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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 23

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 13 - 19, 2025

## National Newspaper Publishers Association BLACK PRESS OF AMERICA

*NNPA Launches National Public Education Campaign*

# T A R G E T

# TARGET

# #WE OUT



Continue Black Press of America Page 2



Recognizing #BLACK EXCELLENCE for 77 Years





- Continued Page 1 -

# National Newspaper Publishers Association BLACK PRESS OF AMERICA



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**NNPA (Black Press of America)**

Washington, DC: The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), representing the Black Press of America, has announced the planning and implementation of a national public education and selective buying campaign across the nation in direct response to those corporate entities

that have dismantled their respective Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) commitments, programs and staffing.

“We are the trusted voice of Black America, and we will not be silent or nonresponsive to the rapid rise of renewed Jim Crow racist policies in corporate America,” stated

NNPA Chairman Bobby R. Henry Sr. “The Black Press of America continues to remain on the frontline keeping our families and communities informed and engaged on all the issues that impact our quality of life.”

At a recent convening of NNPA member publishers and editors, a united resolve was reached that each member publication of the NNPA will begin a national public education campaign coupled with the release of research data on those American companies that are engaging in efforts to sanction racial injustice, inequitable policies, divisive leadership, and economic apartheid in America.

“We note forthrightly that Black Americans spend \$2 trillion dollars annually as consumers of products and services throughout the United States,” NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. emphasized. “We now must evaluate and realign to question why we continue to spend our money with com-

panies that do not respect us,” Chavis continued. “This now must come to an end. These contradictions will not go unchallenged by 50 million Black Americans who have struggled for centuries to ensure equality, fairness, and inclusion in our nation’s democracy.”

A selective buying campaign involves exercising the right to select what we spend our money on and who we spend our money with.

The following are some of the major American companies that have publicly retreated from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

*The following are some of the major American companies that have publicly retreated from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:*

- Target
- Lowe’s
- John Deer
- Walmart
- Meta
- Tractor Supply
- Amazon
- McDonald’s
- Ford

# Another Push for Reparations for Slavery and Black a Wall Street

By April Ryan

The growing movement for reparations for the descendants of Africans enslaved in America is receiving another jolt of energy. Democratic Massachusetts Congresswoman Ayanna Presley is revitalizing the work of the late Texas Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee with the reintroduction of H. R. 40. The newly reintroduced bill would create a 15-member commission to study concrete solutions to the Black Wall Street Tulsa Massacre. Also, the new H.R. 40 bill would develop recommendations for reparations for slavery. Democratic New Jersey Senator Cory Booker is introducing a similar bill in the United States Senate. However, Pressley says the House bill already has 70 co-sponsors, and she will ask Republicans and Democrats to co-sponsor H.R. 40. However, there are no official Republican sponsors yet. The bill would also probe racist disparities that inhibited Black wealth. Marc Morial, the head of the National Urban League, says, “We must stay the course!” The head of the economic civil rights organization says the current wealth gap disparity between Blacks and whites is

“10-1 at least. Maybe higher.”

Pressley wants what she calls the “reparative work,” similar to what was offered to Native Americans and Japanese Americans. In 1988, Republican President Ronald Reagan apologized to the surviving Japanese Americans for their incarceration during World War II. 80,000 Japanese Americans received \$20,000 each from the federal government as part of the apology. Reparations for Native Americans also occurred after World War II. 1.3 Billion dollars was paid by the Indian Claims Commission as it provided \$1000 per person. Democratic Chicago congressman Joshua Jackson pointed to Evanston, Illinois. That town currently offers reparations as the first municipal program in the United States to address racial discrimination and segregation. Black residents and their descendants who lived in Evanston between 1919 and 1969 are eligible for up to 25 thousand dollars to help with real estate-related issues. From the press conference on Capitol Hill, Pressley encouraged

Continue Wall Page 5

Continued from February 6 Edition, Page 6

## The Black Librarian

By Deborah W. Parker/ The Conversation

“Passing” can often raise more questions than answers. But Greene did not largely define herself through one category, such as her racial identity. Instead, she constructed a self through the things she loved.

‘I love this life – don’t you?’

In my view, any consideration of Greene’s attitudes toward her own race must remain an open question. And uncertainty can be acknowledged – even embraced – with judgments suspended.

The Morgan Library & Museum currently has an exhibition on Greene that will run until May 4, 2025 – one that’s already generated debates about Greene and the significance of her passing.

One section of the exhibition, “Questioning the Color Line,” includes novels on passing, paintings such as Archibald J. Motley Jr.’s “The Octoroon Girl,” photographs of Greene, and clips from Oscar Micheaux’s 1932 film “Veiled Aristocrats” and John M. Stahl’s 1934 film “Imitation of Life,” which portray painful scenes between white-passing characters and their family members.

None of these objects clarifies Greene’s particular relationship to passing. Instead, they place the librarian within melodramatic and conventional representations about passing that stress self-division and angst.

We don’t know – perhaps we will never know – whether Greene had similar moments of self-doubt.

Greene frequently received glowing press coverage. The Morgan Library & Museum

Yet some critics have concluded as much. In his review of the exhibition for The New Yorker, critic Hilton Als laments what Greene’s passing had cost her. He describes her as a “girl who loved power,” a woman who “became a member of another race – not Black or white but alternately grandiose and self-despising.”

There’s a lot of certainty in such a pronouncement – and scant evidence furnished to support such declarations.

New York Times columnist John McWhorter takes issue with Als’s depiction of the librarian’s passing in a Jan. 23, 2025, article.

Citing passages from her letters in which Greene excitedly describes reading the Arabic folktales “The Thousand and One Nights” and seeing exhibitions of modern art, McWhorter asks readers to reconsider this “witty, puckish soul who savored books and art” and “had an active social life.”

What if Greene gave her race little thought, McWhorter wonders. What if she simply saw the notion of race and racial categorization as “a fiction” and instead lived her life to its fullest? Of course, her light skin afforded her the opportunity that other Black people of her era didn’t have. But does that necessarily mean that she was self-loathing or conflicted?

“[W]e are all wearing trousers and I love them,” Greene writes in one letter to Berenson, adding, “The Library grows more wonderful every day and I am terribly happy in my work here ... I love this life – don’t you?”

Greene’s vitality capti-

ated Berenson, who once described the librarian as “incredibly and miraculously responsive.”

The connoisseur was not the only contemporary who admired Greene’s effervescence. In “The Living Present,” an account of the activities of women before and after World War II, Greene’s friend Gertrude Atherton paid tribute to Greene, a “girl so fond of society, so fashionable in dress and appointments” that she could impress any stranger with her “overflowing joie de vivre.”

**Crafting an aura**  
Viewed through a more expansive lens, Greene’s passing can be seen as part of an exercise in self-fashioning and self-invention.

Greene dressed to be noticed – and she was. Meta Harrsen, the librarian Greene hired in 1922, offers a rare eye-witness account. On the day Greene interviewed Harrsen, “she wore a dress of dark red Italian brocade shot with silver threads, a gold braided girdle, and an emerald necklace.”

Greene understood well the power of clothes to project a distinct identity – a highly crafted one in this case, and one befitting a connoisseur of rare books.

Greene poses for a Time magazine portrait in 1915. The Morgan Library & Museum

At that, she excelled. She became known for her stunning acquisition coups: her purchase of 16 rare editions of the works of English printer William Caxton at an auction; her procurement of the highly coveted Crusader’s Bible through a private negotiation; and her acquisition of the Spanish Apocalypse Commentary, a



Greene poses for a Time magazine portrait in 1915. Photo Credit: The Morgan Library & Museum

medieval text written by a Spanish monk that Greene was able to buy at a steep discount.

To me, a 1915 photo captures Greene’s confidence and aura more than any other image of the librarian.

She posed in her home and wasn’t shot in soft focus with a studio backdrop as other photographs tend to portray her. Sitting on the arm of a large chair upholstered in a tapestry weave, she wears an elaborate hat with a large ostrich plume, a high-necked blouse under a long, loosely belted jacket with a ruffled cuff over a long dark skirt. The decor is no less striking: Flemish tapestries decorate the walls behind her, and a liturgical vestment is draped over the bookcase. Looking directly at the viewer, Greene is assured and poised.

Greene’s stylish flair was not simply decorative. It was a testament to her vibrant personality and the joy she took in her work. Rather than judge her according to contemporary notions of racial identity, I prefer to marvel over her achievements and how she became a model for generations of future librarians. Greene didn’t just pass. She surpassed – in spectacular ways.



# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## The Spiritual State of the Believers

Hebrews 5:11-14



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The lofty theme of book of Hebrews is "The Superiority of the Person and Work of Christ." Thus far, the author has argued forcibly that Jesus Christ is Superior to the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3) because the Prophets' revelation was only partial and fragmentary; whereas, God's final and complete revelation was in His Son, Jesus Christ; the author also argued that Christ is Superior to Angels (Hebrews 1:5-2:18) because Angels were mere messengers (servants), but Christ is the Son who will inherit the Messianic Kingdom! In Hebrews 3:1-6, the author declared that Christ is Superior to Moses, for Moses was just a servant in the house, but Christ was the Son over the house.

In an effort to spur his Jewish readership to go on to spiritual maturity (Hebrews 6:1), the author issues some warning passages that consist of:

the peril of drifting (Hebrews 2:1-4); the peril of doubting (Hebrews 3:7-4:13); the peril of dull hearing (Hebrews 5:11-6:20). Having discussed the greatness of Christ's Priesthood over the Aaronic Priesthood (Hebrews 5:1-10), the author had to pause and digress from that subject. He had to digress from the subject of Christ's Melchizedek Priesthood because of the spiritual listlessness of his readership. As we approach his argument, let us observe the following topics.

### I. The Declared Condition of the Believers - Hebrews 5:11-12

The truths that the author wished to communicate, no doubt concerning Christ's Priesthood and the order of Melchizedek, would be "hard to be uttered" (Hebrews 5:11), that is, it would be difficult to make them understandable in the state the believers were in. In other

words, the author of Hebrews was saying that he had much more to tell his readers, but they were "dull of Hearing" (Hebrews 5:11). The author wants to enter into a deeper study of the Priesthood of Christ, but he has sluggish and indolent hearers! The problem is not that he is a listless and dull speaker or writer, but he simply has dull hearers.

In verse 12, the author declared to the Hebrews that they had been receiving instruction long enough now so that they should be teaching others. But the tragedy was that they still need someone to teach them the ABC's of the word of God. In our churches today, it is a fact that certain ones have a special gift of teaching; however, it is also a fact that every believer should mature to the point where he can teach others. It is never God's aim that this ministry of

teaching should be limited to a few. Each one should teach one! The author is really disclosing the fact that these Hebrews' spiritual growth had been stunted! In the latter part of verse 12, he is saying: "you need milk, not solid food." In the physical realm, a child who never advances from milk to solids is impaired. Just as there can be stunted growth in the physical realm, there can be impaired growth in the spiritual realm (I Corinthians 3:2). Believers cannot grow spiritually vibrant while still on pet milk! Having discussed the declared condition of the believers, let us observe the next topic.

### II. The Desired Condition of the Believers - Hebrews 5: 13-14

In his argument, the author did not mean to minimize the importance of foundational doctrines; however, where there is stunted growth in

the lives of believers, they cannot begin to put doctrines to good use in their lives. According to verse 13, believers who stay on a milk diet are inexperienced in the word of righteousness. Every believer needs to know that he or she who has trusted Christ as Saviour, is clothed in Christ's righteousness. However, every believer should also know that he or she is to grow in righteousness, becoming more and more like Him (Romans 13:14; Philippians 1:11; I John 3:1-3). When believers are not growing spiritually, they do not have a keen sense of discernment in spiritual matters and are "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles" (Ephesians 4:14). According to verse 14, solid food is for full-grown men, for those who have exercised their spiritual

senses to discern good and evil.

In conclusion, a Christian is growing spiritually vibrant when he is solely trusting in God who saved him. This spiritually vibrant Christian knows that if God is able to save you from the penalty of sin, you can trust Him to save from the power of sin, and one day, save you from the very presence of sin. Christian friends, don't allow your circumstances, or anybody, stunt your trust in the sufficiency of our God.

God is able and He will complete what He has started, for Jude 24-25 says: "Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and

May God Bless!

## LIFE IS LIKE A CAMERA, JUST FOCUS ON WHAT'S IMPORTANT!

~ THE 1960s ~

(Solution to February 6, Puzzle ~ see page 5)

Statepoint Crossword Puzzle  
Theme: THE 1960s

**ACROSS**

1. Unit of electrical capacity F
6. Knicks' org.
9. Herring's cousin
13. City in Belgium
14. \*The Beatles hit "Drive My \_\_\_\_"
15. Monument to Buddha
16. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
17. Affirmative to captain
18. Like a beaver?
19. \*Che's last name
21. \*Stonewall riots location
23. Division of time
24. West African country
25. Refuse to comply
28. \*The Jackson 5 co-founder
30. \*Don \_\_\_\_ of Barney Fife fame
35. Soon, to a bard
37. Hyperbolic tangent
39. Sunlight's interference
40. \*Apollo Moon Landing org.
41. Operatic solos
43. Alexander Hamilton/Aaron Burr incident
44. Deposit the ashes
46. Related to ear
47. Meat in a can
48. Transport onward, as in letter (2 words)
50. Not written
52. Pilot's estimate, acr.
53. Ill-mannered one
55. Hawaiian welcome wreath
57. \*Ford's pony car
61. \*Assassinated president
65. " \_\_\_\_ death do us part"
66. Down Under runner
68. Hindu caste
69. Moonshine maker
70. \*Spock's was pointy
71. Comforter stuffing
72. Ruptured
73. Ground cover
74. Coach-and-four

**DOWN**

1. Use a cat o' nine tails
2. Hokkaido language
3. Network of nerves
4. Mojave plant
5. Go away
6. March Madness org.
7. \* \_\_\_\_ of Pigs, failed military operation
8. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
9. Command to Fido
10. Designer Boss
11. Copycat
12. Sinister side in "Star Wars"
15. Garment-making
20. Yogurt-based dip
22. Benevolent one
24. Hall order keeper
25. \*Joplin of "Summertime" fame
26. Foolish
27. Same as boatswain
29. Tropical tuber
31. Auto pioneer
32. Brownish gray
33. Something yummy
34. \*Certain march starting point
36. Backgammon predecessor
38. \*Place for a flower
42. Part of mermaid's tale
45. Cricket umpire's call (2 words)
49. Not, prefix
51. Optical devices
54. S-shaped moldings
56. Arctic people
57. Necessary thing
58. Archaic preposition
59. \*Bob Marley's hit " \_\_\_\_ It Up"
60. Fresco piece
61. Kurdistan native
62. Cocoyam
63. Fortune-telling coffee remnants
64. Ready and eager
67. \*Zedong of Cultural Revolution

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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65							66	67			68			
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72								73				74		

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# CLASSIFIEDS/NEWS

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9	7							5
	8	6					1	5
3		4				8		2
7	5					4	3	
	4						2	1
1			4	7				
		9		5	1			

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

## Flu Cases Skyrocket Nationwide, Overwhelming Hospitals and Closing Schools

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia

Flu cases are surging across the United States, pushing hospitals to capacity and forcing school closures in multiple states. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that at least 24 million people have been infected this season, with 310,000 hospitalizations and 13,000 deaths, including 57 children. The latest data show flu activity continues to rise, with ten states and New York City experiencing the highest levels. Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas are seeing widespread outbreaks. In New York City alone, more than 51,000 flu tests



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

returned positive during the week ending January 25, a six percent increase from the previous week. Flu-related hospitalizations in the city rose by 11 percent, with 3,000 people admitted in one week.

Schools nationwide are being forced to shut down as outbreaks spread among students and staff. Nearly a

dozen schools have temporarily closed, with administrators struggling to contain the rapid spread of illness. Doctors and public health officials warn that a pause in communication from the federal government has disrupted efforts to track and contain the flu. On January 21, the Trump administration halted exter-

nal messaging from health agencies, delaying critical updates. While some messaging has resumed, health professionals say the interruption has made it harder to track infection patterns and prepare for surges.

CDC continues to urge vaccinations for everyone six months and older and emphasizes the importance of early antiviral treatment for those at higher risk. The agency is also monitoring co-circulating respiratory viruses, including COVID-19 and RSV, which are contributing to the strain on hospitals. "Seasonal influenza activity remains elevated and continues to increase across the country," the CDC stated in its latest report.

### Quinn Minute

## Prehistoric humans

By Rix Quinn

We don't give prehistoric people enough credit. These remarkable folks learned to walk upright, discovered fire, and invented the wheel. Sadly, they made that wheel out of wood, accidentally set it on fire...then had to start over again.

Tribes painstakingly carved mud huts out of the earth. That must have been tough, especially if it rained and the kitchen cabinets flowed into the den.

One day at a hut housewarming, a neighbor said, "Cave Guy, your home

really bores me. Why don't you put some original prints on the walls?"

And Cave Guy said "Footprints?"

The neighbor said, "No, I mean pictures. You know...landscapes, impressionist works, maybe portraits."

Cave Guy then colored his walls with vivid scenes of ancestors and mythical creatures.

Years later, scientists concluded the paintings told important legends. But Cave Guy – a practical person – realized he'd invented wallpaper.

Neolithic man, as you know, gets credit for building the first neighborhood. He realized if he chased woolly mammoths all the time he would never get "yard of the month."

Well, pretty soon, somebody built a hut next door, and one neighbor decided to construct a fence to keep their pet lizard in and the stray sabretooth out.

Yep, thanks to these early settlers, today we've got streets, carpooling, and neighborhood associations.

In fact, if they'd known how to read, write, and medicate correctly, they might still be around today – 10,000 years later – sunning themselves.

But if they were...you would not want to see them in tank tops.

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## FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!

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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Feb. 13

Friday, Feb. 14

Saturday, Feb. 15

Sunday, Feb. 16

Monday, Feb. 17

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Wednesday, Feb. 19



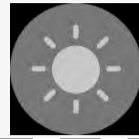
H - 40°  
L - 35°



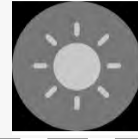
H - 49°  
L - 44°



H - 67°  
L - 27°



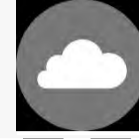
H - 37°  
L - 27°



H - 49°  
L - 40°



H - 56°  
L - 27°



H - 41°  
L - 26°

## Dallas ISD to induct ten into Athletic Hall of Fame

By The Hub

**DALLAS ISD ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2025**

 Lauren Blackburn	 Jerry Broadnax	 Bruce Chambers	 Ralph Guldehl	 Dante Jones
 Bill Melton	 James Mitchell	 Donna Ramsey	 Charlie Shepard	 Richmond Webb

Photo Credit: Dallas ISD/The HUB

The 2024-2025 Dallas ISD Athletic Hall of Fame class boasts 10 legendary individuals who have made a fundamental impact on sports in the district and beyond. The induction ceremony is slated for Friday, April 11 at the Arts District Mansion in downtown Dallas.

**This year's class of inductees includes:**

- Lauren Blackburn – Sunset High School graduate, two-time UIL state champion in the 100-meter hurdles, and the 2010 Dallas Morning News Track & Field Athlete of the Year.
- Jerry Broadnax – Three-time football Player of the Year at Dr. L.G. Pinkston Sr. High School, and six-year NFL veteran with the

New England Patriots, Houston Oilers, and Green Bay Packers.

- Bruce Chambers – Former football player and head coach at David W. Carter High School. He is a longtime assistant football coach at the University of Texas.
- Ralph Guldehl – 1930 graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School, 16-time professional golf champion, and a Texas Golf and World Golf Hall of Famer.
- Dante Jones – Two-time all-district linebacker at Skyline High School, national champion at the University of Oklahoma, and eight-year NFL veteran with the Chicago Bears and Denver Broncos.
- Bill Melton – Sunset

High School graduate and an acclaimed local, state, and national sports announcer who was a voice of the 1996 Olympics and three Super Bowls.

- James Mitchell – Booker T. Washington High School graduate who coached girls' track & field, cross country, volleyball, and basketball for 30 years at James Madison High School.
- Donna Ramsey – W.T. White High School graduate and the first female athletic trainer in Dallas ISD history.
- Charlie Shepard – Graduate of Crozier Technical High School, four-time Grey Cup champion in the Canadian Football League, and recipient of the 1959 Grey Cup Most Valuable

Player award.

- Richmond Webb – The 1985 salutatorian of Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, Webb was a seven-time NFL Pro Bowl selection during his 11-year career with the Chicago Bears and Cincinnati Bengals.

To be selected for the Hall of Fame, individuals must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character. Inductees were selected for their striking accomplishments and undisputed impact while advancing school athletics. Their successes are not limited to Dallas ISD borders. They have reached recognition on local, state, national, and international levels.

## America's Three-Week Descent into Dictatorship Under Trump

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Donald Trump has spent a lifetime evading accountability. As a private citizen, authorities fined Trump for refusing to rent to Black tenants, declared bankruptcy multiple times, lost a \$90 million civil judgment for sexual assault, and a jury convicted him on 34 felony charges. However, none of that mattered once Trump seized the presidency again.

With Mitch McConnell's help, Trump flooded the courts with loyalists and stacked the Supreme Court with cronies who ruled that he was immune from prosecution. Now, just three weeks into his second term, the first convicted felon to hold the presidency has made it clear: the law no longer applies to him. America's system of checks and balances has collapsed, and a dictator now sits in the Oval Office.

Trump has shredded the very foundation of democracy, dismantling government agencies, ignoring court orders, and bending the Republican-controlled Congress to his will.

With Elon Musk's backing, Trump shut down the U.S. Agency for International Development, gutting a program that fed and provided medical care to millions worldwide. This move has already threatened the lives of millions. With Musk pulling the strings and under his administration, airplanes seemingly fall out of the sky almost daily. Trump also fired 17 inspectors general without congressional notice, silencing watchdogs meant to prevent government corruption. He ignored a court-backed law requiring TikTok to sell or shut down.

Continue **Trump** Page 7

Continued **Wall** Page 2

President Donald Trump and the man she calls his "co-president," Elon Musk to support H.R. 40.

Congressional leaders attending and supporting the reintroduction of H.R. 40 were Congressman Johnathan Jackson, Congresswoman Summer Lee, Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman,

and the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, New York Democratic Congresswoman Yvette Clarke. Presley is the third Black congressional leader who carried on the legacy of a movement toward reparations. It began in 1969 with the late Michigan Congressman John Conyers and was reintroduced by Congresswoman Sheila Jack-

son Lee in recent years. Congresswoman Lee received 140 co-signers on the bill that Congresswoman Pressley and Senator Booker now champion. Texas Congresswoman Erica Lee Carter, the daughter of the late Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, said, "This is not the past" but about the present and future.

## STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

(Solution to February 6 Puzzle - IDIOMS)

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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Celebrating Black History Month

By Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Dr. John E. Warren

This year, perhaps more than ever, we need to be especially mindful of Black History. This time of banning books from local libraries, especially those that tell of the history and struggle of Black Americans against slavery and racism, poses a threat to both our presence and our future. It has often been said that if you don't know where you come from, you will have no idea of where

you are going. Well, African Americans, in particular, must remember that we are here today because of strong ancestors who did not allow the circumstances under which they lived to stuff out their dreams of a future for themselves and their descendants.

We must remind ourselves that we are not to be defined by others, that we are not disadvantaged or handicapped, that we are born with a right to equality, and that we have always demanded equity even though others have tried to deny it to us. We are "We The People". We must not allow the chains that have been removed from our bodies to be placed on our minds. We have the ability to remove ourselves from poverty by using the tools in our

hands. We must remember that we now possess everything that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of when, in his 1957 speech, he said, "Give us the ballot, and we will place the right people in office to, in essence, further our cause. Today, so many of us do not have it because we will not use it, which we do have. We have freedom of movement, of thought, and how we use our minds. Yet, so many choose to squander these freedoms on how others tell us we should think and dress and what we should be with the few dollars that so many of us waste on things that are not necessary. We have freedom of worship, yet so many of us don't bother to pray until we find ourselves in crisis.

In addition to Black

History, Carter G. Woodson, left us a most valuable book, "The Miseducation of the Negro". It's time to honor his gift of Black History with our own personal contributions to the times in which we live and those we share this life experience with. Only when we engage in this level of thought and activity while making black history a daily experience can we truly honor what we have been given beyond the month of February each year? Where do you stand and what are you doing with what you have been given? Let's move beyond complaints and expectations by others to what each of us can do right where we stand. Let's get back to defining ourselves and not allowing others to do it for us.

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## My Reflections On The Super Bowl Being In Our City of New Orleans

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

The Super Bowl is arguably the biggest sporting event in America, and some would say in the world. The buildup to it happens all year long.

It is because football at all levels is always talked about by sports commentators. For example, National Signing Day for high school players was held on Wednesday, February 5th. Of course, the transfer portal and NIL agreements are discussed without ceasing by all members of the football world.

Just last year at the end of last year's Super Bowl, television announcers began talking about the 2025 Super Bowl. A Louisiana committee attended the 2024 Super Bowl in Las Vegas as they received the mantle and official go-ahead for Super Bowl LIX.

The city of New Or-

leans has been planning for the Super Bowl since the announcement was made that it would be the host. This was the 11th time that the city has hosted this premier event.

If you live here like I do, you get to see firsthand that New Orleans does a lot of hosting. Its hospitality is second to none. One New Orleans official said that the city was built for hosting the Super Bowl. That statement has been affirmed by the NFL.

Think about it. New Orleans hosts Mardi Gras, The Essence Festival, The Jazz Festival and The Bayou Classic. That is just a small sampling. There is always a festival or a convention that brings people from all parts of the world to the Crescent City.

The city focused on providing visitors with a superb Super Bowl experience. All the carpets of goodwill and good cheer were rolled out. New Orleans is a friendly and welcoming city. The smiles and high fives are authentic.

It didn't matter if you were a Philadelphia Eagles fan or a Kansas City Chiefs fan. Fun and fellowship happened in

abundance during this special week.

As we were driving with a great view of the Super Dome, I said, this place is going to be rocking and rolling in the coming days. I was right.

When the Super Bowl schedule was released, my wife and I attended a few events. Our excitement piqued as Super Bowl LIX week was just a few days away.

Our first event was the Super Bowl opening night held at the Super Dome.

We arrived two hours before the start of the evening's activities. Going into the Dome for this historic occasion was just amazing. I never thought I would have this opportunity.

There were players' and coaches' interviews along with pictures being taken. The famous St. Augustine High School March Band performed to the delight of the fans. Cheerleaders cheering and fans being fans made the atmosphere electric.

We came home pleasantly exhausted and looked forward to our next outing. We also had tickets for the NFL Fan Experience on Thursday night. It was held at the

Ernest Morial Convention Center. There we had the chance to take pictures with the Super Bowl Trophy and to see past Super Bowl championship rings.

The Grambling State University Marching Band gave a wonderful performance for the fans as well. The National Football League also recognized the contributions of players, coaches, and employees at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

An HBCU exhibit featured football helmets from all the HBCUs. I was able to take a picture of the Johnson C. Smith University helmet as that is my alma mater.

Wilson Sporting Goods showed the crowd how to make a football. Reggie Bush, a former Heisman Trophy winner, was a participant in the demonstration. Saturday was the Super Bowl parade, and it was wonderful. Todd Graves, founder and CEO of Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, was the parade king. It was a fitting celebration. One fan said there is no city in the world like New Orleans.

The Philadelphia Eagles defeated the Kansas City Chiefs 40-22.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**FEBRUARY 2025**  
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FEB. 13	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG (2009)
FEB. 20	SOUL (2020)
FEB. 27	THE LITTLE MERMAID (2023)



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# Campus Teacher of the Year continues legacy of leadership

By MariCarmen Eroles



Photo Credit: Dallas ISD/THE HUB

Beverly Tillmon, an elementary math teacher at Personalized Learning Preparatory at Highland Meadows, represents the best of what it means to be an educator.

Recently selected as the school's 2024-2025 Campus Teacher of the Year, her leadership, guidance, and 55 years of experience have rewarded Tillmon with the unofficial title of matriarch at the campus.

Tillmon stepped into this school year confidently after spending time out of the classroom to provide guidance as a math instructional coach.

The key to being a great math teacher, Tillmon says, is to "stay ahead of the game, always prepared for what is to come well

before bumps in the road appear for students."

While teaching math can feel like teaching a new language, Tillmon says it is fun and rewarding. She credits her longevity to her ability to anticipate what her students will need.

Tillmon believes in preparing her students to be self-sufficient academically and socially, and said, "Students will do what you ask them to do if they know what you are talking about."

Tillmon's impact on not only her students but also other teachers at her school is evident. Highland Meadows is also home to two Teachers of Promise, a recognition reserved for exceptional

teachers within their first three years of teaching. When asked to give advice to the next generation of educators in the district, Tillmon was quick to answer that "she hopes to encourage them."

"Your classroom isn't built in a day or a year," she said. "It takes time to learn yourself, to learn your craft, to learn your classroom, and to learn how to manage your time and outside tasks. It takes time to filter through the information and duties of being a teacher and to find what works for you."

Tillmon spoke highly of her school and teachers, including 2022-2023 Teacher of Promise, Nazira Sahial, a third-year kindergarten teacher who

Tillmon took under her wing, commending her for the way she stays attuned to students and her ability to keep a calm and efficient classroom.

Sahial, for her part, credits her success as a teacher to Tillmon and spoke of her admiration for the Campus Teacher of the Year, who she described as her rock.

"She made space for me," Sahial said. "She was there for me to keep my head up and keep going."

Tillmon said she loves to work hard and finds solace in committing to her passion for education but also believes in rest and wellness. Despite her continued dedication to the craft, she finds comfort in her family and her faith, finding daily relief in these personal commitments. She credits her success to preparation, which allows her to remain grounded throughout the day, always keen to filter through what is most important for the success of her classroom.

Tillmon said that when her husband asks her, "How was your day?" she quickly replies, "It was a good day. That's all I have are good days."

## Continued Trump Page 5

"The president is openly violating the law and Constitution on a daily basis," said Brendan Nyhan, a political scientist at Dartmouth College.

Trump's actions have called the bluff of America's constitutional system. Lawsuits are piling up, but courts move too slowly to contain his sweeping power grabs. Republican lawmakers refuse to act, either cheering him on or cowering in fear of political retribution.

North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis admitted that Trump's actions "run afoul of the Constitution in the strictest sense." His response? "Nobody should bellyache about that."

Congress was meant to serve as a check on executive power, but today's Republican Party has handed Trump complete control. They confirmed Russell Vought, a key architect of Project 2025, to lead the Office of Management and Budget after a marathon Democratic protest. Trump fired the chair of the Federal Election Commission despite her insistence that his action was illegal.

His administration has floated eliminating the Education Department, slashing food stamp programs, and imprisoning migrants in detention camps. The Fourth Geneva Convention, which the U.S. has upheld since World War II, prohibits forced deportations, but Trump has proposed the mass removal of 2.3 million Palestinians from Gaza—a move University



Elon Musk/YouTube Screen grab.

of Michigan professor Juan Cole compared to the ethnic cleansing tactics of Stalin.

"I grew up in an America full of revulsion for Stalinism, and even the few Communists I ever met were critics of it," Cole wrote. "Now, we have a new American Stalinism, as dismissive of individual and collective rights and liberties as Uncle Joe had been."

Trump's own former diplomat to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chargé d'Affaires Harry Kamian, condemned Russia's mass deportation of Crimean Tatars in 1944-47 as a crime against humanity. Yet, just three weeks into Trump's second term, the U.S. follows the same playbook.

The courts remain one of the last remaining obstacles to Trump's total rule. A judge blocked his attempt to strip birthright citizenship, and another halted his unconstitutional freeze on federal spending. However, Trump has ignored these rulings, refusing to release frozen funds despite direct judicial orders.

Los Angeles Times columnist Jackie Calmes described Trump's second term as "a diktat a day." He has purged thousands of protected federal employees, defied Congress's control over federal spending, and attempted to dismantle legally established agencies.

"Trump's Day 1 clemency for his nearly 1,600 fellow Jan. 6 insurrectionists was at least within a president's express powers, as are tariffs," Calmes wrote. "Much else is not."

One of Trump's most dangerous abuses of power is his alliance with Musk. The world's richest man and a quarter-billion-dollar Trump campaign donor has embedded his own operatives in key government agencies, including the Treasury Department, USAID, the Education Department, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

At the Treasury, Musk's handpicked team seized control of government-wide payment systems, gaining access to Americans' financial data and prompting a top career official to resign. His next target: the Education De-

partment. USAID, once the world's largest provider of food aid, has been decimated, leaving humanitarian efforts in shambles.

Musk bragged about his takeover on social media, claiming, "I went over it with him in detail, and he agreed that we should shut it down." Russia approved. Former President Dmitry Medvedev praised Musk's intervention as "a smart move."

Even among Republicans, there is a quiet acknowledgment that Trump's power has gone unchecked. When pressed about Musk's infiltration of federal agencies, Mississippi Senator Roger Wicker conceded, "Do I want Congress to exercise its right and power as a co-equal branch of the federal government? Yes, I do."

But Congress has done nothing. Senate Republicans are confirming Trump's handpicked loyalists, standing by as he purges independent agencies, and enabling his consolidation of power. Litigation will come, but the process is slow, and Trump's violations mount by the day.

"Whole lotta big cases coming the federal judiciary's way," said conservative Stanford Law professor Orin Kerr.

Calmes added they're "forfeiting Congress' constitutional status as a co-equal branch of government, with unique legislative and spending powers. In the meantime, we just keep counting Trump's days as dictator."



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**DIVERSITY,  
EQUITY AND  
INCLUSION**

Here are some companies that **NO LONGER SUPPORT Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).**

# WHY ARE YOU STILL SUPPORTING THEM?

A growing number of prominent US companies have announced they have scaled back or eliminated Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Their retreat from DEI began after a June 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling against affirmative action in college admissions and accelerated after President Donald Trump's executive orders against all federal diversity initiatives.

Now longstanding programs to improve the hiring and promotion of African Americans and other minority workers in corporate America are now under serious threat.

The attack on diversity has been swift.

After taking office on Jan. 20, President Trump issued a series of executive orders aimed at dismantling Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) programs across the federal government and the private sector.

The attack on diversity is bad for a multi-ethnic country and bad for business which needs a diverse workforce.

DEI programs seek to ensure fairer representation for groups historically marginalized such as African Americans, women, LGBTQ+ community members, and disabled people.

Diversity helps businesses by boosting innovation, expanding talent pools, and enhancing brand reputation, ultimately leading to improved financial performance and a more competitive edge.

A diverse workforce opens

up opportunities to access a wider range of talent and skills, allowing businesses to tap into a broader pool of potential employees with unique experiences and expertise.

A diverse workforce can better understand and meet the needs of a diverse customer base. This allows businesses to tailor their products, services, and marketing strategies to resonate with a wider range of consumers.

However, if companies retreat from committing to the principles and practice of diversity in a multi-ethnic America, why should they be supported?

The Philadelphia Tribune's response to the Trump administration's attacks on diversity and democracy begins with reporting the truth and holding those in power accountable.

More specifically, we ask you to strongly consider whether you should continue to spend your dollars with companies who have publicly announced their decision to retreat from diversity. Here's a look at some companies that have retreated from DEI:

## Amazon

Amazon said it was halting some of its DEI programs, although it did not specify which ones. In a Dec. 16 memo to employees, Candi Castleberry, a senior human resources executive, said the company has been "winding down outdated programs and materials, and we're aiming to complete that by the end of 2024."

## Target

The retailer said in January that it was ending a program it established to help Black employees build meaningful careers, improve the experience of Black shoppers and to promote Black-owned businesses.

Target, which operates nearly 2,000 stores nationwide and employs more than 400,000 people, said it also would bring to an end its diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, goals it previously set in three-year cycles.

The goals included hiring and promoting more women and members of racial minority groups, and recruiting more diverse suppliers, including businesses owned by people of color, women, LGBTQ+ people, veterans and people with disabilities.

## Meta

Meta Platforms Inc the parent company of Facebook and Instagram said it was getting rid of its diversity, equity and inclusion program, which featured policies for hiring, training and choosing vendors.

## McDonald's

Four years after launching a push for more diversity in its ranks, McDonald's said that it is ending some of its diversity practices, citing the U.S. Supreme Court decision that outlawed affirmative action in college admissions. McDonald's said on Jan. 6 that it will retire specific goals for achieving diversity at senior

leadership levels. It also intends to end a program that encourages its suppliers to develop diversity training and to increase the number of minority group members represented within their own leadership ranks.

## Walmart

The world's largest retailer confirmed in November that it would not be renewing a five-year commitment for an equity racial center set up in 2020 after the police killing of George Floyd.

## Ford

CEO Jim Farley sent a memo to the automaker's employees in August outlining changes to the company's DEI policies.

## Lowe's

In August, Lowe's executive leadership said the company began "reviewing" its programs following the Supreme Court's affirmative action ruling and decided to combine its employee resource groups into one umbrella organization. Previously, the company had "individual groups representing diverse sections of our associate population."

## John Deere

The farm equipment maker said in July that it will no longer sponsor "social or cultural awareness" events, and that it would audit all training materials "to ensure the absence of socially-motivated messages" in compliance with federal and local laws.

## Tractor Supply

The retailer in June said it was ending an array of corporate diversity. Tractor Supply said it would be eliminating all of its DEI roles while retiring current DEI goals.

Unfortunately the list of companies retreating from diversity is growing. We will post this list in print, online and on social media when available. If new companies announce their withdrawal from diversity we will add them to the list of companies whose practices we are now calling into question.

We must speak out and send a loud and clear message to corporate America that a retreat from diversity means a withdrawal of our support and practices will be documented and provided to our readership.