

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.” ~ Booker T. Washington



# The Dallas Post Tribune

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VOLUME 77 NUMBER 24

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 20 - 26, 2025

## HUD Job Cuts Equal a Housing Implosion

By April Ryan



Neighborhood - New Homes In a Line - Sunset - North Carolina – Telephoto (Photo Credit by Carlo Franco)

Large-scale protests in major cities across the nation and Washington D.C. continue to grow in number and discontent against the drastic Trump administration job cuts. The mass demonstrations have not moved President Trump and Elon Musk to change course

to make the US government leaner. Recently, Black Press USA spoke with Black Republican and media mogul Armstrong Williams. “Trump is in charge, and no one is stopping him,” according to Williams.

One of the many DOGE

targets is the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Elon Musk and DOGE are expected to reduce HUD staff by 50%. According to a source close to the department, those cuts would “hollow out the agency.” That same former official confirms HUD sen-

ior staff have already been eliminated. The DOGE anticipated next step in the elimination process targets job cuts of four to five thousand people [HUD employees] across the country.” These cuts would create a work slowdown and a backlog for the “8 million” people serviced monthly by HUD, said the former official who wishes to remain anonymous.

Meanwhile, one of the first cuts in the Trump HUD agency was the program to halt discrimination in housing appraisals that targeted Black homeowners. On a related note, the Black homeownership rate in 2025 is lower than that of 1968, the year the Fair Housing Act was implemented. Sources have said the HUD job cuts will create a negative jolt for

Continue HUD Page 4

## HBO’s Eyes on the Prize III Revisits Black America’s Modern Civil Rights Struggles



By Stacy M. Brown

HBO is set to debut Eyes on the Prize III: We Who Believe in Freedom Cannot Rest (1977-2015), the latest chapter of the groundbreaking documentary series that has long served as a definitive account of the fight for racial justice in America. The six-part series, executive produced by Dawn Porter, premieres Tuesday, February 25, with two episodes airing back-to-back on HBO. All six episodes will be available to stream on Max.

Building on the founda-

tion of Henry Hampton’s 1987 documentary Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Movement, this new installment shifts the timeline beyond the traditional civil rights era, highlighting the continued struggle for justice from the late 1970s through 2015. The series captures pivotal moments in Black activism through archival footage and firsthand accounts, from grassroots battles over housing and healthcare to the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Continue HBO Page 5

## National Newspaper Publishers Association 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 companies that do not respect us,” Chavis continued. “This now must come to an end. These contradictions will not go unchal-

lenged 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.

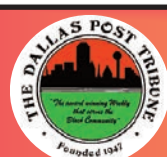
The following are some of the major American companies that have publicly retreated from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

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

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



DR. JAMAL BRYANT’S 40-DAY TARGET ‘FAST’ GAINS MOMENTUM - Page 3



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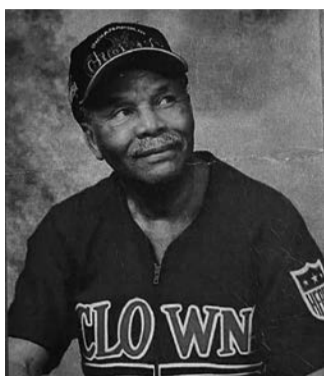
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# EDITORIAL PAGE

*My Day*

## William "Bill" Blair: A Purpose-Driven Life

By Dr. J. Ester Davis



William "Bill" Blair, Jr.

In Richard Warren's bestseller "The Purpose Driven Life," he outlines a forty-day step process of how to find your purpose in life. Long before this book was written, Dr. William "Bill" Blair, who changed addresses this week at the age of 92, demonstrated his life to the fullest, a clear defining purpose, not driving, but speeding in fourth gear with a cache of people. One of Dallas's most popular Situation Spots is

the renowned "Roundtable". Well attended by all, with a 25-year legacy started by Dr. Blair. My favorite story, by far, occurred at the famous "Roundtable" years ago between Dr. Marvin Robinson and Dr. Bill Blair. Marvin was telling this story about a track meet in which Marvin was one of the stars. Dr. Blair let the story be told and immediately afterward announced to Marvin that one of the names was incorrect. Marvin disagreed politely. He went home and looked it up. Being the gentleman he was, he returned to the "Roundtable" the next day to declare in public "that the master was correct," and with a laugh, "but, I was there." Mrs. Carolyn Lucas, the lady in the pink Cadillac for over a decade, possibly said it best. "He wanted ev-

erybody recognized," which would account for his many community "driven" successful programs. Master Donte Wilson, a student who did a paper on the Negro Baseball League, inspired by Bill's guest speaker appearance at his school, said, "he didn't talk old". Clarice Archer, a rising star in Nursing School at UT, Tyler, a native of another country, called to see if she and friends could host or 'usher' at the homegoing celebration. Simone Sadler, my niece in Orlando, now 16 years old, who spent summers with me in Dallas, bountiful lunches with Bill Blair at Luby's, at the "Roundtable" on her second call was disappointed that her Dad would not allow her to leave school, travel for the funeral. She decided that she would hold her own

memorial service in Orlando, Florida. She has received weekly copies of the Elite Newspaper for years. The late Dr. Theodore Lee, Publisher/CEO of The Dallas Post Tribune, said he always respected Bill Blair. Adding, "He was aggressive and always on the move enhancing his community and the City of Dallas." As a mentor, Sharon Middlebrooks said, "She never met a man that knew so much about this city." And Mrs. Maggie McClendon, 'a golden girl' at True Lee Baptist Church, said, "he was a jolly good fellow and a good friend to my husband before he passed away." How very fortunate we were to have such a time as this, a purposed life driven among us. *Ester Davis @esterday.com*

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## Having Brotherly and Sisterly Love In America Today

By James B Ewers Jr. Ed.D



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D

Like everything, America has changed. Things we did in the past, we don't do anymore. Do we need some of the things and customs we did in years long ago? That probably depends upon where you are in your life today. Age and experiences are telling when it comes to what you want and what you expect. Living long lives means that you have watched the country evolve, and as a result, you are able to compare yesteryear with this year. If you haven't been around long enough it is hard to compare. For example, I hear much younger men talking about "the old school". Politely, I listen to them to gain their perspective about a variety of subjects. Inwardly, I soon realized that they care about what is happening today. I have been called an

OG on several occasions. It is a term of respect, admiration, and endearment. That term has been used for several of my dear friends as well. Growing up, we watched men and women lead in our communities. They carried themselves in such a way that made you proud of them. They worked hard and made us better people because of their actions and their words of encouragement. The Bible says faith without works is dead. This has always been the case as we continue to keep high standards and lofty goals. Our ancestors lifted us up so we must do the same for future generations. Men and women who look like me are led with compassion and conviction. I am somebody and keep hope alive are signature expressions of Reverend Jesse Jackson, a Civil Rights icon. If you are of a certain age, you have used both of those expressions many times. They are said with pride and with purpose. There were women like Barbara Charline Jordan and Constance Baker Motley who spoke truth to power before the term was

ever used. Barbara Jordan was the first African American elected to the Texas Senate after Reconstruction. She was also the first African American woman from the South to be elected to the United States House of Representatives. Constance Motley served as a judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. She was also the first African American woman to argue a case before the Supreme Court. Despite this current and uncertain climate, we must navigate through these troubled waters with a newfound sense of brotherhood and sisterhood. Let's dig deeper to find those nuggets of compassion and understanding that we all possess. On Sunday, February 16th, Pastor Chip Luter of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, Louisiana, gave an impassioned message to the congregation befitting for today's America. The title of his sermon was "From Overwhelming To Overcoming". He made the following

three points: expect trouble in this world, be encouraged by the Word, and stay engaged in the will of God. It was a call to stay strong and to not be sidetracked by people of ill will. Those with selfish intentions are seasonal, and their evil attempts will eventually disintegrate. Righteousness and treating each other with dignity and respect should be our daily mantra. Let's renew our pledge to be kind and less judgmental. Our eyes should always be on the prize of civility and empathy. We are wrapped and interwoven in the fabric of humankind. We are people who need each other. Keeping that thought ever present in our minds will strengthen our resolve to do what is right each day. As we continue to honor our glorious and steadfast past, I am reminded of some of the lyrics from the hymn, Lift Every Voice and Sing by James Weldon Johnson. "Thou who has brought us thus far on the way; thou who has by Thy might led us into the light. Keep us forever in the path, we pray".

# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## An Admonition to Move Forward Spiritually

Hebrews 6:1-10



Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

The superb theme of the grand book of Hebrews is the Superiority of Jesus Christ. The author of Hebrews has proven clearly that Jesus Christ is superior (better than) the Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3) because the Prophets' revelation was only partial and fragmentary, whereas as God's revelation found its finality with or in Christ; Jesus Christ is superior to Angels (Hebrews 1:5-2:18) for the Angels were mere messengers, however, Christ is the Son who will inherit the Messianic Kingdom! In Hebrews 3:1-6, the author presented the fact that Jesus Christ is superior to Moses because Moses was a servant in the house, but Christ is the Son who made the house.

Thus far, the author has presented several warning passages, and they were: the danger of drifting (Hebrews 2:1-4), the danger of hardening the heart (Hebrews 3:7-4:13), and the danger of falling away (Hebrews 5:11-6:20).

In an effort to spur his Jewish readership to press forward spiritually, let us

observe: I. A Call for Spiritual Growth, II. A Solemn Argument and Warm Admonishment.

I. A Call for Spiritual Growth – Hebrews 6:1-3

The author begins in verse 1 by exhorting his Hebrew audience "to go on or press forward to spiritual perfection. His Jewish audience had been spiritually listless and sluggish (Hebrews 5:11-14) and stood in need of being encouraged to grow toward spiritual maturity. They were exhorted in verse 1 to leave the "principles or basic teachings about Christ," meaning they were to leave the most elementary truths about Christ. By leaving these truths behind, they were not to forget their importance or value; however, they were to build on their foundation and grow onward to "perfection" or "Maturity." The Hebrew Christians were challenged to leave the basics and move on to discover greater truths and experiences in the Christian faith that God had for

them.

Instead of forging ahead, these Jewish believers were tempted to lay again "a foundation" that is described in verses 2-3. The six items in this foundation do not refer to the Christian faith but rather to the basic doctrines of Judaism. Facing the severity of persecution, these Hebrew Christians were tempted to "fall by the wayside" by forsaking their confession of Christ. The author had already upbraided these believers for being spiritually dull and indolent (Hebrews 5:11-14); now the author is exhorting these believers to not go back to Judaism because Christ is better than anything that Judaism has to offer! Thus, they were not to lay again the foundation of the doctrines of Judaism that had prepared the way for Christ and the full light of Christianity! They had repented from dead works, referring to the works under the law (Hebrews 9:14).

In the context of Hebrews, the "dead works" probably involved seeking to justify oneself through

the legalistic codes of Judaism. Instead of doing this, a believer in the Old Testament needed to live by faith, throwing himself upon the mercy of God in the knowledge of God's goodness and grace. Faith was the key to acceptance before God in the Old Testament (Genesis 15:6), which was clearly and fully explained in the New Testament (Romans 1:17). The "baptisms" in verse 2 referred to the various Levitical washings practiced in Judaism. The "laying on the hands" goes back to the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:21), which refers to a transfer of something from one to another.

Lastly, every Jew held to a future resurrection and judgment (Acts 24:14-15). Thus, in verse 3, the author challenges these believers to make progress, but dependence on Divine aid is needed, so he wrote: "And this will we do if God permits."

II. A Solemn Argument and Warm Admonishment – Hebrews 6:4-10

In Hebrews 6:4-6, the author deals with a controversial issue. These verses describe genuine believers who were "once enlightened," had "tasted of the heavenly gift," and "were made partakers of the Holy Ghost," and had "tasted the good word of God," and were acquainted with "the powers of the world to come." If these believers who had professed faith in Christ would drift away from Him and back to Judaism, they would be guilty of falling away from the truth.

Thus, Hebrews 6:4-6 is not teaching that a sinning saint cannot be brought to repentance at all; but that he cannot be brought to repentance while he is continuing to sin. His refusal to repent is putting the work of Christ for him to shame! In verses 7-8, the author goes on to relate the truth that failure to go on to fruitful maturity will result in the loss of reward (I Corinthians 3:15).

In closing, in verses 9-10, the author was confident that these Hebrew Christians had been per-

forming works that demonstrated their love for God and their fellow believers. In light of their good work, they could be confident of God's love. God is indeed faithful, and He will never break faith with His people.

I am glad that God never breaks faith with us, for God is faithful. God is faithful, for the salvation He initiated in us will be completed, for I John 3:2 says, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." God is faithful, and He will ultimately complete the salvation work begun in us, for the grand Apostle Paul wrote: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly, and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it" (I Thessalonians 5:23-24).

*May God Bless!*

THE STATEPOINT CROSSWORD PUZZLE WILL RETURN IN OUR NEXT EDITION ON FEBRUARY 27. - See Solution for February 13, on Page 5.

## Dr. Jamal Bryant's 40-Day Target 'Fast' Gains Momentum

By Stacy M. Brown

Dr. Jamal Bryant, the influential pastor of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in metro Atlanta, is leading a 40-day fast—or boycott—of Target in response to the retailer's decision to phase out its diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. Bryant is calling for 100,000 people to sign a petition and halt their spending at Target as a direct challenge to what he describes as the company's retreat from its commitments to Black businesses and consumers.

Target, headquartered in Minneapolis, where George Floyd was murdered in 2020, initially pledged \$2 billion in investments to Black-owned businesses. However, Bryant condemned the company's announcement on January 24 that it would end its DEI initiatives and simultaneously abandon that financial commitment.

"After the murder of George Floyd, they made a \$2 billion commitment to invest in Black businesses," Bryant said during an appearance on the Black

Press' Let It Be Known News. "That commitment was due in December 2025. When they pulled out of the DEI agreement in January, they also canceled that \$2 billion commitment."

Bryant said that Target's role in the Black consumer market makes it the logical first target of this economic protest. "Black people spend \$12 million a day at Target," he said. "Because of how many dollars are spent there and the absence of commitment to our community, we are focusing on Target first."

Set to coincide with Lent, the fast is designed to leverage Black economic power to hold corporations accountable. Within just one week, 50,000 people had already signed onto the campaign at targetfast.org, which the pastor said highlighted the movement's momentum.

Bryant's demands go beyond reinstating DEI. "White women are the number one beneficiaries of DEI," he said. "What I am asking for is a quarter of a billion dollars to be invested in Black banks so

that our Black businesses can scale. Target has 10 distribution centers near HBCUs, and I'm asking them to partner with the business departments of these institutions."

Separate, the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), representing the Black Press of America, has announced a national public education and selective buying campaign in response to the corporate retreat from DEI commitments. "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," said NNPA Chairman Bobby R. Henry Sr.

NNPA President and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. reinforced the need for financial realignment. "Black Americans spend \$2 trillion annually. We must evaluate and realign to question why we continue to spend our money with companies that do not respect us. These contradictions will not go unchallenged."



To offer alternatives, Bryant has partnered with Ron Busby, president and CEO of the U.S. Black Chambers, providing consumers with a directory of 300,000 Black-owned businesses. "You can't tell people what not to do without showing them what to do," Bryant said. "If you're not going to Target or Walmart but need essentials like toilet paper, soap, or detergent, we'll show you where to get them and reinvest in Black businesses."

The impact of the boycott is already being felt, he insisted.

"Since Black people have been boycotting Target, the stock has dropped by \$11," Bryant said. "Stockholders are now suing Target because of the adverse impact this boycott has had on their stock."

"This is just phase one," Bryant continued. "After the 40 days, we'll figure out who's next. But we have to go after Target first. Amazon and others come right after. "America has shown us time and time again: if it doesn't make dollars, it doesn't make sense."

## Neiman Marcus to close iconic downtown Dallas location after more than a century

*The luxury retailer received notice to terminate occupancy by March 31 and now plans a \$100 million investment in NorthPark store*

By Katy Blakey/NBC TV NEWS



Photo Credit: NBC TV Screenshot

After more than 100 years in business, the flagship Neiman Marcus store in Downtown Dallas is closing.

News of the closure broke Tuesday when the company's new owners announced they were being forced to close the landmark location.

Saks Global acquired the Dallas-based luxury brand last year.

In a statement to NBC 5, a Saks Global spokesperson said they were forced to close the location.

"After more than a decade of negotiations, we re-

ceived a notice from a landlord to terminate our occupancy, forcing us to close the Neiman Marcus Downtown Dallas location effective March 31, 2025. This location has been a beloved institution in the community for more than a century, and we are disappointed to be losing a piece of Neiman Marcus history."

The company added that some employees may be able to relocate to other stores or receive separation packages. They also said the store at Dallas's NorthPark Center will undergo a \$100 million renovation.



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Continue HUD Page 1

some cities that depend on block grants, funding for public housing, housing vouchers, monies for housing the homeless, housing counseling, remediation of lead pipes, FHA loans, Fair Housing programs along with down payment assistance that helps first time home buyers. As we count the numbers, hundreds of thousands of people receive home loans from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Viewing the current state of the housing market, there is "a slowdown in the Housing Market" as there is inventory for higher priced homes, but those houses are "staying on the market longer," according to Marvetta Bozeman, the President of the Empire Board of Realtors. When asked about affordable housing, Bozeman says, "The affordability is gone."

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

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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.

### Quinn Minute

# Finding a career

By Rix Quinn

I'm jealous of people who find their life's work early. For some, the discovery starts in elementary school.

Ray was a very likable, outgoing guy. He got along well with everybody, including the teachers.

The rest of us tried to stay under a teacher's radar, praying they would not call on us. We never raised our hands unless we wanted a trip to the restroom.

In music class, we were required to sing solos. The girls would sing some-

thing sweet and lyrical. But guys would pick simple tunes that required little vocal range.

We each stood up, belted something resembling a moose call, and sat down. If the entire song was just three or four notes, we were fine with that.

But Ray would stand, and he'd say something like "I'd like to sing one of my Broadway favorites." Then he'd launch, acapella. This amazed the girls and horrified the guys.

Around sixth grade

Ray's voice changed to low baritone, and he occasionally gave school announcements. By high school, this guy started working part-time on local Top 40 radio, writing humor segments and making actual money.

By college, he had his own talk-music show, and then he hit the big time. He was hired by larger and larger radio stations, and then, for decades, he had his own morning show in a major market.

Today he owns a company that records both his and other professional

voices. I still hear him in commercials.

I ran into him at a grocery store not long ago. He greeted me and started talking.

But I couldn't help feeling like that voice was coming out of a radio.

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# SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, Feb. 20

Friday, Feb. 21

Saturday, Feb. 22

Sunday, Feb. 23

Monday, Feb. 24

Tuesday, Feb. 25

Wednesday, Feb. 26



H -30°  
L -25°



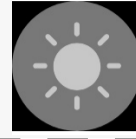
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L -28°



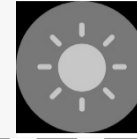
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L -39°



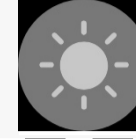
H -59°  
L -45°



H -69°  
L -50°



H -70°  
L -50°



H -67°  
L -49°

### The Mavericks didn't just beat the odds during the final week before the All-Star break

By Eddie Sefko

They obliterated them, took prevailing wisdom and slapped it up against the wall and got the last laugh on anybody who thought they would wilt without most of their key players.

And why wouldn't they? Playing without Anthony Davis, Dereck Lively II, Daniel Gafford and, at times, P.J. Washington and Klay Thompson is a recipe for disaster.

But it wasn't.

Instead, they won four of five games before the break to keep themselves in a much better position in the Western Conference standings, which now become daily mandatory viewing for

teams and fans alike.

The Mavericks have 26 games left, roughly the final third of the season. Their schedule is not particularly daunting, although 14 of their remaining games are against teams presently sitting above .500.

Those teams all will be playing for something.

But it's not nearly as hazardous as some teams below them. Phoenix has 28 games left and 20 of them are against winning teams. Sacramento, right below Dallas in the West standings at ninth, has 17 of its remaining 27 games against teams with above-.500 records.

And the teams above them, particularly the pair of Los An-

geles teams, have some tough assignments ahead, too.

The Lakers play 19 of their remaining 30 games against winning teams. The Clippers, seeded fifth currently just behind the Lakers, have 18 of their 28 games against teams above .500.

To say the least, the standings are fluid.

The goal for the Mavericks is to try to avoid the play-in tournament that will decide playoff seeds seven and eight. The teams that finish the regular season in seventh through 10th place in each conference will play in the tournament to decide who gets into the actual playoffs.

Continued HBO Page 1

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., who appears in multiple episodes, played a key role in the history explored in the series. As a leader in the fight for racial equity, Dr. Chavis was the principal national organizer of the Million Man March in 1995 and the environmental justice movement in 1982 that challenged corporate and government negligence in Black communities. The series revisits both turning points, featuring voices from the front lines who fought for justice in the face of systemic resistance.

The first episode, America, Don't Look Away (1977-1988), explores community activism in New York's South Bronx and Philadelphia. Local leaders took on fair housing and healthcare inequities during the final years of the Carter administration and the onset of Reaganomics. The epi-

sode includes former Bronx borough president Fernando Ferrer, public health officials, and activists who fought for Black communities amid the AIDS crisis.

As the series progresses, it turns to the criminal justice system's impact on Black communities. Trapped (1989-1995) follows public defenders in Washington, D.C., and organizers in South Central Los Angeles who took on policies that disproportionately targeted Black residents. The documentary highlights the work of figures such as Congresswoman Maxine Waters and former U.S. attorney Robert Wilkins.

The third episode focuses on one of the most defining moments of modern Black activism—the Million Man March. The 1995 gathering in Washington, D.C., on October 16, 1995, drew over one million Black men to

assemble in the day-long gathering in a call for unity, responsibility, and community upliftment. Chavis, who was the National Director and a key organizer of the march, is featured alongside Rev. Al Sharpton, journalist Michael Cottman, and professor Emerita Angela Davis. The episode details both the controversy and the lasting impact of the historic event.

Environmental justice takes center stage in the fourth installment, which examines the fight against industrial pollution and toxic waste in Black communities. Activists in North Carolina, West Virginia, and Florida battled corporations and government agencies that failed to protect Black neighborhoods from environmental hazards. Dr. Chavis, Deputy Executive Director of the Commission for Racial Justice of the United Church of Christ at the time, is featured along

with Dr. Robert Bullard, widely regarded as one of the founders of the Environmental Justice Movement (EJM) along with Chavis, and former Vice President Al Gore.

The final two episodes focus on legal and political battles over race in the late 20th and early 21st centuries. One installment looks at affirmative action and the shifting landscape of school desegregation, featuring UCLA law professor Kimberlé Crenshaw and civil rights leader Dr. William J. Barber II. The last episode explores the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement during the Obama years, as police killings of unarmed Black citizens galvanized a new generation of activists. It includes BLM co-founders Alicia Garza and Patrisse Cullors, as well as Rev. Al Sharpton.

The series arrives at a time when the fight for ra-

cial justice remains urgent, and the Black Press continues to document these struggles as it has been for nearly two centuries. Founded in 1827 with Freedom's Journal, the Black Press of America was created to give Black communities a voice when mainstream media ignored or distorted their stories. That mission continues today through the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), representing over 230 Black-owned newspapers nationwide.

Chavis, who leads the NNPA, has also co-authored a new book with NNPA Senior National Correspondent Stacy M. Brown. The Transatlantic Slave Trade: Overcoming the 500-Year Legacy is a deep examination of the lasting impact of one of history's greatest atrocities. Covering the period from 1500 to 2024, the book details how the

forced removal and brutal exploitation of millions of Africans laid the foundation for the systemic racism that persists today.

"The transatlantic slave trade isn't just history—it is the root of the struggles we continue to face," Chavis said. "To understand the present, we must confront the past."

Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and Public Enemy frontman Chuck D wrote the book's foreword, recognizing its role in providing historical context for the challenges Black Americans still endure.

With the release of Eyes on the Prize III and The Transatlantic Slave Trade, the importance of truth-telling remains clear. "For 198 years, the Black Press has ensured that our history is recorded accurately," Chavis said. "We must continue to tell our own stories and ensure the truth is never erased."

### Dallas ISD teacher empowers students to turn visions into reality

DALLAS — For years, a state-of-the-art film and music facility at New Tech High School at B.F. Darrell sat unused until Trenton Starks brought it to life when he became the school's film teacher.

The school's film pathway, which Starks said is Dallas ISD's hidden gem, was the vision of Channel Hutchinson, principal at New Tech.

"Initially, our career pathways were only in animation," she said. "I worked with school leadership to add a pathway in film. We now have film, animation, and gaming."

Starks has taken the facility and created a comprehensive film program and student film festival. This has given students access to a professional studio, sound

stage, networking opportunities, and real-world film experiences.

"I came in getting the kids adjusted to editing," Starks said. "I told them, 'You have to crawl before you walk.' I had them start recording and start telling their own stories. A saying we have here is 'creating without boundaries.'"

As a former athlete, Starks wanted to become a coach and expected his career to go in the direction of sports. After taking on creative projects and creating visual stories around the sports he loved, he began to uncover his true passion in media and film.

This career shift eventually led him to become a teacher at New Tech, where he has used his previous four years of teaching experience,

along with his skills in creative marketing, software, and videography, to establish the film program, which fits in well with the school's approach to learning.

Starks credits his parents for his success throughout his career change. He earned the recognition of 2024-2025 Teacher of Promise on his campus, excelling in both the classroom and the school community.

"This entire school uses project-based learning," Starks said. "We emphasize collaboration, so for every project they do, students are working in a team."

Starks created a curriculum for students that takes them through the full process of filmmaking from concept to postproduction.

Continue Dallas Page 6

### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

(Solution to February 13 Puzzle - THE 1960s)

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S	T	I	L	L		E	A	R		E	I	D	E	R
T	O	R	E			S	O	D		S	T	A	G	E



## HONORING LEGACIES. INSPIRING JOURNEYS.

At Dallas Love Field, we celebrate Black Americans whose contributions continue to shape our world and inspire future generations.

Celebrating Journeys of Progress.



**Dallas Love Field**  
LOVE THE JOURNEY

Continued **Dallas** Page 5



Photo courtesy: **Dallas ISD**

“At the beginning, I teach them how to do a treatment plan or a concept document,” he said. “They learn how to storyboard. They learn how to write scripts, and they learn how to create mood boards.”

He gives his students autonomy over their production teams, reminding them of the importance of committing to those roles.

After spending his first year laying the foundation for the film program, Starks saw an opportunity and a need for the students to showcase their work.

In April of 2024, he led the school in hosting its first film festival. It took place in the school’s auditorium but included all the elements of a festival from posters to a red carpet.

“We want them to get a chance to see what it’s like to actually be in a film festival,” Starks said, “to actually have their limelight and for students to be able to express their voices.”

This year, the film festival will be held off-campus at Bishop Arts Theatre Center, where the students will be able to showcase their work beyond their school community.

Based on last year’s suc-

cess, Starks has been working on growing the program. He has created opportunities for students to develop a strong portfolio and resume. Students have also participated in internships at the Pegasus Film Festival, which is the largest student-led film festival in the nation, conveniently located in Dallas.

“I push my kids to go to college, but at the same time, I’m developing a real-world pipeline for those who are not,” Starks said.

By helping his students succeed in the industry, Starks is also creating representation.

According to the UCLA Hollywood diversity report, 6% of writers, directors, and producers in the country are Black. Starks said he hopes to change that narrative by teaching his students different ways to tell their own stories. He challenges them to find value in their everyday lives through writing, literature, cinematography or sound design.

By being a teacher, he is also contributing to increasing the representation of African American males in the classroom—only 1.3% of educators are African American men.

“I prefer to work in minority spaces, especially because the first high school I taught at in Louisiana was 90% Black,” he said. “I had zero Black teachers growing up. I don’t want that same situation to happen for my kids. I want them to have a Black male teacher—a young one that looks like them. I want to be there for them as they progress.”

## Civil Rights Groups Sue Trump Administration Over Anti-Equity Executive Orders

By **Stacy M. Brown**

The Legal Defense Fund (LDF) and Lambda Legal filed a federal lawsuit today challenging three executive orders issued by President Donald Trump. According to the groups, the orders threaten civil rights and the ability of organizations to provide vital social and health services. The lawsuit—National Urban League v. Trump—was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. It claims that the orders violate the First and Fifth Amendments by targeting diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility (DEIA) programs, and transgender rights.

The organizations involved, including the National Urban League (NUL), National Fair Housing Alliance (NFHA), and AIDS Foundation Chicago (AFC), argue that the orders “severely limit organizations’ ability to provide critical services” such as HIV treatment, fair housing support, and employment assistance. These restrictions, they say, disproportionately harm people of color, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, and those living with HIV.

### Orders in Question

The lawsuit targets three executive orders signed by President Trump on January

20 and 21:

- 1 Executive Order No. 14151 – Ending Radical and Wasteful DEI Programs and Preferencing
- 2 Executive Order No. 14168 – Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government
- 3 Executive Order No. 14173 – Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity

Together, these orders terminate equity-related grants and ban federally funded entities from engaging in DEIA efforts or acknowledging transgender identities. Janai Nelson, President and Director-Counsel of LDF described the orders as “unconstitutional attacks on historically marginalized communities,” adding that they “perpetuate false stereotypes and undermine multi-racial democracy.” Lambda Legal’s HIV Project Director, Jose Abrigo, called the policies “dangerous and dehumanizing,” emphasizing their potential to “put lives at risk” by defunding health services vital to marginalized groups.

### Impact on Communities

Marc H. Morial, President & CEO of the National Urban League, noted that

NUL programs have placed over a quarter-million people in jobs over the past decade, often with federal support. “This assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion is discriminatory at best and institutionalized economic oppression at its worst,” Morial stated. John Peller, President & CEO of AFC, warned that the orders could impede efforts to combat the HIV epidemic. “We must be able to prioritize Black, Latinx, LGBTQ+ people, and transgender women in our work. These executive orders would prohibit us from doing that critical and lifesaving work,” he said. Lisa Rice, President and CEO of the NFHA, described the orders as “chaotic and illegal,” arguing that they dismantle longstanding fair housing protections. “The President cannot undo the Constitution or take away our rights with a signature,” Rice asserted.

### Legal Claims and Relief Sought

The plaintiffs contend that the executive orders infringe on their free speech by censoring DEIA-related communications, violating due process through vague prohibitions, and discriminating against marginalized groups. They seek declaratory and injunctive relief to halt enforcement of the orders. “These orders drip with contempt for transgender

people,” Abrigo said. “Defunding organizations that support marginalized communities punishes them for striving to improve lives.” The lawsuit also argued that there are broader consequences of the administration’s actions. “Beyond spreading inaccurate, divisive rhetoric, these orders tie the hands of organizations providing critical services,” Nelson stated. “We stand with our clients to ensure these unconstitutional orders are struck down.”

### A Call to Protect Civil Rights

Executive orders and lawsuits have come as concerns soar about the rollback of civil rights protections. “Fair housing and equal opportunity are national policies of the United States,” Rice said. “Any effort to divide and treat people unfairly contradicts our founding principles.” The organizations are urging swift judicial intervention to prevent further harm to vulnerable communities. “We cannot allow decades of civil rights progress to be erased,” Nelson declared. For many, the stakes are personal. Will, an AFC program participant living with HIV, shared, “As someone who has relied on these services, I am deeply concerned about what’s at risk if we can’t name the issues our people face.”