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# PROJECT 2025

**MANY SAY IT'S  
A REQUIEM  
FOR DEMOCRACY  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
THE CONSTITUTION**

**James Clyburn on CNN's  
State of the Union said  
"We will expect Project  
2025 to be the full-blown  
policy of his (Trump's)  
administration. . . . It will  
be Jim Crow 2.0"**





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## Election proves Black Americans have no allies

For many African Americans, Trump's victory felt like an isolating moment, a reaffirmation of what they've long suspected: their allies were never permanent.

By Stacy M. Brown  
News Analysis



Texas Democratic Rep. Jasmine Crockett's words mirrored Shirley Chisholm's groundbreaking observation decades ago: "Of the two handicaps, being Black is much less of a handicap than being a female." Crockett's reflection on Donald Trump's resounding victory over Vice President Kamala Harris pointed to what many saw as a dissonance between the candidate and the country's decision. Crockett highlighted Harris's qualifications, intelligence, and kindness compared to Trump, yet acknowledged the public's apparent preference for fear over progress. "As I said many times on the trail, this election was more about us and what it is that we wanted for our future... and well PROJECT 2025 is loading," she warned, referencing the former president's sweeping agenda.

For many African Americans, Trump's victory felt like an isolating moment, a reaffirmation of what they've long suspected: their allies were never permanent. Bishop Talbert Swan put it bluntly on social media: "There is no Black/brown coalition...Latinos voted on the side of white supremacy. We're in this by ourselves." Swan's words echo the sentiments of many Black voters who watched as Latino support for Trump surged, even as his platform targeted marginalized communities. Meanwhile, Black voters were again held to their high standard of loyalty to the Democratic Party, only to feel abandoned as alliances dissolved and communities prioritized their own survival.

"Black people are tired," shared journalist Kathia Woods on Let It Be Known, the Black Press of America's daily news broadcast. This sentiment of exhaustion has been echoed across social media, as

Washington Informer journalist Anthony Tilghman tweeted an arresting graphic illustrating Black Americans' sense of isolation: "This presidential race highlights the significant influence of race on the election outcome," Tilghman wrote. "A majority of white women and men expressed reluctance towards having another Black president in office, regardless of the individual's qualifications."

Public figures sounded their own alarms on the social media landscape. Cardi B took to Instagram, bluntly posting: "I hate ya'll bad," in a pointed message to Trump voters. Justice correspondent Elie Mystal offered a sobering perspective: "Black people are relatively well prepared for what's about to happen because it's happened to us before. America has done this to us before."

The stakes stretch further than any one individual's leadership, with significant consequences predicted for American institutions. Actor Wendell Pierce, reflecting on Trump's influence on the Supreme Court, tweeted, "The Supreme Court will be changed for a generation... I'll never see a moderate court again in my lifetime." For others, Yvette Nicole Brown captured the sentiment that the rest of the country may now begin to feel what Black communities have long endured. "The rest of you are about to be shocked by how America treats you when it doesn't care about you... The find out phase has begun," she posted.

Across demographics, voting trends highlighted a widening rift as each non-Black group increased their support for Trump. "When we say Black people have no permanent allies... we mean Black people have no permanent allies," noted one commenter, underscoring a stark double standard: the willingness to elect a convicted felon, with seemingly little regard for qualifications or integrity.

The sense of betrayal was palpable in many reflections. Elie Mystal captured this frustration, stating, "Watching Latinos chase model minority status has never sat well with Black people, but this is a wound the Black community won't soon forget." The solidarity once hoped for among marginalized groups seems distant, fractured along lines of race, ideology, and self-interest.

Meanwhile, University of South Carolina Professor Sueanna Smith weighed in on the structural underpinnings of this political moment, explaining, "There is a reason why educated people vote blue. What we're seeing is the uneducated population of America holding the rest of the country hostage. This is why there's such a push to weaken education, ban books, and outlaw the teaching of Black history by the Republican Party."

As Mystal aptly put it, "One thing I do worry about, is that the 'solidarity' between 'people of color' has been significantly damaged. Black people have learned that all we have is each other."

## Donald Trump and Project 2025: Will the future of America be a return to the ugly past?



By Marc H. Morial  
News Analysis

- "With Trump in the White House, social conservatives can use executive action to try to ban abortion; MAGA nationalists can end most forms of immigration, commence mass deportations and leverage civil rights laws against imagined "anti-white" discrimina-

tion; and reactionary opponents of social insurance can weaken Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. And this is to say nothing of Trump's own plans to rule as an autocrat under a court-sanctioned theory of unitary executive authority." - Janelle Bouie

Project 2025, the sweeping extremist policy agenda assembled by Donald Trump's supporters, allies, and veterans of his administration, is deeply unpopular with the American people.

As a candidate, Trump's response was to feign ignorance. During his Sept. 10 debate with Vice President Kamala Harris, he claimed he hadn't even read it.

What he didn't say was whether or not he supported the alarming proposals it contains, or whether he would implement them as President. In fact, at least 270 of the proposals in Project 2025 match Trump's own past policies, previous actions, or current campaign promises.

Key to the agenda is a drastic

overhaul of the federal government, purging it of conscientious civil servants and replacing them with Trump loyalists. Trump began that process late in his last term with Executive Order 13957, also known as Schedule F.

"Schedule F would be the most profound change to the civil service system since its creation in 1883," Georgetown political scientist Don Moynihan wrote in the New York Times. It would be "a catastrophe for government performance" and for democracy, he said.

Trump's term ended before he could implement Schedule F, and President Biden quickly rescinded it when he took office. Trump has vowed to reissue the order immediately and wield the power it gives him "very aggressively." Civil servants deemed disloyal already have been compiled.

With a federal workforce who will place loyalty to Trump over

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## For Black Americans, 'Sundown' approaches as a fateful inauguration looms

Black citizens face the brunt of that decision, confronting the potential resurgence of sundown towns, unchecked racist policing, and policies that threaten to let America's ugliest prejudices flourish once more.

By Stacy M. Brown (NNPA  
Newswire)

With more than half of Latino men and white women voting to elect Donald Trump, the repercussions for African Americans were blatantly ignored. While there's little doubt that white women—sacrificing their rights to choose healthcare—and Latinos—sealing the fate of many of their brethren who will be ostracized, deported, and worse, will reap some of the repercussions of Trump's return—Black citizens face the brunt of that decision, confronting the potential resurgence of sundown towns, unchecked racist policing, and policies that threaten to let America's ugliest prejudices flourish once more.

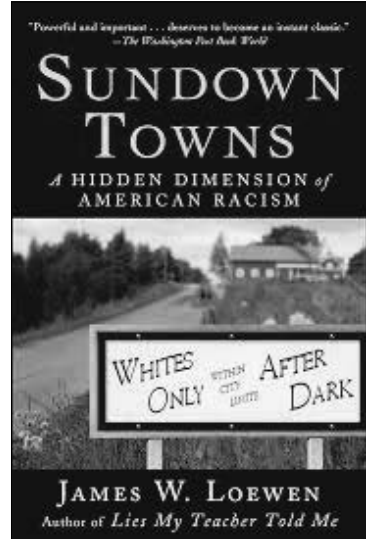
Trump's proposed and devastating agenda includes dismantling the Department of Justice's civil rights division and ending federal oversight that has long been essential for marginalized communities. Even more alarming, Trump has pledged to grant police officers complete immunity in cases involving unarmed citizens, signaling a return to a climate where police can act without accountability. For many, this agenda is not only a step backward—it is a revival of an era when Black Americans had to tread carefully in towns across America to avoid violence or worse.

Sundown Towns: A Legacy Closer Than Expected

Historically, "sundown towns" were communities where Black Americans were told to leave by sunset or face violent consequences. Though often associated with the Jim Crow South, these towns spanned the entire country, from coast to coast, leaving their mark in states not far from Washington, D.C. In Levittown, Pennsylvania, for instance, Black families were explicitly barred from purchasing homes when a town was developed in the 1950s—a policy reflective of racial exclusion in other nearby communities. Similarly, Elkton, Maryland, located less than two hours from D.C., held an unspoken "no-go" rule for Black travelers after dark, a reminder of the racial divide near the nation's capital.

Further examples dot the region. Vienna, Virginia, although not historically labeled a sundown town, had neighborhoods with restrictive covenants excluding Black residents, and Greenwood, Delaware, similarly held an exclusionary legacy through much of the 20th century. Such towns, both near and far, stand as reminders that racial hostility is not confined to distant history or faraway places.

In Ohio, Parrisville and New Lebanon carry lingering reputations for exclusion, while Martinsville, Indiana, a required pass-through town for students heading to Indiana University, is marked by Confederate flags and reminders of



a time when Black residents were warned to stay away. In Kentucky, research indicates that at least 60 towns continue to be identified as sundown towns, with Corbin and Salisbury, North Carolina, retaining incredibly hostile attitudes toward Black residents and travelers. In Vidor, Texas—another notorious sundown town—Confederate flags and racially exclusive policies create an environment where Black visitors know they are unwelcome.

Driving While Black: An Ongoing Risk

The legacy of sundown towns is alive in the experiences of Black Americans today, especially while traveling. The experience of Sheila Lettsome and her husband in 2019 serves as evidence that "driving while Black" is still a dangerous reality. Driving through a quiet Ohio town, police stopped the couple without reason. Despite having an updated registration, police officers asked where they were going and if they were "lost." Sensing a silent threat, they quickly took the officer's "suggested route" out of town. Only later did they learn they'd crossed into a known sundown town—a reminder that, in some places, Black travelers are still unsafe on the road.

Such incidents highlight the dangers Black Americans continue to face in areas with sundown legacies. Trump's plan to grant police full immunity—especially in cases involving unarmed citizens—amplifies this threat. The proposed protections for police, combined with a dismantling of the DOJ's civil rights division, effectively tell Black Americans that abuses could go unchecked and unpunished, making "driving while Black" an even greater risk.

Trump's Campaign Rallies: A Signal to "Sundown America"

Trump's campaign rallies themselves sent alarms across Black communities. Choosing to hold events in towns known for racial exclusion and Ku Klux Klan activity, such as Howell, Michigan, and Cullman, Alabama, many civil rights advocates argue these stops are intentional dog whistles. Cullman, a town where for decades Black visitors were warned to "not let the sun set on their heads," hosted a Trump rally—a move some called a loud signal to his far-right base.

In Howell, which has a history of KKK activity, videos from the rally showed Black attendees facing

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## Governor Newsom calls special session to defend California values against Trump Admin policies

Set to convene on December 2, the session will prioritize legal strategies to protect civil rights, reproductive freedom, climate action, and immigrant rights, aiming to bolster California's ability to resist federal policies that may threaten these areas.

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)

California Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom has proclaimed a special session of the California Legislature dedicated to defending core state values and rights under potential challenges from the incoming Trump administration. Set to convene on December 2, the session will prioritize legal strategies to protect civil rights, reproductive freedom, climate action, and immigrant rights, aiming to bolster California's ability to resist federal policies that may threaten these areas.

The move is the first in a series of planned actions by Newsom's administration to safeguard what he describes as "California values" against federal threats. With support from state lawmakers, Newsom emphasized California's resilience and readiness to protect its residents, stating, "The freedoms we hold dear in California are under attack — and we won't sit idle."

State Attorney General Rob Bonta reiterated the Governor's stance, noting the state's prior

confrontations with Trump-era policies and emphasizing California's commitment to continue defending rights under potential renewed federal challenges. "No matter what the incoming Administration has in store, California will keep moving forward," Bonta said. "We're working closely with the Governor and the Legislature to shore up our defenses and ensure we have the resources we need to take on each fight as it comes."

Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) and Senate President pro-Tempore Mike McGuire (D-North Coast) voiced their support for the special session, highlighting the importance of maintaining California's progress and preparing for what they foresee as challenging times ahead. "We learned a lot about former President Trump in his first term," McGuire remarked. "California has come too far and accomplished too much to simply surrender and accept his dystopian vision for America."

Rivas emphasized the importance of standing up for Californians. "Voters sent a clear message this election, and we need to lean-in and listen," he said. "But we also must be prepared to defend California values, no matter the challenges ahead, so it makes sense to consider the Governor's proposal. I'm ready to fight harder than ever for opportunity, equality, and a Golden State that works for each and every resident."

## VP Harris bids farewell to Howard University crowd, urges supporters to keep fighting for America

With a final, defiant wave, Harris walked off the stage arm in arm with Emhoff, her head held high as Beyoncé's "Freedom" filled the air once more.

By Stacy M. Brown(NNPA Newswire)

A diverse group of supporters, family members, and well-known allies, including D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, NAACP President Derrick Johnson, a host of other elected officials, and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, looked on as Vice President Kamala Harris emerged onto the stage at Howard University to the stirring strains of Beyoncé's "Freedom." Jeezy's song "My President," which features the stirring line "My president is Black," energized the crowd before her entrance, setting the scene for a moving farewell speech. The atmosphere was charged as Harris began, looking out at a sea of American flags and expectant faces at her alma mater.

"Every one of us, no matter who we are or where we start out, has certain fundamental rights and freedoms that must be respected and upheld," she stated, pausing as applause swelled from the crowd. Harris made it clear that while her campaign had reached its end, the fight for justice and equity was only beginning. "We will continue to wage this fight in the voting booth, in the courts, and in the public square," she affirmed, issuing a call to action that echoed her campaign's spirit.

Harris addressed the emotions that many in the crowd were visibly grappling with. Speaking directly to the young people watching, she said, "It is OK to feel sad and disappointed, but please know it's going to be OK... Sometimes the fight takes a while, that doesn't mean

we won't win." She reminded them, "Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars," a line that drew a mix of cheers and solemn nods as the crowd took in her message of resilience.

Reflecting on the campaign, Harris shared her pride in the coalition they had built. "We have been intentional about building community... bringing people together from every walk of life," she said, emphasizing the need to accept the election results but with an eye to the future. "This is not a time to throw up our hands," she declared, urging her supporters to channel their emotions into continued efforts. "This is a time to roll up our sleeves."

Harris acknowledged the fight ahead, framing it not as a loss but as a turning point. "While I concede this election, I do not concede the fight that fueled this campaign," she said firmly. "That is a fight I will never give up." She took a moment to express her gratitude to those who had stood by her side, including her husband, Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, President Joe Biden, First Lady Jill Biden, and her vice presidential candidate, Tim Walz. "I am so proud of the race we ran and the way we ran it," she said. Her voice cracked slightly as she added, "We owe loyalty not to a president or to a party but to the Constitution of the United States."

She acknowledged her call to President-elect Donald Trump, stating that she offered assistance to him in the upcoming transition. She urged her supporters not to give up, and to keep fighting for the Constitution and Democracy.

As she neared the end of her speech, Harris's words took on an unmistakable urgency. "The fight for our freedom will take hard work, but like I always say, we like



hard work," she told the crowd. She urged them to continue engaging, reminding them that meaningful change requires sustained effort.

With a final, defiant wave, Harris walked off the stage arm in arm with Emhoff, her head held high as Beyoncé's "Freedom" filled the air once more. Her last words: "Only when it is dark enough can you see the stars."

## For Black Americans, 'Sundown' approaches as a fateful inauguration looms

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verbal and physical harassment, reinforcing the racial tensions that sundown towns once weaponized to intimidate. At the time, Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign described these venues as a "deliberate choice," intended to rally extremist supporters and rekindle painful reminders of America's past racial hostilities.

A Future Without Civil Rights Protections

The Trump agenda is not limited to rhetoric or rally locations; his proposal to eliminate the DOJ's civil rights division would strip away vital protections for Black communities. The DOJ has long served as a backstop for holding law enforcement accountable and defending against housing, employment, and voting discrimination. Without it, Black Americans are left without crucial federal support, leaving them exposed

to abuses and discrimination that could escalate under Trump's immunity plan for police.

Granting complete immunity to police who shoot unarmed citizens creates an environment in which law enforcement could operate without consequences, giving Black communities fewer options to contest misconduct or violence. This vision threatens to turn back the clock to an era where sundown towns enforced racial exclusion with impunity. Trump's campaign promises, coupled with his choice of rally venues, suggest that his second term could usher in a "sundown America"—a country where Black citizens must once again live with constant vigilance, mindful of the dangers of traveling, living, or simply existing freely.

An Ominous Roadmap for Black America

For Black Americans, Trump's campaign rallies, rhetoric, and policies form a chilling roadmap toward

a society that looks disturbingly like the days of Jim Crow. As historian James Loewen, author of Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism, warned, the greatest mistake is to assume sundown towns are relics of the past. "Driving while Black" in these communities often means navigating unspoken rules, risking dangerous encounters, and carrying a constant awareness of hostile environments.

"Sometimes the dog whistle actually works, loudly spoken," remarked Professor Joyce Alene Vance. For Black Americans, the threat of sundown towns and Trump's proposed rollback of civil rights protections cast a dark shadow. "Without the DOJ's oversight and with broad police immunity, Black Americans could face a landscape where, once again, some towns remain dangerous to enter, let alone call home," Sandra Allison, a defense lawyer in Alabama, stated.

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## Trump allies signal aggressive approach as second term begins

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**A**s President-elect Donald Trump prepares for his second term, his allies are signaling an aggressive approach toward perceived political enemies. Mike Davis, a Trump ally and founder of the Article III Project, recently issued a direct warning to New York Attorney General Letitia James, who successfully won a significant civil fraud case against Trump earlier this year. Davis, rumored to be a top contender for attorney general, suggested James could face imprisonment if she continues her legal battles against Trump.

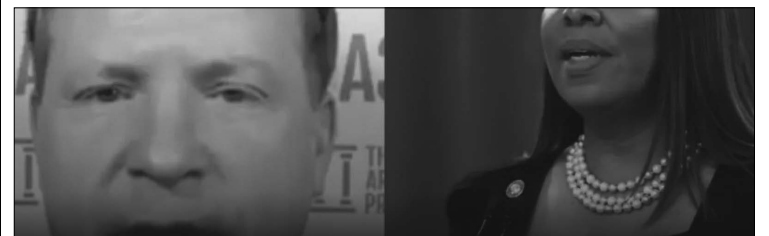
During an interview on a conservative podcast, Davis used language that underscored the intensity of Trump's campaign rhetoric. "Listen here, sweetheart," he told James. "We're not messing around this time, and we will put your fat ass in prison for conspiracy against rights." Davis argued that any further actions against Trump would constitute political retribution under federal law and suggested that the next administration would show no tolerance for what he called "Democrat lawfare."

Trump's pledge of "retribution" during his campaign has raised concerns among critics who warn that his rhetoric could translate

into political retribution. Some of Trump's supporters initially dismissed such threats as hyperbole. Now, however, Davis's remarks, coupled with Trump's claims of an electoral "mandate," suggest that his administration could pursue an expansive and punitive approach toward opponents.

James, for her part, says she has prepared for such a scenario, anticipating potential retaliation if Trump returned to the White House. In recent public remarks, she stated that her office has prepared "contingency plans" and strategies to address any potential federal interference in New York's affairs, expressing confidence that her team would "stand tall in the face of injustice, revenge, and retribution."

As the transition of power unfolds, Trump is expected to staff his administration with allies like Davis, who are prepared to carry out his agenda. Davis, previously a chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee, has indicated that under a Trump administration, political opponents will face consequences if they continue actions perceived as partisan attacks. James, meanwhile, has vowed to remain resolute, asserting that her office "will continue to protect our most vulnerable and marginalized."



## Frightening rumor stirs tensions amid Trump re-election

Philadelphiaobserver.com

**I**n the aftermath of Donald Trump's re-election, America feels more divided than ever. As celebratory gatherings unfold across the country, a tense undercurrent lingers for marginalized communities, particularly Black Americans, who are now the subjects of a disturbing online rumor. Reports are circulating that white supremacist groups might be planning targeted attacks against Black people leading up to Inauguration Day. The rumor, initially sparked by a social media post from a woman claiming inside information from a Georgia sheriff's office, has already raised alarms among communities and prompted investigations in both Georgia and North Carolina.

According to the Gwinnett County Sheriff's Office, the rumor originated from a single

post shared on social media. The post alleged that Ku Klux Klan members from Lexington, North Carolina, were "plotting against Blacks, especially Black women" due to perceived vulnerabilities. Authorities responded promptly, with the sheriff's office announcing via Facebook that they had found "no information indicating threats to any group" as of Election Day. However, local law enforcement is continuing to monitor the situation closely to ensure public safety.

While officials have not substantiated any of the rumored threats, the nature of the claims has brought communities and law enforcement on high alert. The NAACP chapters in North Carolina and Georgia have expressed concern, noting the climate of fear that rumors of white supremacist activity can generate. Derwin Hargrave, spokesperson for Lexington,

confirmed that no evidence of a specific threat had been verified but emphasized that vigilance would remain high.

This rumor is not the only unsettling event reported during the election period. On Election Day itself, several states experienced bomb threats at polling stations, including five sites in Georgia, where two locations were briefly evacuated. Law enforcement agencies and Georgia's Secretary of State later dismissed these threats as "non-credible," but their impact on public anxiety persists, further amplifying the tension around the election and its aftermath.

Whether or not there is any truth to these recent threats, the fear they provoke is palpable. As America navigates this period of uncertainty, many are left reflecting on the volatile climate, underscored by an election cycle shaped by fear and division.

## Donald Trump and Project 2025: Will the future of America be a return to the ugly past?

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loyalty to the Constitution, Trump will be free to implement a radical, extremist agenda that will obliterate racial justice initiatives and preserve advantages for white Americans.

The next Trump administration will use civil rights laws to counter the imaginary forces of "anti-white racism." Trump has bragged that his administration

banned "critical race theory" – a misnomer he and his allies have slapped on virtually any racial justice initiative – and promised to "finish the job."

Project 2025 calls for using the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute institutions, including private employers, with diversity, equity, and inclusion policies in place.

Trump's policies also align with Project 2025 on the issue

of immigration and the border. Trump has promised to "close the border" on day one of his administration and begin mass deportations of the estimated 11 million immigrants living in the United States without authorization. Project 2025 outlines various methods for facilitating those deportations, from requiring the cooperation of local law enforcement to authorizing "tent camps" to detain migrants.

Aside from the devastating human cost of tearing families apart, mass deportations and border closures will wreak havoc on the economy. The American Immigration Council estimates the deportations would result in a 4.2% to 6.8% reduction in GDP. By comparison, GDP fell by 4.3% during the Great Recession of 2007-2009.

Closing the southern border would cost tens of billions of dol-

lars per day," the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has estimated.

The Heritage Foundation, which spearheaded Project 2025, also created a "Mandate for Leadership" during Trump's first term. Within two years, Trump had embraced nearly two-thirds of that agenda. With a hyper-politicized, extreme right-wing cabinet, federal workforce, and judiciary, Trump can go even further in his second term.

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# Editorial - Opinion



By David W. Marshall(TriceEdneyWire.com)

## Navigating through the harsh realities of white supremacy

having family members sold and taken away. The Black church is given credit because one cannot dismiss the ability that enslaved Blacks were often able to endure and recover from their hardships by way of their Christian faith. In the middle of the night, areas buried deep into the woods (hush harbors) served as their secret sanctuary of worship. While they never benefited from a steeped church with pews and stained-glass windows, the hush harbors became an example of how the church is not a building but a body of believers (people).

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, founded in 1865, carried out most of its violent attacks at night and were known for its signature long white robes and hoods. During three dark and tragic periods, the Klan rose from a dormant to an active state in spreading hate and terror toward Blacks, Jews, and Catholics. Their goal, as defenders of White supremacy, was to maintain a society in which White Protestants maintained total control while socially holding back people of other races and religions. As social justice advocates, we must realize that current events simply continue America's dark past.

The first Klan uprising emerged with its members becoming pow-

erful agents of hate during the period of Reconstruction. It was a backlash mainly in opposition to the government's attempt to achieve racial equality in the South and permanently guarantee a second-class citizen status for formerly enslaved people. The second period of Klan resurgence was in the early 20th century as a response to the large influx of Catholic and Jewish immigrants coming into the United States. The third major uprising was the violent backlash to the Civil Rights Movement during the 1950s and '60s. Of the three periods, it was the second emergence during the 1920s, which was far different and dangerous than the first and third versions. By broadening its agenda, the Klan became a more organized terrorist machine. No longer focused primarily on its bigotry toward Blacks, this group of Klansmen addressed what they perceived to be a threat to the nation's identity. It brought to light what it means to be an American. As protectors of the "purity" of the nation, the Klan's anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant ideology began to resonate with the broader population. The spirit of intolerance they promoted galvanized the prejudices and fears of native-born Americans.

With immigrants arriving from Southern and Eastern Europe, their presence was perceived as the social and cultural decay of American values.

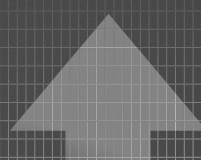
By combining bigotry with patriotism, the Klan was effective in defining its version of what it meant to be a patriot, a "pure American." Racist ideology and false doctrines became normalized and accepted in mainstream America. The Klan developed a powerful and influential network with wide support from white politicians and clergy. This spirit of intolerance became entrenched and deeply influential in the political process to elect and control state legislators, state governors, U.S. senators, U.S. representatives, and a large number of local officials. Today, we are in the midst of another demographic change in which the White supremacy backlash has evolved beyond the Ku Klux Klan and has become much more politicized and accepted.

In 2021, the United States population expanded at its slowest rate in history, and for the first time, the majority of its population growth came from immigration. Despite policies limiting the admission of foreigners, our nation is on track to reach its anticipated 2044 "majority-minority" milestone: the

moment when the majority ethnic group, non-Hispanic White people, becomes one of multiple minorities. This pending demographic change will permanently change the identity of the nation, and with it comes intensified hatred from White supremacists. Our history tells us that White supremacists are unwilling to honor their American traditions while simultaneously adapting to changing demographics and the citizenship and rights that go with it. Their future minority status leaves in its wake a dismantled democracy that guarantees the political and economic dominance of wealthy White men.

Black men and women heavily relied on their faith against White supremacy during the era of slavery and the Civil Rights Movement. As we enter this new MAGA era and move closer to the "majority-minority" milestone, we can expect the racial backlash to increase in multiple ways. The return to the modern-day version of the hush harbors may be the way to navigate through the harsh realities of white supremacy.

David W. Marshall, a Trice Edney News Wire columnist, founded the faith-based organization, TRB: The Reconciled Body, and is the author of the book *God Bless Our Divided America*.



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By Don Thomas

## Remembering

# Judith Jamison, director of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater dies at 81

**J**udith Jamison, an internationally acclaimed dancer who later served as artistic director of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater for two decades, has died at age 81, after a brief illness surrounded by close friends in New York, Christopher Zunner, an Ailey spokesperson, confirmed to The Associated Press. “We remember and are grateful for her artistry, humanity and incredible light, which inspired us all,” Zunner added.

Jamison, who was originally from Philadelphia, trained in ballet at the Judimar School of Dance, starting at the age of six. She joined the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in 1965, and served as one of its most prominent soloists for 15 years, before leaving

to perform as a guest artist with other ballet companies and on Broadway.

Jamison later returned and served as the company’s artistic director for 21 years, in which she choreographed an array of repertory works, organized a 50-city global tour in honor of the company’s 50th anniversary, and worked tirelessly to build upon Ailey’s legacy of championing and performing the work of new choreographers.

In 2004, Jamison secured the theater’s permanent home on the West Side of Manhattan, and in 2011 she moved into her current role as artistic director emerita. Earlier this year, Jamison reflected on her first impressions of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

“When I first joined Ailey in 1965, one of the questions I got asked was ‘How did you feel when you walked in the door?’ But how do any dancers feel when they go into their first thing? All of a sudden, I was working with [the modern-dance choreographer] Anna Sokolow, and somebody else was working with [the postmodern dancer and choreographer] Rudy Perez,” she told Bazaar in July. “Everybody likes to sit on ‘This is a Black company,’ but people don’t know that Ailey was a repertory modern-dance company and that all these choreographers were invited. Our protest was exactly what we were doing onstage. Our bodies told the truth about what it is to be an artist.”



# Actor Tony Todd, the ‘Candyman’ dies at 69

By Jeff Martin/AP

**A**ctor Tony Todd, known for his haunting portrayal of a killer in the horror film “Candyman” and roles in many other films and television shows, has died, his longtime manager confirmed. He was 69. Todd died at his home in the Los Angeles area, his manager Jeffrey Goldberg said in a statement to The Associated Press.

“I had the privilege to have Tony as my friend and client for over 30 years and I will miss that amazing man every single day,” Goldberg said. “Known worldwide for his towering presence, both physically and artistically, Tony leaves behind an indelible legacy in film, theater, and the hearts of those who had the honor of knowing him,” Goldberg’s management company said in announcing the death.

“We bid farewell to Tony Todd, a giant of cinema and a beloved soul whose impact on our lives and the world of film will never be forgotten,” it said. Todd’s film resume



included roles in award-winning movies such as the Oliver Stone-directed classic “Platoon,” released in 1986.

Todd was also known for his role in the 2000 horror film “Final

Destination” and its sequel in 2003. The film company New Line Cinema mourned Todd’s death on social media. “The industry has lost a legend,” the company said on Instagram. “We have lost a cherished friend. Rest in peace, Tony.”

In “Candyman,” released in 1992 and followed by a remake in 2021, Todd played a menacing killer who had a hook on one arm. The premise is built around an urban myth that Candyman roamed the Cabrini-Green housing projects in Chicago and could be summoned by saying his name five times in front of a mirror. The 2021 movie explores societal problems such as racism and police brutality. Todd’s television career included roles in “Night Court,” “Matlock” and “Law & Order.”

“Off-screen, Tony was cherished as a mentor, a friend, and a beacon of kindness and wisdom,” Goldberg’s company said. “He gave his time and resources to aspiring actors, consistently advocating for greater representation and authenticity within the industry.”

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Audrey J. Bernard

## Whitney Houston's 'The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)' is the most consequential album of her career

*"For Whitney, it was like going home to her roots," said 'Concert for a New South Africa [Durban]' Director Marty Callner*

Trafalgar Releasing and Sony Music Entertainment in partnership with The Estate of Whitney E. Houston, The Whitney E. Houston Legacy Foundation and Primary Wave Music today announced the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Whitney Houston's historic South Africa concerts with a fully-remastered worldwide theatrical release October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The limited theatrical screenings will feature the never-before-released concert from Durban, South Africa, which has been beautifully remastered in 4K with remastered audio. Tickets for the theatrical screenings are on sale now, click [here](#) for further details. The release of the new live album, *The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)*, will be released on November 8, 2024.

In 1994, Whitney Houston took the stage for a series of three concerts in South Africa including Durban at Kings Park Stadium on November 8, Johannesburg (November 12), and Cape Town (November 19), which made her the first major Western recording artists to perform in the newly unified, post-apartheid nation following President Nelson Mandela's historic election win. The three performances included a combined 200,000 plus attendees and were more than concerts; they were a celebration of freedom, hope, and unity. Whitney's powerhouse voice and emotional delivery brought joy and inspiration to a newly liberated country. Additionally, portions of the proceeds from her concerts benefited numerous local South African children's charities through her foundation.

In addition, Legacy Recordings, the catalog division of Sony Music Entertainment, will release *The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)*, a new live album featuring from the unprecedented show including Whitney's greatest hits, "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)," "How Will I Know," "I Have Nothing," "Greatest Love of All," "I Will Always Love You," and other landmark classics including "Amazing Grace" and "Home." The new album also features the previously unreleased track, "Love Is." The collection will be available on CD and vinyl for the first time ever starting November 8, 2024.

*The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)* captures every note, every cheer, every tear, immortalizing a night that transcended music and became a beacon of change and celebration.

"We are pleased to continue our partnership with Sony Music



# WHITNEY HOUSTON

## THE CONCERT FOR A NEW SOUTH AFRICA (DURBAN)

and bring Whitney Houston's legendary never-before-seen concert to audiences worldwide," says Marc Allenby, CEO, Trafalgar Releasing. "The message of hope and unity from the Durban, South Africa performance is still as relevant today as it was thirty years ago, and fans are going to be blown away by how powerful this is on the big screen."

"I know that Whitney would have been filled with joy to know that this concert film will be released around the world to her fans," says Pat Houston, executive producer and executor of The Estate of Whitney E. Houston. "She loved South Africa; she loved the people, and she loved

Nelson Mandela. This concert is one of the most consequential concerts of her career. On this momentous 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are thrilled that we can release this film not only to her fans, but to the people of South Africa and its new generation. More importantly, Whitney would be happy to know that her foundation continues to support one of the organizations she helped to provide financial support to thirty years ago."

"Whitney was a dream to work with; I really loved her," says producer and director Marty Callner. "I directed her several times, but the Durban show was pure magic and the best performance I have

ever witnessed. So thrilled the world finally gets to experience that special, special night."

"Performing in Durban with Whitney was an amazing experience," says Rickey Minor, three-time Emmy Award winner, who was Whitney's musical director for twenty-five years. "It was my first time in South Africa, and I don't think that I was truly prepared for how this trip would change me forever. The energy was electric, and the audience was incredible, as we celebrated the end of apartheid. Whitney shared her love and shined her light."

With more than 220 million combined albums, singles and videos sold worldwide during

her career, Whitney Houston has established a benchmark for superstardom. She is the only artist to chart seven consecutive No. 1 Billboard Hot 100 hits, has eight multi-platinum albums and was the first female artist to enter the Billboard 200 album chart at No. 1. She is also the first Black recording artist to receive three RIAA Diamond-certified albums (by a female, male or group).

*Whitney Houston – The Concert for a New South Africa (Durban)* is a film produced and directed by Marty Callner. It is a production of Cream Cheese Films. The executive producer is Pat Houston. Sony Music Vision is the distributor. (SOURCE: Sony Music)



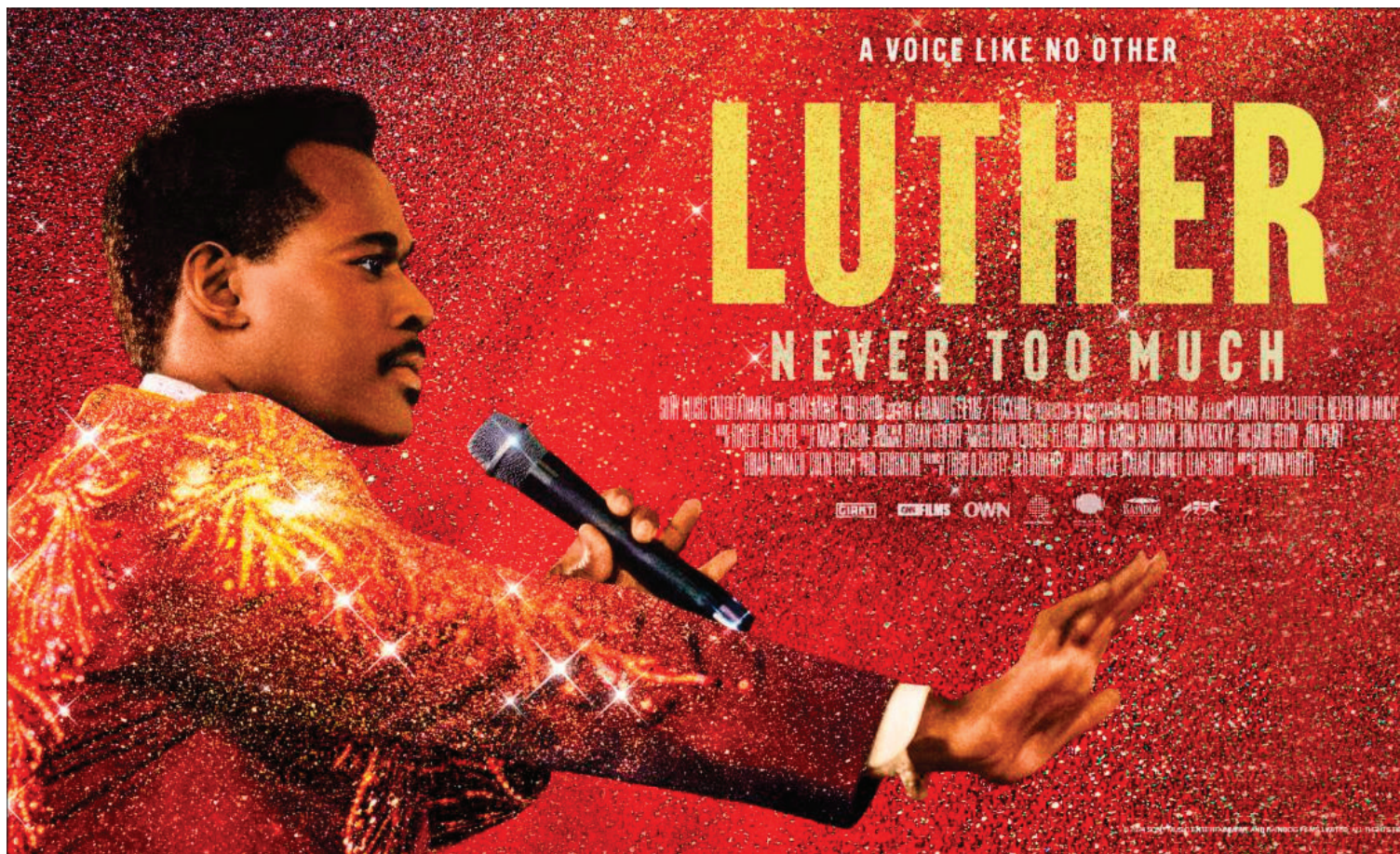


Audrey J. Bernard

## 'Luther: Never Too Much' is not enough for ardent fans

**L**uther: Never Too Much the documentary film, chronicles the story of a vocal virtuoso. Using a wealth of rarely seen archives, Luther tells his own story with assistance from his closest friends and musical collaborators including Mariah Carey, Dionne Warwick, Valerie Simpson and Roberta Flack. The film relives the many stunning moments of Vandross' Grammy award-winning musical career, while exploring his personal life, health struggles, and a lifelong battle to earn the respect his music deserved.

This musical masterpiece features winning collaborations from Fonzi Thornton, Robin Clark, Carlos Alomar, Danyel Smith, Jon Platt, Ava Cherry, Seveda Williams, Nile Rodgers, Valerie Simpson, Deborah McDuffie, Marcus Miller, Nat Adderley Jr., Jamie Foxx, Lisa Fischer, Kevin Owens, Richard Marx, Clive Davis, Mariah Carey, Dionne Warwick, and Max Szadek. The film is produced by Trish D. Chetty & Ged Doherty (for Raindog Films); Jamie Foxx & Datari Turner (for Foxxhole Productions); and Leah Smith (for Trilogy Films). Executive Producers are Eli Holzman & Aaron Saidman (for Sony Pictures Television Nonfiction);



Tom Mackay & Richard Story (for Sony Music Entertainment); Jon Platt & Brian Monaco (for Sony Music Publishing); Colin Firth (for Raindog Films); and Phil Thornton (on behalf of Foxxhole Productions). (SOURCE: Sony Music Entertainment)



Director Dawn Porter

## Statement from Dawn Porter

"Luther: Never Too Much" is a result of the collective devotion of our team to the life and legacy of Luther Vandross. It celebrates the leader and musical virtuoso that Luther was. Having the opportunity to be the first to tell the story of one of the greatest vocalists ever and give him the recognition that he should've had during his lifetime is surreal, and I am extremely proud of this movie.

Many of my formative years were accompanied by Luther's

music so it was very important for me to make this film and do Luther right by it. But as much as I've always loved his music and personality, I learned so much more about his story through the making of this film. Discovering insights into stories you think you know is one of my favorite parts about documentary filmmaking.

I wanted to bring Luther back to tell his own story through this documentary as much as he possibly could. I intentionally

worked with his closest friends and collaborators to speak about his personal life and legacy. With the blessing from his family and resources from Sony, I had access to a wealth of rehearsal footage, archival footage and photography that allowed me to study and translate all aspects of Luther's life into the film. I carefully chose to include interviews from those closest to Luther which really shared parts of his life that weren't known and selected ar-

chival footage to represent the various moments of success and struggle throughout Luther's lifetime.

The production of this film was as collaborative as Luther's career was and I am so proud of the hard work that every team member did to get to this moment. I cannot wait to share this film with the world and I hope that everyone who watches this can laugh, cry, and of course, sing, in honor of Luther Vandross.

## Luther Vandross covers Beatles' "Michelle"

**A**s excitement continues to build for Giant Pictures' theatrical premiere of the documentary feature Luther: Never Too Much. Recently Epic Records and Legacy Recordings, the catalog division of Sony Music, announced the release of Luther's never-before-heard soulful rendition of The Beatles' "Michelle." The song will be one of many included on Never Too Much: Greatest Hits, a new compilation of music by the incomparable Luther Vandross, out December 13. Click here to listen/download "Michelle," pre-order the album on vinyl, CD, and

pre-save at digital service providers. Details surrounding Luther's recording of "Michelle" remain a mystery. Amidst a vast collection of Vandross' music recordings and videos, Luther's longtime friend and background vocalist, Fonzi Thornton, discovered the cassette simply labeled "Luther Vandross Michelle 6/1/89."

No additional information regarding the recording, including location or session players, has been uncovered to date. Yet, Luther's distinctive and instantly recognizable voice is far from a mystery. Since the release of his

1981 debut solo studio album Never Too Much, Luther Vandross has won eight Grammy Awards (nominated 31 times), eight American Music Awards and five Soul Train Music Awards, including the Quincy Jones Award for Career Achievement in 1999. With eleven consecutive platinum/double platinum albums (13 overall) he achieved crossover status with eight Billboard Top 10 albums and several #1 chart-topping singles, resulting in a legacy that has influenced generations of singers and impacted a legion of loyal fans worldwide.



Album cover of "Michelle"

# Movin' On Up!

## "POSE" Star Dominique Jackson passes Baton to Model Aaron Rose Philip

By Samantha Olson

"Pose" Star and LGBTQ+ Pop Culture Pioneer Dominique Jackson passed the baton to Model Aaron Rose Philip during a ceremony, praising her for the work she's done to uplift the Black, trans, and disabled communities. To celebrate Club Cosmo's honorees, Cosmo and UTA Next Gen hosted a ceremony at Domino's Refinery Rooftop in Brooklyn on October 24, 2024.

"My existence itself is often considered as a new idea within many different contexts and spaces, which makes me innately very special," Aaron Rose told Cosmopolitan. She is one of 10 creators honored in Club Cosmo's inaugural class, which also recognizes fellow Gen Z trailblazers like Chi Ossé, Avantika, and Chloe Troast.

Aaron Rose Philip broke into

the fashion industry when she was 17 and blazed a trail as the first Black, trans, and disabled person to be signed by a major modeling agency. She made history as the first person to model for a mainstream luxury label on the runway in a wheelchair and continues to transform the space, modeling for major brands like Moschino and Collina Strada.

Aaron Rose also uses her growing platform to highlight issues that affect disabled folks and the Black trans community—and, dear reader, she recently gave a moving and impactful Ted Talk addressing systemic inequities in the fashion industry. The model, activist, and media personality continues to inspire change and push boundaries, which is why she's been honored as a trailblazing creator in the inaugural 2024 Club Cosmo Awards with UTA Next Gen and ZCON.



Dominique Jackson (right) poses with Model Aaron Rose Philip

## The Washingtons bring legacy to theaters

By Ronda Racha Penrice

Actor Denzel Washington has taken on the project of adapting August Wilson's cycle of 10 plays that portray slices of Black life in each decade of the 1900s. But it is Washington's kids, John David Washington, Malcolm Washington and Executive Producer Katia Washington who have taken the baton for "The Piano Lesson," one of Wilson's two Pulitzer Prize-winning works.

John David, a Golden Globe-nominated actor in his own right, stars alongside "Till" star Danielle Deadwyler. Malcolm, John David's brother, makes his directorial debut in the film, set in the 1930s during the Great Depression.

Boy Willie (played by John David) has come to Pittsburgh from Mississippi with a truck full of watermelons he intends to sell. But he's really there to cash in on the family's prized piano, a priceless heirloom kept in his sister's home, to buy the land of the man who once enslaved his family.

Standing in his way is his sister Berniece, portrayed by Deadwyler, who refuses to sell the piano. For the mother of one, the piano, with the faces of their ancestors carved into it, is their family legacy. And though she will not play it, she cannot let Boy Willie sell it.

John David told NBC News he



(L-R) John David Washington, Samuel L. Jackson, Michael Pitts and Ray Fisher (Photo: David Lee)

was pulled to "The Piano Lesson" because "I needed to find myself. It was forcing me to answer questions I maybe have been avoiding for a long time within myself — with my spirituality, with my faith, with my upbringing." Malcolm said he felt a similar pull.

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## Mississippi contractor dies in tragic accident after being trapped under hot asphalt

Philadelphiaobserver.com

A fatal accident unfolded in Jackson, Mississippi, on Monday when 41-year-old contractor Darrell Sheriff became trapped under scorching hot asphalt while working on a dump truck. Jackson Police Chief Joseph Wade reported that officers arrived at the scene around 10:30 a.m. and found Sheriff buried beneath the material, which reached temperatures of up to 300 degrees. Despite the efforts of bystanders, Sheriff's injuries were too severe for him to survive.

According to preliminary reports, Sheriff was conducting maintenance under the dump truck's hydraulic system when the vehicle's tailgate unexpectedly opened, releasing the load of hot asphalt on top of him. Officials are continuing to investigate the malfunction that caused the tailgate release, but police have ruled the incident accidental.

Asphalt delivered for roadwork typically reaches dangerously high

temperatures and emits toxic fumes, factors that contributed to the severity of Sheriff's injuries. Witnesses reportedly attempted to rescue him, but the extreme heat made it impossible to reach him in time. Chief Wade expressed that Sheriff "tried to fight to make it through those injuries," but the burns he sustained were overwhelming.

The impact of the tragedy was evident in the words of Sheriff's family, who described him as a dedicated worker and "a good, hard-working man, just trying to make a living." The Jackson community has been called to support the grieving family in the wake of the tragic loss.

Chief Wade extended condolences to Sheriff's loved ones, acknowledging the accident as "very horrific and very tragic" and urging the city to keep the family "uplifted in prayer." Authorities have not yet determined if further safety measures will be considered for contractors handling such hazardous materials in the future.



## Brooklyn hip-hop icon Buckshot recovering after violent assault in Flatbush

Philadelphiaobserver.com

BROOKLYN — Legendary hip-hop artist and entrepreneur Kenyatta Blake, famously known as Buckshot from the influential group Black Moon, was reportedly attacked in Brooklyn's Flatbush neighborhood on October 31, leaving the music community shaken. The assault, which left him "beaten half to death," has prompted an outpouring of concern from fans and industry colleagues.

Initial news of the incident surfaced through a now-deleted Facebook post by Sista Asia Wildenboar, who shared a photo of herself with Buckshot, asking for

prayers after the attack. Soon after, social media users circulated video footage showing the aftermath, with Buckshot bloodied and lying on the ground. Though he was hospitalized, he has since been released and is reportedly recovering at home, confirmed by his Black Moon bandmate, DJ Evil Dee.

Buckshot rose to prominence in the early 1990s with the release of "Who Got da Props," a hit single that set the tone for a gritty new wave of hip-hop known as "backpack rap." Black Moon's 1993 debut album Enta da Stage became a landmark record, paving the way for Buckshot and DJ Evil Dee to found Duck Down, an influential label and management company.

The label played a central role in promoting other New York-based groups like Smif-N-Wessun and Heltah Skeltah, forming the Boot Camp Clik collective.

Buckshot's influence extended beyond his own career, with Duck Down later signing major acts such as KRS-One and Talib Kweli. Through Duck Down, Buckshot solidified his status as a pioneering artist-entrepreneur in hip-hop, known for fostering talent and championing independent rap.

As police continue investigating the attack, fans and peers alike are sending their support to Buckshot, a celebrated figure in both hip-hop and Brooklyn's cultural history.

## Service animal sparks confrontation at Miami polling station

Philadelphiaobserver.com

MIAMI — A service dog at a Miami voting center became the unlikely focus of a heated exchange this election season, highlighting both the importance of accessibility and the strain at polling sites in a divisive race. Captured on video by TikTok user @picassomylove, the encounter between a poll worker and a voter escalated when the worker questioned the man's right to bring his dog inside, citing the lack of identification for the animal.

The man, wearing a MAGA hat and insisting on his right to bring his dog—a companion for a heart condition—refused to back down. Tensions ran high as the poll worker challenged him on the service animal's legitimacy, calling for law enforcement when he attempted to move forward in line. "That is wrong, you read the law," the man stated, his words met with an equally defiant, "No, you read the law," from the poll worker.

By Florida law, service animals are permitted in public accommo-

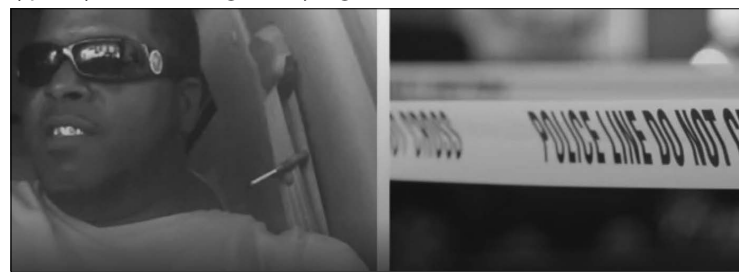


inations without ID, provided they perform specific tasks for a person with a disability. The interaction, however, underscored misunderstandings around these rights. While Florida permits employees to ask what tasks a service dog performs, they cannot require proof of disability or demand identification for the animal. Commenters on social media swiftly pointed out this distinction, with many noting the legal protection service animals have.

Amidst the back-and-forth, the officer who arrived to mediate de-escalated the situation by holding the dog while the man

cast his ballot. The dog's calm presence contrasted sharply with the charged exchange, prompting some viewers to comment on the animal's "remarkable restraint" amid the turmoil. Others remarked that they'd initially assumed the clash stemmed from the man's hat, not his dog.

The incident reflects the larger tensions in an election marked by high stakes and frayed nerves. As candidates call for vigilance, clashes like this one are becoming more common, underscoring both the challenges of maintaining decorum and the crucial need for clarity around voter accessibility rights.



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# As Trump beat Harris in presidential race, shocked and baffled justice leaders ask what it says about America

By Hazel Trice Edney

Civil rights leaders, racial justice advocates of all genres, and Democratic operatives are returning to the drawing board this week as Donald Trump has handily won his presidential race against Vice President Kamala Harris, a Black-Asian woman who would have been the first female president of the United States.

The announcement came in the wee hours of Wednesday morning around 2 am when CNN projected that Trump had won the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its 19 electoral votes, a share for which the Harris campaign had vigorously fought.

Trump gave his first speech in the wee hours of the morning on Wednesday as the election results became clear even before all votes were counted. The former president, who has spent the past four years denying the fact that he lost the 2020 election to President Joseph Biden, called for unity this week despite his months and years of spewing lies and vicious racist and sexist insults about people to his campaign rallies, during press conferences and debates.

"I'm asking every citizen all

across our land to join me in this noble and righteous endeavor. That's what it is. It's time to put the divisions of the past four years behind us. It's time to unite, and we're gonna try. We're gonna try. We have to try. And it's gonna happen," Trump said before the jubilant crowd in West Palm Beach, Florida. "Success will bring us together. I've seen that. I've seen that. I saw that in the first term, when we became more and more successful, people started coming together. Success is going to bring us together and we are going to start by all putting America first. We have to put our country first for at least a period of time. We have to fix it. Because together we can truly make America great again for all Americans."

No doubt, for years to come, the nation will study and debate to determine how a presidential candidate perceived to be as crass, insensitive, vulgar and dishonest as now President-elect Trump, could win more than half of America's votes. The win came on the heels of his two impeachments, four indictments, 34 counts as a convicted felon among a string of other charges. For the most part, he can now pardon himself.

It appears from exit polls that voters who chose Trump did so because of economic and immigration concerns and issues. Millions apparently chose to hold their noses and ignore his often profanity-laden and racist rhetoric which he and his associates spewed down to the end of his campaign.

As of 11 am on Wednesday, Nov. 6, the nation awaited the concession speech from Vice President Harris, which was to be given at Howard University, where her campaign headquarters had set up to watch the returns on Tuesday night. She was to give her concession speech at about 4 pm on Wednesday.

Although more votes have yet to be counted from absentee and mail in ballots, major news networks called the race for Trump when it became obvious that Harris could not win with votes that were left.

According to the Associated Press, as of this writing, Donald Trump had 277 electoral votes to Harris' 224. The popular vote was 71,594,846 for him and 66,742,214 for her. Even as more votes are counted, as of this moment, he had won by nearly 5 million votes.



Meanwhile, now President-elect Trump, who will become the 47th president of the United States, said America has given him a mandate as Republicans also won control of the U. S. Senate and possibly the House as more votes were yet to be counted.

"America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate. We have taken back control of the Senate. Wow. That's great. And the Senate races in Montana, Nevada, Texas, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania were all won by the MAGA movement, they helped so much," he said. "And in those cases, every one of them, we worked with the senators, they were tough races."

Black leaders, among others,

have already begun planning an intense discussion and planning how best to move forward following the Harris defeat. A Washington, DC town hall meeting to be held by the New York-based Institute of the BlackWorld 21st Century (IBW) will grapple with this very issue in a discussion with dozens of civil rights leaders.

In his promotions for the November 14 event to be held at the historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in NW DC, IBW President Dr. Ron Daniels asks the question, "How is it possible that the campaign for the White House is a virtual dead heat when the choice is between sanity and insanity, decency and indecency, a way forward and a return to the past, democracy and fascism."

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# Ponder this!

## The Shinnecock Nation remains resilient



By Hazel Rosetta Smith

**E**arly in my life, I developed a fascination for Indian nations. My North Carolinian grandmother spoke often of her father being a descendant of the Cherokee tribe surrounding their birthplace in Wilmington, North Carolina. The history of the Cherokees is closely identified with that of the freed slaves of the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, and Tennessee.

My interest in Native American tribes increased in my early teens when my family moved from Brooklyn to Wyandanch on Long Island. There is no archaeological evidence of permanent Native American settlements in Wyandanch, however records show that the area first known as Halfway Hollow Hills, West Deer Park, was renamed by the Long Island Railroad in 1903 to end confusion between travelers getting off at the Deer Park railroad station.

The name Wyandanch honors Chief Wyandanch, a leader of the Montaukett Native American tribe during the 17th century. Wyandanch was born about 1610, died 1659. His name translates as “wise speaker.”

He was the most distinguished of the Montauk sachems (Chief



*Women of the Shinnecock Nation*

who had authority over thirteen tribes on what is now Long Island, New York. He was considered a great leader and negotiator, remaining a friend to white settlers. He sold land to both the Dutch and the English during the establishment of New Amsterdam and later New York.

The Shinnecock Indian Nation is one of the oldest self-governing tribes in the State of New York, formally recognized by the United States federal government as the 565th federally recognized tribe on October 1, 2010.

The Nation primarily holds authority over tribal territory at

Shinnecock Neck, a peninsula that juts into Shinnecock Bay of approximately nine hundred acres and one hundred acres elsewhere. At the last census, there were over 1,600 enrolled tribal members and about half live on the reservation.

Despite all the hardships faced by Indigenous people across North America, they are still there on Long Island in Southampton, strong and resilient. Long before the Dutch came and referred to the region as “Lange Eylandt,” it was the ancestral home of Native American Indian communities whose lives were profoundly disrupted by the invasion of settlers

in the 1600s.

As colonization progressed, their land was stolen, and the people were shifted to areas known as reservations. The Shinnecock were severely punished if they upheld any traditional practices. They were forced into an English way of life. Slavery and indentured servitude were very prevalent.

According to the US government census of the reservation, many Shinnecock people consider themselves as Black, a result of intermarriage between African slaves and Native Americans.

I still look forward to going to the annual Shinnecock Powwows

held every Labor Day Weekend on the Shinnecock reservation in Southampton. It is a revelation each time to witness how the people have survived and thrived.

Like other tribes throughout America, the Shinnecock have a story to tell. They earned the right to have a singular standing holiday in celebration of a mighty people who are still standing tall and strong. Let the truth be told! [Hazel Rosetta Smith is a journalist, playwright, and artistic director of Help Somebody Theatrical Ministries. Contact: [missshazel@twc.com](mailto:missshazel@twc.com) and online [www.hazelrosettasmith.com](http://www.hazelrosettasmith.com)]



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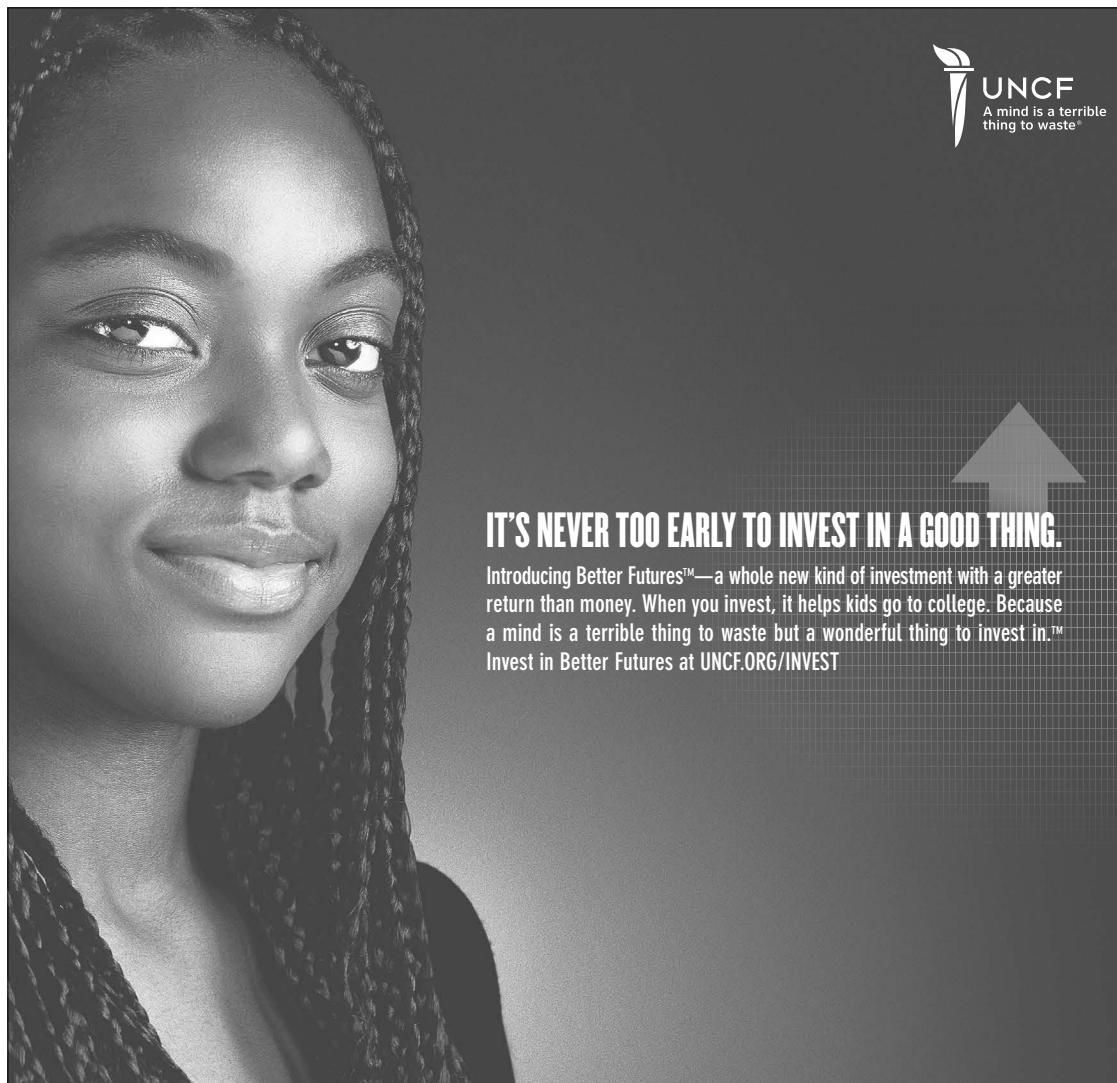
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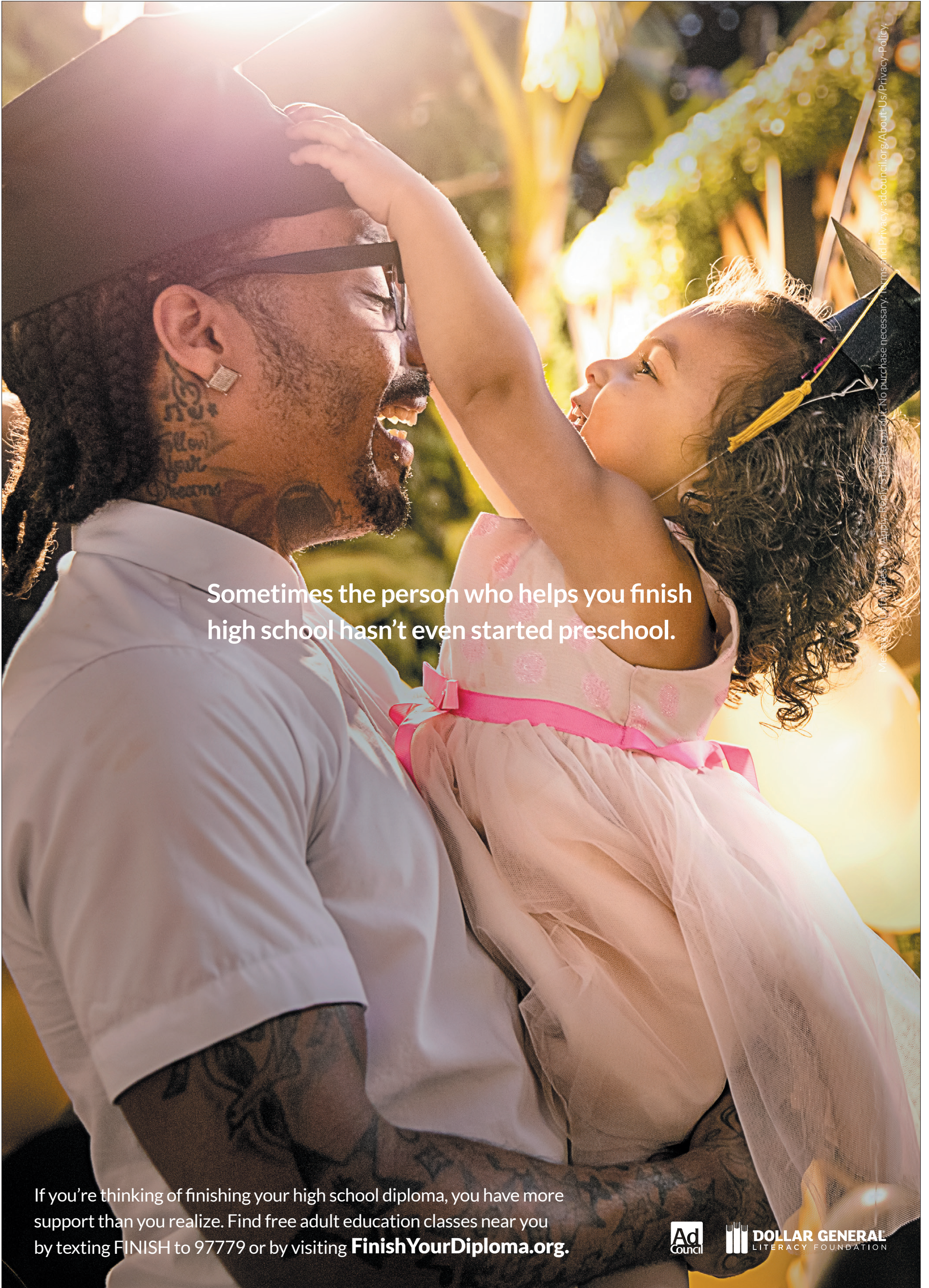
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