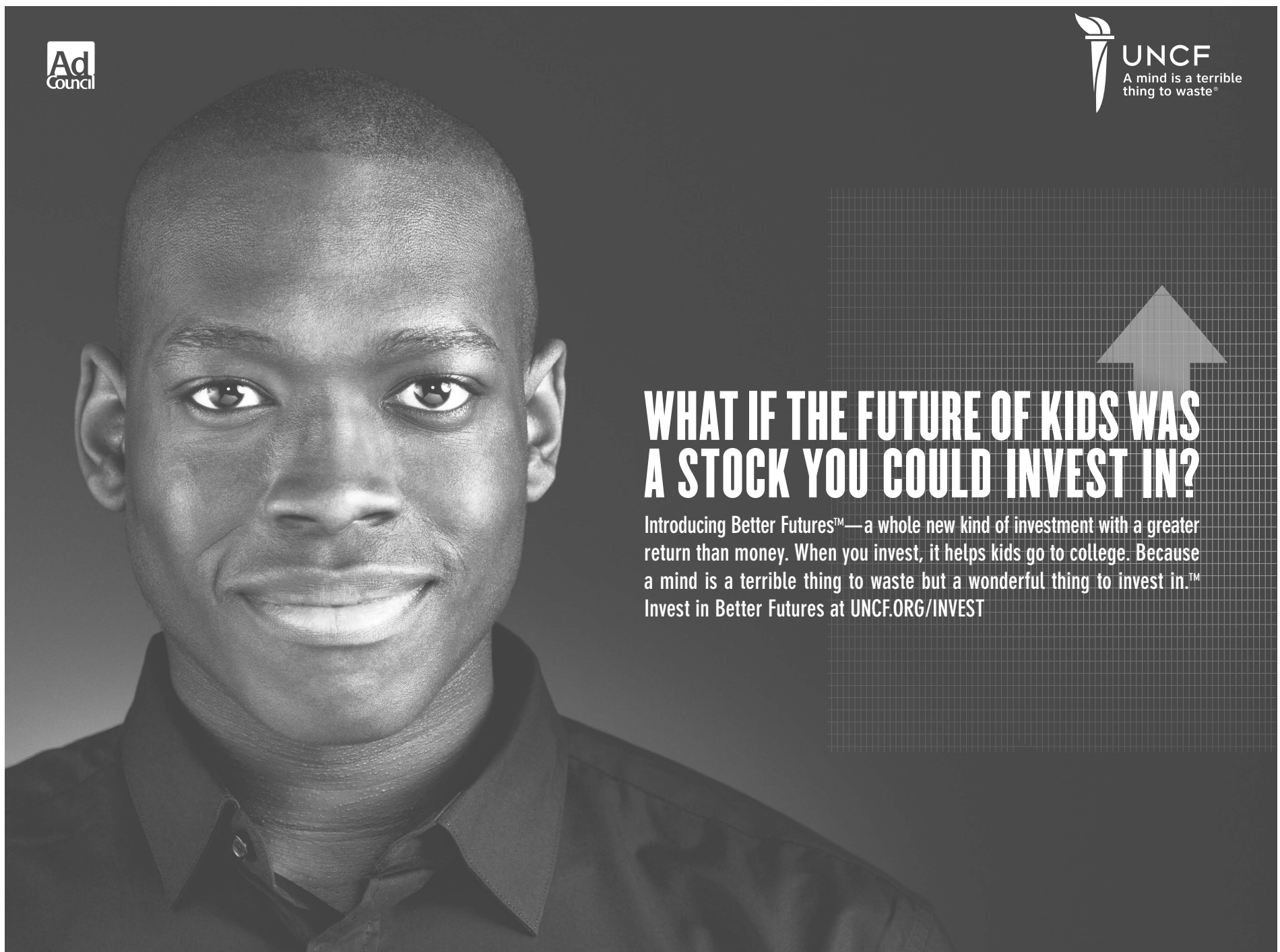
- I often think about a factory hallway in Dalton, Georgia that is filled with pictures drawn by children. It is a reminder of what can be, what will be, thanks to the historic Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), which celebrates its second anniversary this month.

The drawings capture how these children see their parents who work at this solar manufacturing plant. There are pictures of beautiful sunny days, of the earth with pristine water. Of their parents saving the world. These children see their parents as superheroes. As I remember these pictures, I wonder: how can anyone not be inspired by these



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Editorial - Opinion

Kamala Harris – grace and joy



By Julianne Malveaux

- When did politics become such fun? While Democrats will roll up our sleeves to win the November election, in the meantime our candidates are clearly having a good time with the process. Every time she strides across a stage, she beams. Her smile is an incandescence. Her wave joyful.

And as we get to know him, her avuncular running mate, projects joy and confidence. The chemistry between Vice President Harris and

Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz is visible and bodes well for this campaign.

The best thing about VP Harris and her 3-week-old campaign is that she has not stooped to the bizarrely weird level of her opponent. Whether he is attacking her race, minimizing the size of her crowds, or being downright ignorant and insulting ("low IQ individual"), she allows her surrogates to respond to his idiocy and floats about the nonsense.

And while the former President delivers rambling and incoherent attacks, his running mate Senator JD Vance is slightly more coherent, but equally ignorant. He and his wife have dialed back on his bizarre comments about "childless cat ladies", but even their dial back raises questions.

For example, Vance, who did not support the child tax credit in the Senate, now describes Democrats as "anti-family". His wife, Usha, who is reportedly a brilliant Yale-educated lawyer, attempted to defend the crass remarks by saying they were just a "quip" and that he would never insult people

who are "trying to have children".

In other words, I suppose, those who choose not to have children are the ones he has contempt for. One in six adults have no biological children for any number of reasons. Vance apparently does not mind alienating such a significant portion of the population.

Watching the Republicans unravel is amusing. The latest baseless Trump claim is that the rousing crowd (estimated at 15,000) that turned out for VP Harris' Detroit landing on August 7, was AI-generated. Several news organizations attended the rally and have live footage of it, but the former president, in his dotage, claims that Harris somehow "manipulated" the photographs that were featured on the front pages of many newspapers. Even more bizarrely, the former President, obsessed with crowd size, has amusingly claimed that he has drawn larger crowds than Dr. Martin Luther King. Is this the person we want to have with the nuclear codes?

Even Trump's former close allies, like Senator Lindsey Graham

(SC) and House Speaker Mike Johnson (LA) have urged the former President to stop the personal attacks and stick to the issues. He would have to remember the issues to stick to them!

Instead, Mr. Trump has spawned a new industry – fact checking! National Public Radio found that his hour-long press conference on August 8 asserted "at least" 162 "misstatements, exaggerations and outright lies". That's more than two lies a minute.

Beyond the lies and misstatements, there is the toxic energy that Trump exudes. He is in constant attack mode, and he has as dystopian vision of our country. It appears that he wants to frighten people into thinking that Democrats will "ruin" the country and, especially, the economy. While economic fluctuations and inflation have been troubling for some, President Biden has improved the economy from the time that he became President. Indeed, his challenge has been to clean up the mess that the forty-fifth President left.

Meanwhile, Vice-President Harris continues to comport herself with grace and joy. There is a refreshing contrast between the dour scowling incoherent elderly man, and the vital, joyful Vice President. Our nation does face some of the challenges that could wipe the smile off anyone's face, and we certainly don't expect her to smile her way to the September 10 ABC debate (if Trump manages to show up), but her effect of joy, even among the challenges is a much-needed change of focus for our nation. It explains, perhaps, why Harris attract the large crowds that seem to unsettle the former president.

Grace, joy, determination, firmness, amiability, and cordiality are words that describe Vice President Harris' campaign. And millions of Americans appreciate. It fuels the momentum that Republicans like to dismissively call a "sugar high." Democrats are high but not on sugar, we are high on joy and possibility.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is a DC-based economist and author.

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President Biden designates Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument to commemorate Civil Rights history

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

On the 116th anniversary of the Springfield Race Riot, President Joe Biden signed a proclamation establishing the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument in Springfield, Illinois. The new monument will preserve 1.57 acres of federal land and highlight a significant but painful moment in American history, when a white mob attacked the Black community in Springfield, leading to the lynching of two Black men and widespread destruction of homes and businesses.

“Our history is not just about the past; it’s about our present and our future,” Biden said during the announcement. “The Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument will help us remember an unspeakable attack on the Black community and honor the Americans who came together in its aftermath to help deliver on the promise of civil rights.”

The Springfield 1908 Race Riot was a violent response by a white mob to the allegations against two Black men, Joe James and George Richardson, held in the Sangamon County Jail. The mob’s demands for their release escalated into widespread violence after the men were moved to another location for their safety. Throughout the weekend of August 14–16, 1908, two Black men, Scott Burton and William Donnegan, were lynched, and dozens of Black-



owned and Jewish-owned businesses were looted and destroyed.

The riot, which occurred just blocks away from President Abraham Lincoln’s home, shocked the nation and led to the founding of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Civil rights leaders such as Ida B. Wells-Barnett, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Mary Church Terrell played pivotal roles in establishing the NAACP, an organization that has been instrumental in the fight for civil rights in the United States.

NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson attended the event at the White House on Friday, August

16, where President Biden signed the proclamation. The President also hosted guests in the Oval Office, including the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), the trade association of the Black Press of America.

The designation marks Biden’s eleventh use of the Antiquities Act, following the establishment of the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument in 2023, created on the 82nd anniversary of Emmett Till’s birth. The White House announced that the National Park Service (NPS) will manage the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument and

include the charred foundations of five homes never rebuilt after the riot.

“Establishing the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument is an important step in recognizing and remembering this painful but important moment in America’s history,” said Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. “The Springfield 1908 Race Riot was a horrific and significant part of our nation’s march toward equality and civil rights. As we work to tell America’s story—even when difficult—may this monument help us learn from the past in order to build a more just and equitable future.”

NPS Director Chuck Sams also applauded the new monument. “This national monument will provide current and future generations an opportunity to reflect on the tragic events but also to be inspired by the resilience of the Black community and national leaders that went on to fight for social change and civil rights in America,” Sams insisted.

The Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument joins an extensive network of sites dedicated to commemorating civil rights history across the United States, including the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument and the Brown v. Board National Historic Park. The NPS plans to collaborate with local communities to prepare for interpretation, commemoration, and visitor experiences at the new site, which will eventually be part of the NPS’s African American Civil Rights Network.

White House officials said the new monument underscores the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to advancing civil rights and racial justice. Officials said it also builds on previous actions such as signing the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, establishing the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, and making Juneteenth a federal holiday.

With the president’s actions, the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument became part of the National Park System, which now includes 431 national park sites.

Bloomberg donates millions to Black medical schools that were deliberately killed off by the nations’ wealthy

Michael Bloomberg
By Blackmans street
(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

Billionaire Michael Bloomberg’s organization Bloomberg Philanthropies committed \$600 million to the endowments of four historically Black medical schools to help secure their future economic stability after the closure of five Black medical schools more than a century ago as the result of a widely circulated report among the very wealthy pushed by the Carnegie Foundation, John D. Rockefeller, and J.P. Morgan.

The Bloomberg gifts are among the largest private donations to any historically Black college or university, with \$175 million each going to Howard University College of Medicine, Meharry Medical College, and Morehouse School of Medicine. Charles Drew University of Medicine & Science will receive \$75 million, and Xavier University of Louisiana, which is opening a new medical school, will also receive a \$5 million grant.

Bloomberg announced the gifts during a meeting of The National Medical Association, an organization that advocates for African American physicians.

Bloomberg, the former New York City mayor and billionaire founder of Bloomberg LP, pointed to the closure in the last century of five historically Black medical schools, despite the well-documented impact that Black doctors have on improving health outcomes for Black patients. The National Medical Association represents more than 30,000 Black doctors.

I am excited for what this history-making gift will mean for Black physicians, Black medical school students, and faculty and communities across the United States,” said Dr. Yolanda Lawson, the 124th President of the National Medical Association. “This investment will directly improve the pipeline for Black physicians and help to close the health care disparity gap.”

Around 1910, there were seven Historical Black College Medical Schools. Black medical schools were believed at the time to have educated 30,000 to 35,000 Black physicians.

SHORTAGE OF BLACK DOCTORS

Today there is a shortage of Black doctors, leading to public health

concerns. According to a 2022 survey of 950,000 doctors by the Association of American Medical Colleges, 63.9 percent reported their ethnicity as White and just 5.7% as Black.

This shift was caused by Abraham Flexner’s published report. The Flexner Report, which was adopted by the nation’s wealthy elites who supported growing the oil industry.

Flexner was not a doctor, but a school teacher and educational theorist from Louisville, Kentucky. Flexner argued that there were too many medical schools and people who mattered bought this view hook line and sinker.

He succeeded in advocating for the closing of historically Black medical schools and another medical school. Many of the medical schools focused on natural healing. Flexner argued that there were too many medical schools and people who mattered bought into his view.

Flexner’s role in the disappearance of Black medical schools was reported in “Revisiting Black Medical Schools,” written by Lynn E. Miller, a professor at La Salle University School of Business, and Richards M. Weiss.

HOWARD AND MEHARRY REMAINED OPEN

After the wealthy accepted his report, only Howard University College of Medicine and Meharry Medical College remained open, while five Black medical schools were closed.

One of them was Knoxville Medical College which closed within two years of the Flexner Report’s highly unfavorable reviews of the school.

“Lack of funding and support driven probably in no small part by prejudice and racism, have forced many to close their doors,” Bloomberg said of those medical schools. “We cannot allow that to happen again; this gift will help ensure it doesn’t.”

Others saw this as a progression of peddling pharmaceuticals, which began as byproducts of oil refinement and oil usage was growing rapidly at the turn of the century.

Petroleum is predominantly present in medical supplies. Anything plastic, for example, is made from petrochemicals. It’s used for packaging, medical devices and supplies, and more.

Pharmaceuticals represent



about 3% of petrochemicals used in 99 percent of pharmaceuticals.

Flexner effectively created a culture that enabled the monetization of medicine.

Drugs are created to treat symptoms and only rarely treat the actual cause. Plus, drugs create their own symptoms, sometimes requiring additional drugs to offset their ill effects.

Flexner emphasized his view that Black doctors should treat only Black patients and should play roles subservient to those of White physicians.

He also promoted the idea that African American medical students should be trained in “hygiene rather than surgery” and be employed as “sanitarians,” with a primary role to protect White Americans from disease.

Premiere



Audrey J. Bernard



Andy (David Jonsson) in 'Alien-Romulus' which tells a familiar story of perseverance, quick thinking and a fight for survival) 20th Century Studios)



Rain (Cailee Spaeny), left, and Andy (David Jonsson) in 'Alien-Romulus'



Spike Fearn, Aileen Wu, Fede Alvarez, Ridley Scott, Isabela Merced and Archie Renaux



Guest with 'Alien-Romulus' mask wrapped around her waist makes a fashion statement



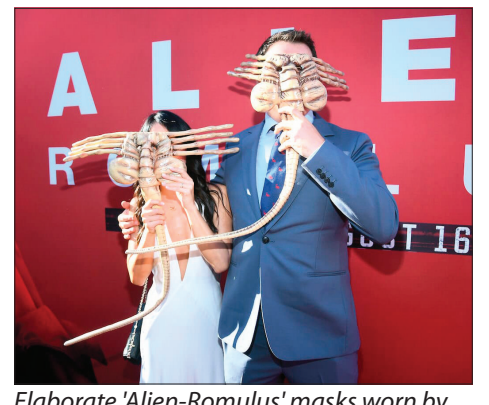
Aileen Wu and Fede Álvarez



Fede Álvarez and Ridley Scott



Guest wearing 'Alien-Romulus' mask



Elaborate 'Alien-Romulus' masks worn by some guests



20th Century Studios' 'Alien: Romulus' is a classic! British actor David Jonsson slays!

Well, you have faithfully waited for your #1 sci-fi/horror-thriller and it's here and does not disappoint! "Alien: Romulus" finally arrived in theaters on Friday, August 16, 2024, to riveting reviews and landed in the #1 spot at the box office! Fans are calling this the best horror film of all time! To that end, Disney pulled out all stops to host a spectacular

world premiere extravaganza for the film at the TCL Chinese Theatre IMAX in Hollywood, California on Monday evening, August 12. Director Fede Alvarez and former director Ridley Scott were seen on the red carpet along with cast members Isabela Merced, Spike Fearn, Archie Renaux, Daniel Betts, and Aileen Wu who is making her feature film acting debut.

The cast of "Alien: Romulus" are luxuriating in global praise for the film led by female phenom Cailee Spaeny (Rain) who kicks butt as leader of the pack of young space colonizers. But I must now pause and talk about the elephant in the room – British actor David Jonsson — who steals the show and the heart of the audience as Andy, Rain's android "brother," who was reprogrammed by her father to be her caretaker. His stellar debut

performance in the "Alien" franchise surely cements his place in further Alien films. Jonsson is a British actor and writer. He began his career in the West End. He is known for his roles in the BBC Two and HBO series Industry and the film Rye Lane. For the latter, he earned a British Independent Film Award nomination. In addition to Jonsson and Spaeny, this terrifying thriller also stars Archie Renaux, Isabela Merced, Spike Fearn, and Aileen Wu who brings the female dominance.

"Alien: Romulus" follows in the footsteps of its phenomenally successful "Alien" franchise. While scavenging the deep ends of a derelict space station, a group of young space colonizers come face to face with the most terrifying life form in the universe. Alvarez directs from a screenplay he wrote with frequent collaborator Rodo

Sayagues based on characters created by Dan O'Bannon and Ronald Shusett.

After directing the first Alien film in 1979 and then returning for 2012's Prometheus and 2017's "Alien: Covenant," Scott has now passed the baton to Alvarez for "Alien: Romulus."

Of taking on the franchise, Álvarez said, "Alien has always been the scariest movie ever for me, so to be able to go into that world and bring it to a new generation, and bring it to life in a way it's never been brought to life before and in such a realistic and almost documentary way, it really was the things that made all my nightmares."

"Alien: Romulus" boasts a celebrated creative crew led by director/co-writer Fede Alvarez, along with co-writer Rodo Sayagues, producers Ridley Scott and Michael Pruss, executive

producers Elizabeth Cantillon, Brent O'Connor and Tom Moran, cinematographer Galo Olivares, and composer Benjamin Wallfisch. Kudos to Olivares and Wallfisch whose contribution to this film will guarantee its name on the eternal best film list of all time.

"Alien: Romulus" opened exclusively in theatres nationwide on Friday, August 16, 2024, and will be available in IMAX, Dolby Cinema, Screen X, 4DX, and premium screens everywhere. The film will be coming to Hulu and Hulu on Disney+ in the US and on Disney+ later following its theatrical release. To coincide with the theatrical release Hollywood Records has released the soundtrack on digital platforms, including Apple, Amazon, and Spotify. (Photos by Getty Images for 20th Century Studios)

On the scene

Jesse Jackson made a world where Kamala Harris could rise

By James Rainey

Vice President Kamala Harris greets the Rev. Jesse Jackson before she delivers a eulogy for U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee on Aug. 1, 2024. The Democratic National Convention will mark many transitions, not the least of them a generational passing of the torch. President Biden is effectively handing control of the party, and the 2024 presidential nomination, to Vice President Kamala Harris — an 81-year-old with decades in public life ceding the national stage to his 59-year-old protege.

Jackson is 82 and living with Parkinson's disease. A year ago, he appeared frail and spoke only a few words as he formally stepped down as president of the organization he created in the 1970s (the PUSH is for People United to Save Humanity) as a force for civil rights and economic equality.

Sitting in a wheelchair, Jackson soaked in the celebration from the front of the auditorium where he had so many times urged on his followers. For more than three hours, he received a constant stream of admirers who said they had been trained and inspired by him over the decades. All the while, prominent Democrats spoke from the stage.

From Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), to Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Los Angeles), to the Rev. Al Sharpton, to independent presidential candidate Cornel West, they agreed: Jackson and his work as a groundbreaking Black presidential candidate in 1984 and 1988 sowed the political field for the eventual blossoming of other Black leaders, including Kamala Harris. (Photo: AP)



TRUMP'S PROJECT 2025 IS A THREAT TO BLACK AMERICANS

Project 2025 is Donald Trump and JD Vance's plan to remake the federal government if they win. It would:

Use Civil Rights-era laws created to address discrimination to instead benefit white people

– Axios, 4/1/24

Gut the Affordable Care Act, which will raise health care costs and threaten health care coverage for millions of Americans

– AP News, 11/27/23

Cut Social Security and Medicare Americans have earned

– Washington Post, 2/9/23

Ban abortion nationally

– New York Times, 2/16/24



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Media's' cozy relationship with Trump campaign exposed in leaked cover-up

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

In a revealing and disturbing revelation, it appears that the mainstream media—once seen as the last line of defense against political corruption—may be bending to the will of Donald Trump. Multiple prominent news outlets, including Politico, The New York Times, and The Washington Post, have reportedly been handed confidential material from within the Trump campaign, including a detailed vetting report on JD Vance, Trump's vice-presidential pick. Yet, instead of reporting on the contents, these outlets have chosen to keep the information under wraps.

The Associated Press noted that the decision is even more startling given the media's aggressive coverage of the 2016 election, where hacked emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign were relentlessly published and scrutinized. "Back then, there was no hesitation to dive into the details of the leaked communications, despite the clear involvement of Russian operatives," the Associated Press noted. But in 2024, when the Trump campaign's internal documents land in their laps, the same outlets are suddenly squeamish, raising serious questions about their integrity and motivations.

Politico acknowledged receiving emails from a mysterious figure named "Robert" that included a 271-page campaign document



on JD Vance and a partial vetting report on Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who was also considered for the vice presidential slot. Both Politico and The Washington Post confirmed the authenticity of the documents but have chosen to focus on the potential origins of the leak rather than the damning content within.

The Trump campaign, predictably, has spun this to its advantage, claiming—without evidence—that Iranian operatives hacked the campaign. The timing of this claim, coming on the heels of a Microsoft report detailing an Iranian attempt

to breach the email of a former senior advisor to a presidential campaign, raises more questions than it answers. Yet, the mainstream media seems content to take this claim at face value, echoing the Trump campaign's narrative rather than challenging it.

These outlets' reluctance to publish the leaked material is in stark contrast to their behavior in 2016, when the media was all too eager to publish every salacious detail from the Clinton campaign's hacked emails. The Times, which has refused to discuss why it chose not to publish the Trump cam-

paign's internal documents, is now being criticized for what appears to be a double standard.

Critics argue that this newfound restraint is nothing more than the media protecting Trump or, at the very least, avoiding the kind of backlash that might come from publishing unflattering material about him. Jesse Eisinger, senior reporter at ProPublica, slammed the outlets' decision, telling the Associated Press, "Once the material is verified as authentic, the public has a right to know what's inside. It's not the media's job to shield a political campaign from

embarrassment—especially when that campaign has been less than transparent."

Eisinger's sentiment echoes the frustration of many who see the media's reluctance as a betrayal of its duty to inform the public. "The media is supposed to be a watchdog, not a lapdog," said one social media commentator, capturing the growing disillusionment with mainstream news outlets.

The FBI has confirmed that it is investigating the matter, but the Trump campaign and the media have not been transparent, leaving the public in the dark. While it's possible that foreign interference is at play, it's equally plausible that this is just another example of the Trump campaign's mastery of manipulation and the media's complicity in it.

As the 2024 election nears, most argue that the stakes could not be higher and that the media's role in shaping public perception is more critical than ever. By choosing not to publish these documents, The New York Times, Politico, and The Washington Post have not only abdicated their responsibility but also set a dangerous precedent. In an era where misinformation reigns supreme, their silence speaks volumes.

"If the media starts picking and choosing what truths the public is allowed to see, then we're no longer living in a democracy—we're living in something much darker," a veteran journalist stated.

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Racial bias uncovered in language used by physicians in medical records, study reveals

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA Newswire)

A ground-breaking study found glaring disparities in the language that health-care professionals use when recording patient interactions, which could have an impact on the caliber of care that minority groups receive. Titled “Examining Linguistic Differences in Electronic Health Records for Diverse Patients with Diabetes: Natural Language Processing Analysis,” the study analyzed electronic health records (EHRs) of Black, white, and Hispanic or Latino patients treated by 281 physicians in a major metropolitan area. The findings highlight how racial and ethnic biases may permeate even the most intimate and routine aspects of healthcare.

The research, which Eden King, the Lynette S. Autrey Professor of Psychological Sciences at Rice University, led, sought to ascertain

whether doctors use biased language when describing patients in post-visit reports. “Language and communication are central to social interactions across cultures, including the critical exchanges that occur between clinicians and patients,” King stated. “Our study sought to uncover whether the words physicians use in health records reflect biases, and the results are concerning.”

The study employed a sophisticated natural language processing tool, the Sentiment Analysis and Social Cognition Engine (SEANCE), to examine various linguistic markers in the EHR text. The analysis revealed that physicians’ notes for Black and Hispanic or Latino patients contained significantly more negative adjectives—such as “unkind,” “negative,” and “stupid”—and words associated with fear and disgust, including “intimidate,” “attack,” and “cringe.” In contrast, notes for white, non-Hispanic patients featured more positive language, including adjectives like

“supportive” and “kind,” as well as verbs indicating trust, such as “affirm” and “advise.”

“These findings align with a growing body of research demonstrating that racial and ethnic minorities often receive inferior care, marked by less empathy, reduced rapport, and diminished patient trust,” King explained in a news release. The study’s results are consistent with previous reports, such as the 2018 National Healthcare Disparities Report, which found that Black and Hispanic patients frequently experience worse care on numerous quality measures compared to their white counterparts. This includes receiving less respect and attention from physicians, further contributing to health disparities.

Researchers assert that the implications of these linguistic biases are far-reaching. Language in EHRs not merely reflects a physician’s observations but also influences future medical decisions, as these

records are reviewed and referenced in subsequent patient encounters. Bias in these records can perpetuate negative stereotypes and lead to ongoing disparities in care. The study’s authors emphasize that understanding and addressing these biases is crucial for improving health outcomes for minority populations.

King and her team hope their research will be a wake-up call to the medical community. “If we can develop and refine algorithms to detect such biases, we can raise awareness among clinicians during patient interactions,” King said in the release. “This heightened awareness could be a critical step toward more equitable healthcare.”

The study also points to the need for systemic changes in how medical professionals are trained and how EHRs are utilized. While EHRs are essential for documenting patient care, officials noted that the language used in these records can reflect

unconscious biases that may influence patient outcomes. They said the research underscores the importance of ongoing education and training for health-care providers to recognize and mitigate these biases.

The study’s findings open the door for further research into the relationship between biased language in medical records and patient outcomes. The research team, which includes experts from institutions such as the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of Houston, and Duke University, plans to explore whether biased language correlates with poorer health outcomes for minority patients and whether interventions can reduce these disparities.

The study, supported in part by a grant from the Rice Race and Anti-Racism Research Fund, was published in JMIR Medical Informatics and is available online.



Victory in defeat of massive grain elevator project threatening to devastate Black historic sites



By Marc H. Morial

"This proposed structure will be as tall as the Statue of Liberty. It is a major threat to the slave-descendant community of Wallace.

This grain elevator would take up hundreds of acres of the fields around you that once formed Whitney Plantation, potentially destroying unknown burial sites. It will contribute to the existing toxic burden with grain dust pollution, and permanently change the landscape of West St. John Parish." — Whitney Plantation Museum

Cancellation of plans for a sprawling grain export facility in Louisiana is a victory for community activism, historic preservation, and environmental equity.

Following a three-year campaign by the Descendants Project, Greenfield LLC this month announced that it was "ceasing all plans" to build what would have been one of the country's largest grain facilities just footsteps from the Whitney Plantation, a historic

site dedicated to the memory of those who were enslaved there.

That includes my own ancestors; my great-great-grandparents, Victor Theophile Haydel and Marie Celeste Becnel, were born on the Whitney Plantation. When the last Haydel to own the plantation died in 1860, Victor and Anna were listed as part of the estate's inventory, valued at 800 and 100 "piastres" – the Cajun word for dollars – respectively.

I was proud to join the fight, chiding the company financing the project as insensitive to the historic, treasured, and sacred site of an essential element of African American history, and outlining the adverse health and environmental impacts and the destruction of the surrounding landscape.

Egregiously, the developers altered a report on the proj-

ect's impact to erase a historian's conclusion that the grain elevator would have "an adverse effect on historic properties" and that the entirety of proposed site should be in the National Register of Historic Places, "Thus far, no enslaved cemeteries have been found for either Whitney or Evergreen Plantations despite hundreds of enslaved people being kept there for over 155 years," Erin Edwards and a co-author wrote in the report they submitted to her employer, Gulf South Research Corporation.

When the company submitted the report to the state three months later, "The determination of the historic district, the findings about the impact on Whitney and the community around it, and the lone sentence about unknown graves had all been removed."

The Army Corps of Engineers ordered a new study after the deception came to light. The Corps also rejected the second report, criticizing the developers for "failing to meaningfully consult with people whose lives would be impacted by the dozens of looming grain silos, new rail, truck and shipping traffic and pollutants from the facility," or "to account for the ways that the development project might harm communities of color."

Descendants Project co-founder Joy Banner was among the crowd that "burst into jubilant cheers" when the developers made the announcement at a local church.

"It shows what happens when communities fight," she said. "The erasure of the Black communities didn't work."

I asked what kind of family



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Illinois sheriff who hired killer of Sonya Massey quits

Sonya Massey, Deputy Sean Grayson
By Blackmans
Street(TriceEdneyWire.com) –

The Sangamon County Sheriff, who hired Deputy Sean Grayson who killed a chronically mentally ill woman in her Springfield, Illinois home, announced his resignation after Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker pushed him to step down.

Sheriff Jack Campbell took a swipe at the system and the governor.

"It has become clear that the current political climate has made it nearly impossible for me to continue effectively in my role," Campbell wrote in the statement. "Some individuals would rather see our community divided and in turmoil than

allow me to continue serving as Sheriff. The health of me and my family, the Sheriff's Office, and our community has to be my priority." Campbell's last day will be August 31.

Sonya Massey, 36, called the police, believing that a burglar had broken into her house.

Grayson, who is now in jail, shot Massey in the face, killing her in a dispute over a pot of water boiling on her stove. Grayson believed that she was planning to throw the hot water on him and that is why he shot her although there was no evidence of that.

He is charged with first-degree murder, aggravated battery, and official misconduct.

Gordon Robertson of the Christan Broadcasting Networks and the 700 Club, said some people are fearful of calling the police



for help because they might get shot.

Robertson also urged government officials to make a list of

police officers who move from one job to another. Grayson had six jobs in four years at various police departments.

The governor called the shooting of Massey, a Black woman in her home by a White deputy "horrific." At the time of the shooting, Grayson was employed by the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office.

The governor turned his attention again to Sheriff Campbell.

"He failed to put forward reforms that need to be made...training and other reforms. And he still has failed to meet with the Massey family. That seems outrageous to me. At a minimum, listen to them, hear them, and then hopefully take action," Pritzker said.

Last week, Ryan M. Cadagin, presiding circuit judge of Sangamon County, ordered Grayson to remain locked up in a cage.

More than 20 members of Massey's family attended the hearing and briefly applauded the decision.



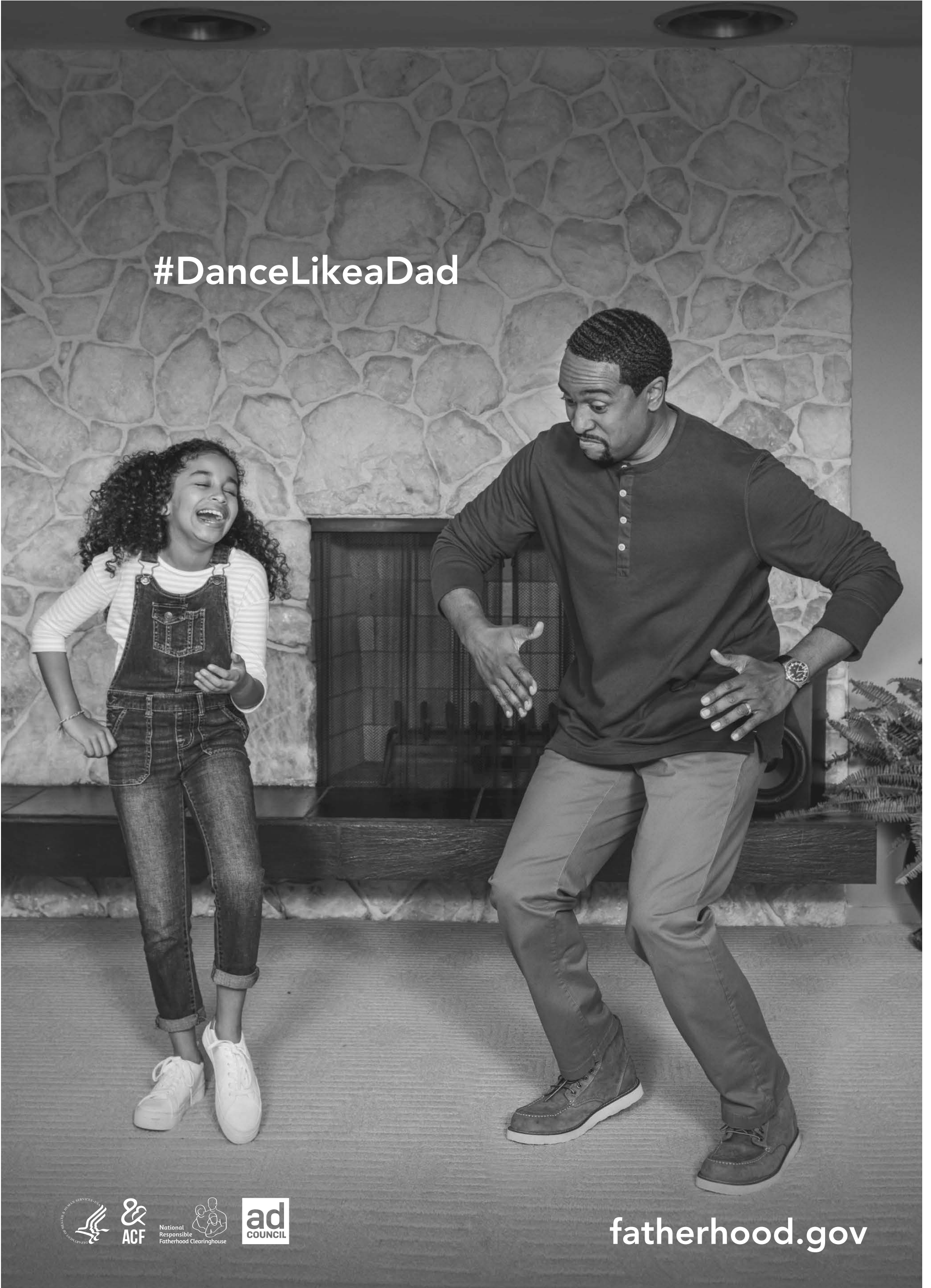
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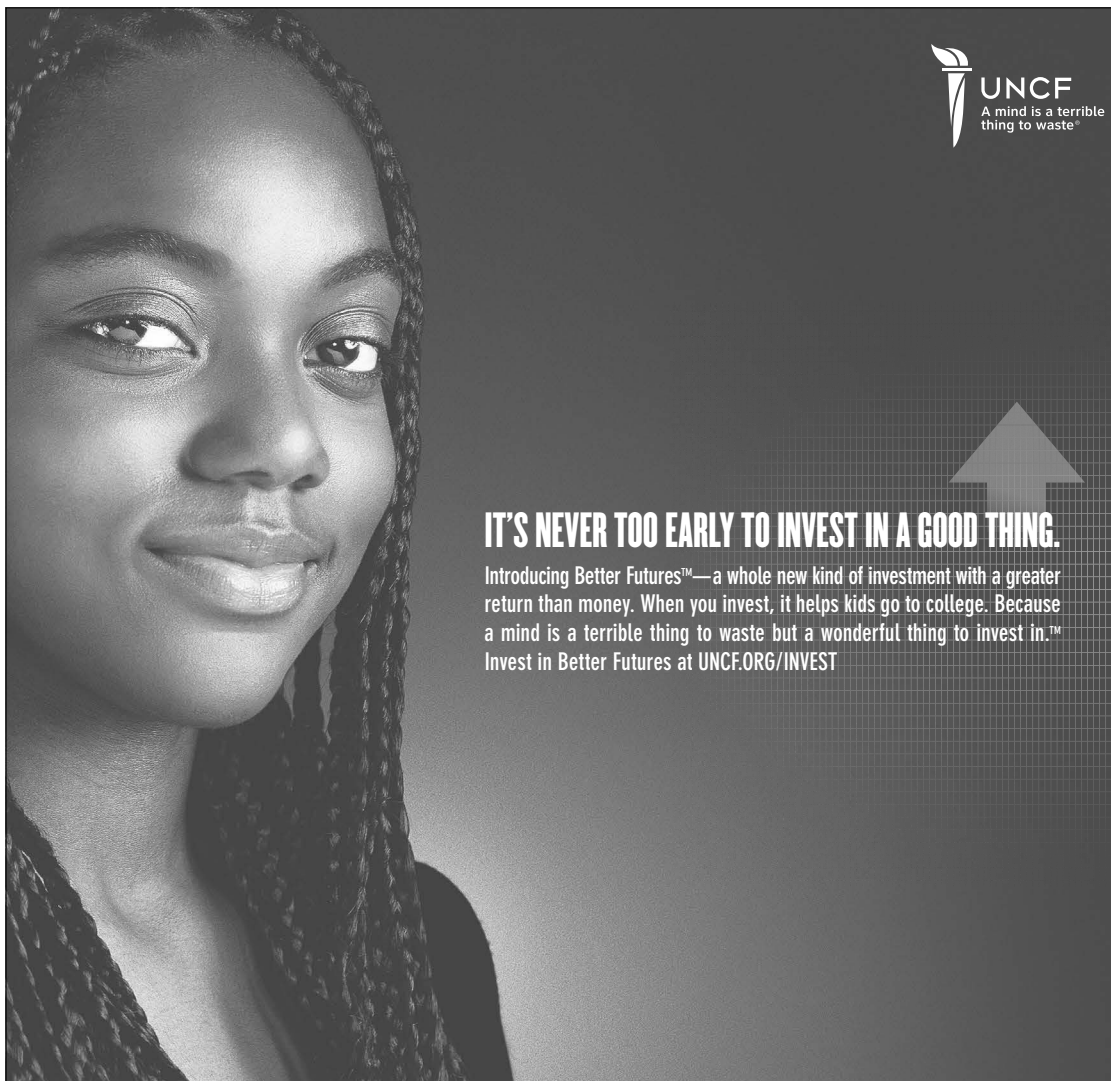
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