

# New York Beacon

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*Showing the Way to Truth and Justice*

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75 Cents

## OUR HEROES!

*Over million hail Super Bowl champions*



**HAIL THE CHAMPS** — Former New York Giants Michael Strayhorn gives a hi-five to Giants Eli Manning (holding Championship trophy) as Mayor Michael Bloomberg (left background) and an estimated crowd of 1 million plus, greeted the New York Giants during Championship parade held in Canyon of Heroes in lower Manhattan.

(See Story On Page 3)

*Disrespect and psychic lynching of Prez Obama*

(See Story On Page 3)



House Judiciary Committee Ranking Members John Conyers met with Gov. Rick Snyder to discuss Michigan's Emergency Managers Law.

## Conyers, Gov. Snyder discuss Emergency Managers Law

House Judiciary Committee Ranking Member John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.) and Reverend Charles E. Williams II, President of the Detroit chapter of the National Action Network, met Governor Rick Snyder to discuss Michigan's Emergency Managers law, Public Act 4. The meeting occurred prior to Governor Snyder's testimony before the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

At the meeting, Representative Conyers and Reverend Williams expressed to Governor Snyder their continuing concerns regarding the constitutionality and inherently undemocratic nature of the Emergency Manager law.

Governor Snyder expressed his willingness to continue the dialogue regarding the Emergency Manager law and possible remedies to current financial problems facing many municipalities within the State of Michigan.

Previously in a letter written to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder last December, Representative

Conyers requested the Department of Justice to review, monitor, and if necessary challenge the application of Michigan's Emergency Manager law on the basis that it may violate the U.S. Constitution.

Last December, Representative Conyers sent a letter to Governor Snyder, along with two other members of the Michigan's U.S. House Delegation, 55 State Legislators (9 State Senators and 46 State Representatives) and 8 Detroit City Council Members, requesting a meeting with Governor Snyder before he took any further actions under the Emergency Manager Law.

The letter also expressed concerns that the Emergency Manager law undermines voting rights and democratic principles (including disproportionately disenfranchising persons of color), as well as collective bargaining rights.

Furthermore, It expressed their concern regarding efforts by Governor Snyder's administration to pursue additional stop-gap legislation to thwart voter initiatives to revoke the Emergency Manager law.

# Stringer unveils bold agenda to reclaim NY City for middle class New Yorkers

In his sixth annual State of the Borough address, Manhattan Borough President Scott M. Stringer laid out a bold new agenda to reclaim the city for middle class and working New Yorkers.

Pointing to record unemployment and income inequality as well as the continually rising prices of everyday necessities, Borough President Stringer said "The time has come to recognize that we are at a crossroads. Because if we don't, the greatest City in the world will lose the very people who made it great."

"We need to deliver hope to working families by leveling the playing field and making government work for them again," Stringer continued.

"People work harder and harder, but fall further and further behind. For too many New Yorkers, dreams have been downsized. The conversation has changed from getting ahead to just getting by."

Speaking at the New York Historical Society, Stringer unveiled three core initiatives designed to alleviate financial strain for middle class and working families that are struggling to make ends meet:

1. **MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT** Borough President Stringer proposed reforms that would restore sanity and fairness to New York City's personal income tax system. Currently, a teacher making \$50,000 is taxed at the same rate as a CEO making \$500,000. "That is simply not fair," Stringer said. "How do we look in the eyes of a beat cop and tell him he's paying the same tax rate as a \$500 per hour lawyer? We can't. And we shouldn't."

The Borough President laid out a tax reform proposal developed with help from the Independent Budget Office and said, "Just a few months ago, Gov. Cuomo restored some sanity to the state's income tax system. He knew something was wrong when millionaires were paying the same rate as families at the bottom of the ladder. So he created three new income brackets and cut taxes on families making less than \$300,000 a year. Tonight, I am proposing



Scott M. Stringer

that the City do the same."

The Borough President's Middle Class Tax Reform would cut taxes for families earning less than \$300,000.

Only those making more than a million dollars a year would be a higher tax rate – a change of merely .5%. "By asking those higher up on the economic ladder to pay their fair share, we can put money in the pockets of those who need it, while maintaining the city's bottom line," Stringer said of the plan, which has been scored as revenue-neutral by the IBO.

"We should create a City income tax system that restores basic fairness and cuts taxes for the middle class," President Stringer said. "I urge the City and State to pass such tax relief this year. Let's get it done."

2. **CREATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING** As a result of the national mortgage crisis, there are an estimated 110,000 New York housing units that are in foreclosure or on the brink of it. The Borough President unveiled a proposal to turn this distressed housing stock into the next generation of affordable housing for middle class and working families in New York.

"The collapse of the housing market was a devastating chapter in the history of our nation and our City – thousands of families forced from their homes, neighborhoods turned upside down, all because of sheer, unregulated greed," the Borough President said. "Sadly, we can't rewrite that history. But we can ensure a better future where every New Yorker can find an affordable place to call home."

Stringer called for creation of a \$250 million fund to transform these foreclosed units. The money would come from funds currently earmarked for the Bloomberg administration's New Housing Marketplace Initiative, which will soon end. The City would offer a mixture of loans and grants to non-profit developers and others to renovate buildings and units that are in foreclosure, and these units would then be put back on the market. But there would be limits on the rent or re-sale value, so New York could create—and protect—a new supply of badly-needed housing for working people. "I'm heartened that the City has started to look at foreclosed properties in a handful of neighborhoods," the Borough President said. "But we

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

## AG sues banks for deceptive use of electronic mortgage registry

Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman has filed a lawsuit against several of the nation's largest banks charging that the creation and use of a private national mortgage electronic registry system known as MERS has resulted in a wide range of deceptive and fraudulent foreclosure filings in New York state and federal courts, harming homeowners and undermining the integrity of the judicial foreclosure process.

The lawsuit asserts that employees and agents of Bank of America, J.P. Morgan Chase, and Wells Fargo, acting as "MERS certifying officers," have repeat-

edly submitted court documents containing false and misleading information that made it appear that the foreclosing party had the authority to bring a case when in fact it may not have.

The lawsuit names JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., Bank of America, N.A., Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as well as Virginia-based MERSCORP, Inc. and its subsidiary, Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

The lawsuit further asserts that the MERS System has effectively eliminated homeowners' and the public's ability to track property transfers through the traditional public records system. Instead, this



Eric Schneiderman

information is now stored only in a private database – which is plagued with inaccuracies and errors – over which MERS and its financial institution members exercise sole control. Additional defendants include BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP, Chase Home Finance LLC, EMC Mortgage Corporation, and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc.

"The banks created the MERS system as an end-run around the property recording system, to facilitate the rapid securitization and sale of mortgages. Once the mortgages went sour, these same banks brought foreclosure proceedings en masse based on de-

ceptive and fraudulent court submissions, seeking to take homes away from people with little regard for basic legal requirements or the rule of law," said Attorney General Schneiderman. "Our action demonstrates that there is one set of rules for all – no matter how big or powerful the institution may be – and that those rules will be enforced vigorously. Only through real accountability for the illegal and deceptive conduct in the foreclosure crisis will there be justice for New York's homeowners."

The financial industry created MERS in 1995 to allow financial in-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



## Disrespect and psychic lynching of Prez Obama

Special to the NNPA from the Chicago Crusader

As the first African American president of the United States, Barack Obama has endured some of the worst disrespect of any president in history. It is blatant; it is "in-your-face" blatant!

Recently, Arizona Governor Jan Brewer saw the need to point her finger in Obama's face as though she was admonishing a three-year-old for doing something that did not meet with her approval. Now, try to imagine her doing the same thing to President Bush. Got that? You can't, because that could not happen. Some people are calling on Brewer to apologize, but an apology is most likely not forthcoming. An act so spontaneous and visceral probably came from a very deep place in her makeup.

The Brewer incident was by no means the first time that President Obama was insulted in public. You may recall that during the early days of his term in an address to the nation, one congressman stood up and shouted "You lie." Nothing like this had ever happened to any of Obama's predecessors. The gall of that congressman is disgusting. Apparently, some white Americans are so upset because of the color of Obama's skin that they have lost their dang minds!

We must not forget, when looking back on the wanton disrespect given to the president, a statement that borders on treason wherein the corpulent, feisty talk show host, Rush Limbaugh, actually said, in so many words, that he

hopes the president fails. Imagine that, and then try to imagine him saying that about any other sitting president. This was outrageous!

One of the latest, and probably most egregious incidents, is that of a so-called Christian preacher asking his congregants to pray for President Obama's death! Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, California, has been asking his followers to pray for Barack Obama's death, and says he is just repeating what God asked him to do. This is deeper than the Grand Canyon! How can any self-respecting Christian wish for anyone's death? And when is the last time that you heard someone publicly wish for the death of the president. This flies in the face of everything that we might consider decent in this world. These words went out into the air and into the hearts of some willing receivers. The damage is already done.

The foregoing examples of blatant disrespect for the President of the United States reveals the barbarism that lies just beneath a veneer of respectability and civility that cloaks many in positions of power and influence; though they may come across like shining stars in their spheres of influence, they have revealed themselves to be, in fact, low class people dressed up for show! Once upon a time Black men were lynched in America and hanged from trees. Later, Su-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

## Powerless Majority?

# State of the Dream 2012 says non-Whites will still suffer as the largest U.S. group

By Charlene Muhammad  
National Correspondent  
Special to the NNPA from the Final Call

(FinalCall.com) – People of color will be the majority of America's population by 2042. They will also remain the least wealthy, least employed, least educated, and the most incarcerated, unless the country steps up efforts to close its racial economic divide, according to a new report by United for a Fair Economy.

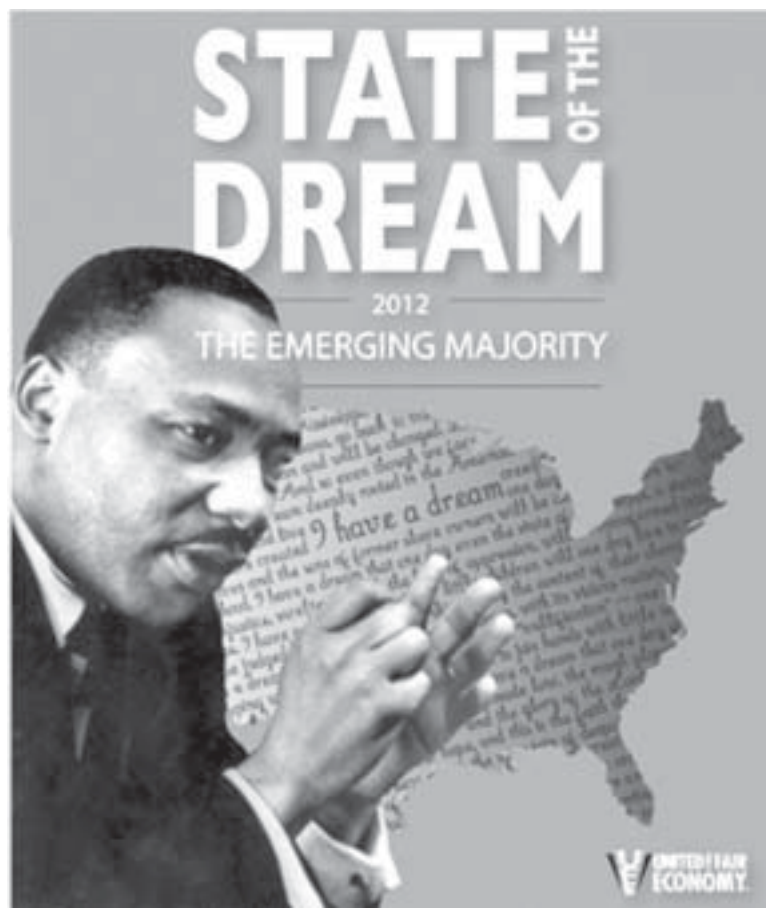
"State of the Dream 2012: The Emerging Majority" is the Boston-based economic think tank's ninth annual assessment of progress on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of justice and equality since his assassination.

The 2012 report measured 30 years of public policy on the racial divide and its impact on economics, poverty, education, homeownership, health care, and incarceration. The outlook was bleak.

"I keep asking myself, 'Why is everyone marching out in the streets? I think this is not good enough for America. Forty years after Dr. King died and we're still where he was, fighting about the disparities in income, wealth, education, and incarceration,'" said Wanjiku Mwangi, Racial Wealth Divide Initiative leader for United for a Fair Economy and report co-author.

The report forecasts poverty rates for Blacks will be 1.9 times higher than for Whites, and for Latinos, 2.6 times higher. Black and Latino unemployment rates will be 1.8 and 1.5 times higher than White unemployment rates, respectively, it continues.

"The main thing that struck me was how for the last 10 years,



State of the Dream

even pre-recession, how income and wealth equality was declining for disenfranchised minorities and poverty was increasing. If this continues into mid-21st century then, racial disparities will be even worse than projected by 2042," said Dedrick Muhammad, NAACP senior director of the Economic Department and executive director of the Financial Freedom Center. He formerly worked for United for a Fair Economy and contributed to the report.

Authors cited education as one of the most important tools people

have for climbing social and economic ladders, but disparities perpetuate inequality. Any gains made during the civil rights era are threatened by restrictions on affirmative action in higher education, spiraling college costs and underfunding of education.

In addition, according to Ms. Mwangi, Blacks are six times more likely to be in prison than Whites and people of color make up over 65 percent of the prison population and five million Blacks will be im-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

## Eddie Long apologizes for use of Jewish Torah

Special to the NNPA from the St. Louis American

Eddie Long has apologized for a church service in which he was wrapped in a Torah scroll and called a king.

Last week during a service at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga., Ralph Messer, a Messianic Jew and self-described rabbi, ordered congregants to wrap Long in a Torah scroll and then lift him up on a chair bar mitzvah-style while he



Eddie Long has apologized for a church service in which he was wrapped in a Torah scroll and called a king.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

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## Plantation where 14-year-old slave was hung to become outlet mall

By Askia Muhammad  
Senior Correspondent  
Special to the NNPA from the Final Call

(FinalCall.com) – The site of a Maryland plantation which is renowned by local historians for its connection to Black history and to the Civil War has lost its historical designation and is on its way to becoming an 85-store outlet mall, after an early January vote by the Prince George's County Historic

Preservation Commission.

It's "another tragic event in the story of Salubria," Bonnie Bick, a local resident and organizer of the Reinvest in the Heart of Oxon Hill (Maryland) campaign told The Final Call. "At the same time that we were reviewing archeological information that said Salubria was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places; the vote was taken by the Historic Preservation Commission to take away, not to nominate it for

the national register, but to take away its entire historic designation."

Salubria is the name of a Maryland plantation, where in 1834, a 14-year-old slave girl—possibly influenced by Nat Turner's slave rebellion in South Hampton, Va., in 1831—poisoned her master's children and was later sentenced to death. She is listed in the Maryland Archive as the first Maryland woman who was reported to have resisted slavery. She confessed to

having two years earlier poisoned an infant child of her slave master. She may be the youngest woman ever to be executed in the United States.

Despite the murders of his children, the plantation owner, horticulturalist Dr. John Bayne became a Union officer in the Civil War, helped convince the state of Maryland to compensate slave owners to free their slaves, and worked to provide public education to freedmen. "John Wilkes

Booth might have rode past Salubria, and went on down to where there was a sympathizer," for his assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865, Ms. Bick pointed out. "Southern Prince George's County was extremely (sympathetic to the Confederacy)," she said.

The Jan. 12 vote by the P.G. County planning board means all

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

# 4 NYPD said to start new year with abuse of defenseless teen

The new year has begun with yet another scandal for Ray Kelly's NYPD as officers from the 42nd Precinct in the Bronx were caught on video viciously beating a 19-year-old last week. The victim, Jatiek Reed, faces numerous charges, including resisting arrest.

The Bronx DA has opened an investigation into the incident and all four officers involved have been stripped of their guns and badges and placed on modified duty. A neighbor who witnessed the assault on Reed and who tried to intervene told NY1 that he was threatened by the same officers, who came after him in his apartment. The bystander who filmed the incident was threatened with pepper spray, as can be clearly seen in the video.

This pattern of intimidation and abuse against those who would support Reed and other

victims of police brutality and racist police tactics such as Stop and Frisk continued throughout the following week. Members of the Stop Mass Incarceration Network's Stop Stop & Frisk Campaign became targets when they attended Reed's arraignment at the Bronx Hall of Justice on Wednesday, February 1.

This small group wished to support Reed's family, who have been devastated by the suffering of their loved one. One of the group was attacked by a court officer in an elevator. The court officer identified him as a member of the Stop Stop & Frisk campaign, verbally threatened him, used racial slurs, and ejected him from the courthouse. When two other young Freedom Fighters attempted to intervene, they were immediately arrested by other court officers and charged with disorderly conduct. Bronx Legal Aid attorneys are handling

the case and a complaint against the court officer has been filed.

Additionally, another member of the Stop Stop & Frisk Campaign, who has a history of being targeted by the NYPD for her activism, was also recognized by court officers and threatened and intimidated. These officers harassed her until she left and prevented her from lending her support to the Reed family. Also on Wednesday, in Harlem, undercover NYPD officers stopped and harassed a fifth individual who has been a leader of the movement to end Stop & Frisk as he was walking near his residence, falsely accusing him of having a weapon and making threats to come to his home.

Stop Stop & Frisk Campaign members and others that are speaking out and standing up against police brutality are now literally putting their lives and livelihoods on the line in neigh-

borhoods like the one in the Bronx where Jatiek Reed was so brutally attacked.

This kind of retaliation is not a coincidence. On Friday, January 27, the Stop Stop & Frisk Campaign held a successful rally, march and demonstration in the Mott Haven area of the Bronx last Friday, January 27 to spread the campaign's messages about racially-biased policing, the criminalization of youth, and mass incarceration. During part of the march, protestors focused on the 42nd Precinct, whose officers were responsible for beating Jatiek Reed the day before, and whose officers stop and frisk hundreds of neighborhood residents every month. The rally was held in solidarity with

Take Back Bronx, the Bronx Freedom Party, URI People's Initiative, Picture the Homeless, the Prison Abolition Subcommittee of POCcrazy, Radical Social

Workers, and PROP. In 2011, the Campaign held successful, non-violent civil disobedience protests at precincts in Harlem, Brownsville, Brooklyn, and Jamaica, Queens. The Freedom Fighters who were arrested in these protests have upcoming court dates in February and March and are represented by attorneys from the National Lawyers Guild and Manhattan and Brooklyn Legal Aid Society.

The Stop Stop & Frisk Campaign is responding to these incidents with continued outreach and public education efforts in the Bronx and across New York City. Efforts by the New York Police Department to intimidate, threaten, and harass citizens who exercise their civil right to protest will not be tolerated and we will continue to work with our Network and our allies to build a movement against the injustice of racially biased Stop & Frisk.



Mntomuhle Khawulu

## South African schools to drop Zulu and Xhosa languages

By Fungai Maboreke  
Special to the NNPA for the GIN

South African Model C primary schools have been quietly removing Zulu and Xhosa languages from their curriculum leaving English and Afrikaans, popularly known as "the oppressors' language" during the apartheid era as the medium of Instruction.

The move was described as "tragic" by academics even though Afrikaans appears to be the next dominant idiom after English.

Officially, students should be taught in their mother tongue from Grades 1 to 3, but a survey by the Sunday Times newspaper found this was not happening. In fact, by the time they got to 12<sup>th</sup> year, most pupils were opting for Afrikaans as their first additional language after English with 68,455 choosing Afrikaans, 10,943 choosing Zulu and 1,547 choosing Xhosa.

A letter from Mntomuhle Khawula of the Inkatha Freedom

Party and an education advisor, was particularly critical: "Exclusion of African languages (isiZulu and isiXhosa) in some former Model C Primary schools is systematically discriminating and singling out certain racial groups."

"We cannot sideline our African languages because not only is it an insult to those who speak it but it's reviving the struggle of languages like it happened many years ago with Bantu education, we need to find a curriculum that will accommodate each and every language."

Bobby Soobrayan, director of basic education, countered: "It is misleading to say that because of government policy, schools are scrapping African languages in favor of Afrikaans..." However, he added, "Because school governing bodies determine the language policy, some schools choose to offer Afrikaans as the first additional language."

Soobrayan insisted: "What we want to see is every pupil being competent in an African language when they leave school.

## Cuomo announces \$82M in construction contracts for minority, women businesses

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has announced that \$82 million in construction contracts will be available for New York Minority—and Women—Owned Business Enterprises (MWBE) as part of the \$373 million CUNY Advanced Science Research Center project.

The Governor's MWBE Team, which is tasked with removing barriers that have historically limited MWBE participation in state contracting, worked to ensure equal opportunities for MWBE firms on this project. The CUNY center is located at 133<sup>rd</sup> street and Convent Avenue in Harlem.

"I have repeatedly stressed my commitment to expanding opportunities for minority businesses," Governor Cuomo said. "These contracts will bolster minority businesses and allow them to prosper, create more jobs and better compete in New York's economy. I commend the members of the MWBE Team for their hard work."

These contracts are part of the final phase of the CUNY project, which is worth approximately \$373 million, which includes approximately \$82 million in contracts for New York State certified MWBE firms. The Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), which has set a goal of 22 percent MWBE utilization for the project, provided tax-exempt financing for the CUNY project.

William Thompson, MWBE team chair said, "Governor Cuomo knows a more competitive economy means more economic opportunity for New Yorkers. By awarding \$82 million in contracts Governor Cuomo is once again demonstrating his extraordinary commitment to expanding opportunities for minority and women businesses."

DASNY President Paul T. Williams, Jr. said, "There's nothing more powerful than the opportunity to meet face to face with decision makers when a business owner is looking for



Gov. Cuomo

opportunities to grow. Events like this one today help continue the important strides achieved at the annual New York State MWBE Forum. Initiatives like this will continue to highlight the robust market of available MWBE firms capable of competing for state projects. Their engagement in competitive bidding processes helps to ensure the economic vitality of our state. I believe it's one of the key elements in DASNY's successful record of MWBE utilization."

Empire State Development President, CEO, & Commissioner Kenneth Adams said, "Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, New York is providing minority and women-owned businesses with the tools they need to grow. The \$82 million in contracts will help break down barriers so minority and women entrepreneurs have access to the resources they need to invest, expand and create new jobs."

Lisa S. Coico, president, The City College of New York said,

"The CUNY Advanced Science Research complex being built on The City College of New York campus is destined to play an important role in Harlem's economic future.

By consistently working to connect minority—and women owned businesses to this project, Governor Cuomo and Skanska remind us how important diversity and community involvement are to the project's success."

William Flemming, president of Skanska USA Building, construction manager for CUNY's Advanced Science Research Center said, "Skanska has a long history of working with the local contracting community to ensure that businesses of all sizes have the opportunity to work on our projects. At the CUNY Advanced Science Research project, approximately one quarter of the contract value will be performed by minority- and women- owned businesses. And with the help of events like this, we expect not only to meet state MWBE requirements, but we also expect to exceed them, as we have on many of our projects in New York."

Like the annual New York State MWBE Forum, the Governor's office and the MBWE Team held a business showcase today to provide an invaluable networking opportunity for business owners to showcase their skills and allow prime contractors and state decision makers to visit a wide variety of MWBE exhibits. Over 100 prime contractors and decision makers registered to connect with local MWBE firms during the showcase event to gain a better understanding of the MWBEs areas of expertise and learn how they can work with these businesses on this and other projects.

Empire State Development (ESD), the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), the City University of New York (CUNY), City College of New York (CCNY), New York City Department of Small Business Services and Skanska USA were among the co-sponsors of the business showcase.

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# Editorial

## New York Beacon

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William Egyir: *Managing Editor*

### Your pharmacy may be in danger

By Harry C. Alford  
*Beyond the Rhetoric*

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is considering whether to allow a corporate merger that could result in great strides backward for African Americans and others suffering from economic and health ills. Stick with me, because it gets a little complicated.

Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) and Medco Health Solutions are giant, multi-billion dollar corporations that control prescription drug benefits for hundreds of millions of Americans. Known as pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), these companies decide which pharmacies people can visit, what prescription drugs are available for purchase, and how much these medications will cost. They also decide how much community pharmacies will be paid for filling prescriptions.

The potential merger affects so many people, and raises so many antitrust issues, that the FTC is reviewing it to see if it should be allowed at all, and if so, under what conditions.

If these two companies are allowed to join forces, they will control the majority of the prescription market—and decision-making—in several key areas, including mail order and specialty pharmacy, and will dwarf the remaining PBMs in size and prescription volume. The increased level of

market control will give the merged company the power to increase prices and push out rivals, including community pharmacies.

Don't just take my word for it. Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) is the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights. When it comes to antitrust matters, he is an expert. In a letter to Jonathan Leibowitz, chairman of the FTC, Kohl asks that the agency carefully scrutinize the merger. He cites concerns that the merger will reduce competition, raise prices for consumers, and threaten community and chain drug stores.

Kohl believes "the stakes for American consumers, health plan sponsors, and our nation's network of local pharmacies arising out of this transaction are very high..." He is right. And the stakes are even higher for African Americans than for the average American consumer.

If prices go up, as expected under this merger, and community pharmacies are no longer able to compete in the hostile climate created by the PBMs, African Americans throughout the country will lose access to needed medications and other pharmacy services.

This is disturbing in light of existing health disparities. African Americans are more likely to be afflicted with life-threatening diseases like heart disease, diabetes and cancer than whites. Infant

mortality is higher. We are less likely to be immunized against common, easily-preventable illnesses. So the convenient, localized services provided by community pharmacies in our neighborhoods are especially important. On top of that, consider the devastating effects of the recent recession on African Americans.

The unemployment rate for blacks in January 2012 was 13.6 percent, nearly twice as high as the 7.5% unemployment rate among whites. Many African-Americans have lost their homes during the recession. And, even having a much lower household of wealth to begin with, blacks have lost a greater percentage of net worth, according to the Pew Research Center.

This means that the people most in need of quality health services are least able to afford them. The ESI/Medco merger will make matters worse by increasing prescription drug prices and causing community pharmacies to fail, including, notably, a number of minority-owned businesses.

One of the PBM companies, ESI, is already dropping popular pharmacies from its network, pre-merger. Yes, this is the same Express Scripts that recently dumped Walgreens, the nation's largest pharmacy chain, eliminating access for the many people of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

### Women in Black History

By Dr. Julianne Malveaux  
*NNPA Columnist*

I am grateful and appreciative of Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the man who claimed Negro History Week, which later changed to Black History Month. From a week to a month, but we need to rock the year, every year, because there are so many opportunities to celebrate Black History. The organization that Dr. Woodson founded, the Association for the Study of African American Life and Heritage (ASAALH) organizes a theme each year, and this year the theme is women.

Part of me fesses. Gender needs always to be threaded through conversations about the African American experience. When we think of history, men's names drip off our lips – Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King. Much less frequently do we think of women like Ida B. Wells, Dr. Sadie Alexander, Mary Ellen Pleasants, Fannie Lou Hamer, so many others. Yet these women are the marrow of the bone of our history. These women are the beacons of our world.

Why do we so ignore women's contributions? History belongs to she who holds the pen. Too often women want to lift our men up. What about lifting ourselves up? I speak to this from the vantage point of being president of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro North Carolina. I cheer whenever I hear of the four phenomenal black men who sat at a Woolworth's counter on February 1, 1960, protesting segregation. I chafe when Bennett College women are left out of the story. The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth is that Bennett women were much a part of the protest. The patriarchy of the 1960s would not allow women to sit at the counter. Our brothers, always chivalrous, would not expose women to the lighted

matches, drizzled catsup, or other harassment that angry whites directed on them. Still, if we tell the whole story, we have to tell the women's story. Too often, the stories are buried by expedient headlines.

We have to tell the stories for our mothers, to honor them, and for our daughters, to inspire them. There should never, ever be the sense that women are at the periphery of history. We need to tell the stories of the living – like bold Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and stories of those who have made their transition – like the revolutionary Fannie Lou Hamer. We have to tell stories that reflect the diversity of our styles. All of us are not bold and bodacious. Some achieve demurely and quietly, like the 10th President of Bennett, Dr. Willa B. Player, who is said to have never spoken louder than a whisper.

Yet this demure woman was the only person in Greensboro, North Carolina who had the courage to invite Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to the city. No rabbi, no Baptist minister, no other college President would welcome Dr. King in 1958. The NAACP invited him, but they struggled to find a place for King to speak. Dr. Player famously said, "We teach our students how to think not what to think," and she proffered the invitation, braving disapproval. I cannot imagine the courage it took, in the South, when she depended on white philanthropists, to invite the then-controversial Dr. King. She didn't mind. She did it anyway. That's women's history, something for our young women to savor; the notion that right is not always popular.

During this Black History Month, let's sing a song for sisters. For Elsie Scott, who leads the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. For Melanie Campbell, who leads the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

## Obama can stop Israel from attacking Iran

by Sheldon Richman

Israel's highest officials tell American journalists their air force may attack Iran's nuclear facilities this spring, although Israeli and American intelligence agencies say the Islamic republic has no plan to build a bomb.

The officials might be bluffing, but the threats pose a problem for the Obama administration. In recent weeks there has been much in-person contact between the governments. U.S. officials have reportedly asked Israel to give harsh economic sanctions (and perhaps covert warfare) a chance to take effect.

The problem is that an attack could bring Iranian retaliation against American military forces in the region, including Afghani-

stan, wreak havoc with the U.S. economy if Iran closes or mines the Strait of Hormuz (through which much oil passes daily), and create pressure for U.S. intervention if Iran strikes Israel.

The Obama administration appears unenthusiastic about a war with Iran in this election year. An oil disruption would shake the fragile economy and jeopardize President Obama's reelection. The administration seems to be betting that the American people are war-weary, which explains its announcement of an ahead-of-schedule mid-2013 combat troop drawdown from Afghanistan. Obama is taking flak from Republicans for declaring that deadline, but his political strategists surely have calculated that more voters will be relieved than concerned.

Seen in that light, war with Iran is the last thing Obama would

want this year.

But there is a complication: Israel and its powerful American lobby. Israel's political leaders, though apparently not its military and intelligence chiefs, want to bomb Iran, not because they fear an attack should it acquire a nuke — which would be suicidal for Iran, since Israel has hundreds of nuclear weapons — but rather because Iran, now close to Iraq thanks to the U.S. regime change there, could inhibit Israel's ability to have its way with its neighbors and the long-suffering, occupied Palestinians, especially in the blockaded Gaza Strip.

Obama's political problem is that it would be ill-advised, particularly in an election year, for an American president to be at odds with the Israeli government and its lobby here, which is pushing Congress to adopt the harshest

measures against Iran's economy.

Thus Obama can't openly tell the Israelis not to strike Iran, though his subordinates are doing this behind the scenes. Reporter Gareth Porter has disclosed that

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey told Israeli leaders Jan. 20 that the United States would not participate in a war against Iran begun by Israel without prior agreement from Washington. ...

But the Israeli government remains defiant about maintaining its freedom of action to make war on Iran, and it is counting on the influence of right-wing extremist views in U.S. politics to bring pressure to bear on Obama to fall into line with a possible Israeli attack during the election campaign this fall.

The big questions are (1) Does Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu think this warning is a bluff? and (2) What would Obama do if the prime minister calls it? In other words, if Israel strikes Iran in April or May and Iran retaliates against Israel, would Obama stick to his word and stay out? Or would he try avoid the Israel lobby's and Republicans' inevitable charges of "appeasement" by intervening?

It would take courage hitherto uncharacteristic of this president to withstand that pressure and stay out.

An important consideration in all this is the widely held assessment that Israel alone couldn't do enough damage to Iran's nuclear facilities, major parts of which are deep underground. As the Washington

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

# Opinion

## Maryland HBCU desegregation trial nearing an end

By George E. Curry  
NNPA Columnist

After six weeks of testimony, a major trial to determine whether Maryland's four historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have been routinely denied funding and other needed resources that would have made them "comparable and competitive" with White universities in the state is expected to end this week, with a ruling expected by this summer.

The overwhelming majority of HBCUs, originally established shortly after the Civil War to prevent African-Americans from attending all-White state universities, are located in the South. The Maryland case (*Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education, Inc., v. Maryland Higher Education Commission, et al.*) has attracted national attention, in part, because it involves a border state that, like the South, operated a rigidly segregated school system, but unlike the South, has largely escaped intense public scrutiny.

U.S. District Judge Catherine C. Blake presided over the non-jury trial in Baltimore. The lead attorney for the plaintiffs was Jon Greenbaum of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Pro bono work was provided by lawyers from Kirkland & Ellis law firm and the Howard University School of Law Civil Rights Clinic.

The suit was originally filed in 2006 by the Coalition for Equity and Excellence in Maryland Higher Education, Inc., a community-based group comprised of alumni of public HBCUs in Maryland and other interested parties. It is seeking approximately \$2.1 billion to upgrade the four state HBCUs: Morgan State University, Bowie State University, Coppin State University and the Univer-

sity of Maryland-Eastern Shore.

Named as major defendants are officials of the University of Maryland Higher Education Commission, Gov. Martin O'Malley and Secretary of Higher Education James E. Lyons, Sr.

The state of Maryland's higher education system has a long history of racial segregation, according to witnesses and court documents.

"Throughout its history, Maryland has systematically engaged in policies and practices that established and perpetuated a racially segregated system of higher education," the suit asserts. "Maryland first instituted its system of public higher education in 1807 by establishing the University of Maryland at Baltimore. This was a White-only institution.

"Maryland subsequently established four other White-only, public institutions of higher education: the University of Maryland, established in 1865; Towson University, established in 1866; Frostburgh State University, established in 1898; and Salisbury State University, established in 1922," the suit continued. "The state began its dual-system by assuming control of The Baltimore Normal School, an all Black teacher's school now known as Bowie State University. This was the beginning of Maryland's segregated system of higher education."

Maryland was forced to expand educational opportunities for Blacks in order to qualify for federal land-grant funds. That led to the state also acquiring what is now the University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Morgan State University and adding Coppin State University in 1950.

In 1954, the United States Supreme Court issued its *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, holding that segregated school sys-

tems violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. "Following *Brown*, Maryland did nothing more than lift the rule excluding Black students from White schools," the lawsuit recounts.

After passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the state ended de jure segregation, opening the doors for African-Americans to attend all-White public universities.

"In 1965, however, rather than encourage integration at Morgan State, Maryland established University of Maryland Baltimore County ("UMBC"). UMBC was a

complete duplication of Morgan State's entire institution, not just its programs," the lawsuit stated.

In 1969, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights notified the state of Maryland that it was one of 10 states operating a racially segregated system of higher education in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Two decades later, the only two states in the group still in non-compliance were Maryland and Mississippi.

Facing the possibility of losing all federal education funds, Maryland reached agreements with the U.S. Department of Education in

1982 and again in 1985. The later called for "the enhancement of HBCUs to ensure that they are comparable and competitive with TWIs [traditionally White institutions] with respect to capital facilities, operating budgets and new academic programs."

A major component of the plan to strengthen HBCs and encourage more Whites to attend them called for the avoiding program duplication at nearby White universities.

However, Maryland allowed the creation of an engineering program

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

## Governor Christie distorts civil rights history

By Marc H. Morial  
To Be Equal  
NNPA Columnist

"No minority should have their rights subject to the passions and sentiments of the majority. This is the fundamental bedrock of what our nation stands for." —Newark Mayor, Cory Booker

In recent weeks, outrageous statements targeted at minority citizens have come out of the mouths of a number of conservative politicians — everything from the assertion that African Americans prefer food stamps over pay checks to the claim that "black people" are using "other people's money" to get ahead.

But last week, Governor Chris Christie of New Jersey may have topped them all when he declared, "People would have been happy to have a referendum on civil rights rather than fighting and dying in the streets in the South." The Governor's statement was made in the context of his proposal that the issue of same-sex marriage in New Jersey be settled by a voter

referendum. But his words amounted to an insult to generations of men and women who put their lives on the line for equal rights. They also ignore the fact that the sole purpose of any civil rights struggle is to gain rights for minority citizens that the majority has historically and consistently denied.

The nonsense of Christie's statement was made all the more apparent by the fact that during the heyday of lynchings, poll taxes and "separate but equal schools", any referendum on voting rights and civil rights for African Americans would have excluded many of the very people seeking those rights. In fact it was only because the majority for centuries had first enslaved and then discriminated against African Americans that it became necessary for people of conscience to organize in protest against such treatment. Christie should remember that in the 18th century, it was not a referendum but a revolution that formed the United States of America.

In the 19th century, it was not a referendum, but a civil war that

ended slavery and unified our nation. And in the 20th century, it was not a referendum, but a series of non-violent civil rights struggles that defeated Jim Crow and secured voting rights for women, African Americans and other disenfranchised minorities.

Sheila Oliver, New Jersey's first African American woman Assembly Speaker, correctly saw Christie's proposal to submit same-sex marriage rights to the whims of voters as a shirking of responsibility. She said, "The major issues of our time such as women's suffrage and civil rights were rightly decided legislatively. We are elected by the people of New Jersey to protect civil rights.

"We do not pass on such tough decisions." Oliver also took issue with Christie's characterization of the civil rights struggle, adding, "Governor, people were fighting and dying in the streets of the South because the majority refused to grant minorities equal rights by any method. It took legislative action to bring justice to all Americans, just as legislative action is the right way

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

## The plague of 'political will'

By David D'Amato

BBC News reports that negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan, which broke away as a separate state earlier this year, have reached an impasse.

Disputes over oil are nothing new in the region, and the border of the countries is also in question as tensions increase, rousing concerns that the bloody civil war between the countries, fresh in memory, could reignite.

According to South Sudan, Sudan has stolen oil worth at least \$815 million. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, responding to the crisis, has fingered a "lack of political will" on both sides, imploring full cooperation with the UN. But why should we believe that "political will" is the answer?

The political distribution of

wealth, founded on coercive grants of privilege, is and always has been the result of ruling class caprice, detached from basic, equitable principles of justice. In a genuinely libertarian society, one without the state's partiality in favor of connected interests, ownership rights attached to land, movables and all other natural resources would be grounded firmly in productive activity — i.e., labor — and in mutual exchange.

Compare that to the "rights" recognized and enforced by the state, enacted to convert barefaced violent annexation of wealth into a morally unblemished droit. In negotiations between Sudan and the now independent South Sudan, the 99% in either nation can't win. As has always been the case with political domination over economic relationships, established "stakeholders" will be the only people

with seats at the table and a voice in the process.

Sudan has the infrastructure and South Sudan has the oil, but the countries' people, those who drive the production process forward, have nothing. It thus matters little which of the two presides over the oil; either way, it is — in the words of South Sudanese oil minister Stephen Dhieu Dau — "stolen crude."

In his essay *On the Monopoly Mechanism*, sociologist Norbert Elias, who dedicated his life to the study of power relations in society, wrote incisively on the natural tendencies of "[t]he human web as a whole."

He argued that the trend within naturally occurring networks inherently "opposes increasingly strongly every private monopolization of resources."

He applied his argument also to

"public" or "state" monopolies," remarking that, without "obstructions," society is "impelled by its own collective weight towards a state of equilibrium where the distribution of the advantages and revenues from monopolized opportunities in favour of a few becomes impossible."

Market anarchists advocate for such a state of equilibrium and regard competition, true and free in all areas of economic life, as the means to achieving it. In times past, before the language of competition and economic freedom had been so completely defaced by advocates of plutocratic capitalism, bona fide populists considered freed markets the way to grant "power to the people."

Very recent history shows Sudan's oil revenues not as the provenance of a sweeping improvement in the lives of the

many, but as the financial engine of rife human rights abuses. We have little reason to believe that the creation of South Sudan will bring an end to the rent-seeking and injustice that have defined oil production in the region.

A true "Comprehensive Peace Agreement" must entail the dissolution of the ruling class's agency of aggression, the state. The production chain must be turned over to the free play of genuine market forces, that is, to the great majority of the population that has been engaged with. Political negotiations and their "proper channels" are the problem, not the solution.

*CASS.org News Analyst David S. D'Amato is a market anarchist and an attorney with an LL.M. in International Law and Business. His aversion to superstition and all permutations of political authority manifests itself at firsttruths.org.*

# African Scene



President Bingu wa Mutharika

## After attacks, Malawi President retracts negative view of women

By Fungai Maboreke  
*Special to the NNPA from the GIN*

Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika has stepped back from remarks earlier this month criticizing women for wearing pants or miniskirts. The remarks triggered an outbreak of beatings and of tearing clothes off women over their choice of attire.

In a 15 minute national address, President Mutharika condemned the recent attacks on women mainly by vendors who claimed that the President had ordered it.

"Women who want to wear trousers should do so as you will be protected from thugs, vendors and terrorists," the president said in a local language, Chichewa. "I will not allow anyone to go on the streets and start undressing women and girls wearing trou-

sers because that is criminal."

On Friday, Jan. 20, hundreds of girls and women, among them prominent politicians, protested the attacks while wearing pants or miniskirts and T-shirts emblazoned with such slogans as: "Real men don't harass women." A recording of Bob Marley's "No Woman, No Cry" got a loud cheer when it was played during the protest. Men also took part.

Even the President's VP chimed in with support for the protestors. "Some of us have spent our entire life fighting for the freedom of women," Vice President Joyce Banda told the protestors. "It's shocking some men want to take us back to bondage."

During the reign of Malawi's first President Kamuzu Banda, women were not allowed to wear trousers and miniskirts until 1993 when Kamuzu was about to leave power.

## Somalia moves to evict squatters

Somalia has started a major operation to remove tens of thousands of people who have been squatting in government buildings in the capital.

Mogadishu's mayor told the BBC that alternative housing was not being provided, as the squatters were able to pay rent to illegal landlords.

Many thousands of people are also living as refugees in the city, after fleeing conflict and drought.

The security situation in Mogadishu has improved over the past year.

The Islamist militant group al-Shabab group last year pulled out of the city but it continues to stage suicide attacks.

Last week, William Hague became the first British foreign secretary to visit Mogadishu since 1991 - the last time Somalia had a functioning national government.

Local aid agencies estimate that more than 50,000 people have been sheltering in ministry buildings, schools and universities - many of which have been badly damaged during the years of warfare.

One school had been used as a temporary camp for around 17,000 internally displaced people.

Mogadishu Mayor Mohamud Nur told BBC Somali that people were first being moved from buildings which the government had the money to rebuild.

Much of the funding for the operation has come from Turkey.

Mr Nur said that so far, people had left the buildings on a voluntary basis but that if they refused to move, force would be used.

President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed visited one of the sites to encourage people to leave.

"These are government offices where public services will be offered," he said, adding



These people have been living in the former headquarters of Somalia Airlines.

that the reconstruction would provide jobs.

Some residents, however, rejected his call to vacate the buildings, saying they had nowhere else to go.

Some 12,000 African Union troops are helping the government keep control of Mogadishu, while Kenyan and Ethiopian forces have pushed al-Shabab

out of some other areas. It still dominates much of southern Somalia.

Somalia is also suffering from the worst drought to hit the region in 60 years, which has left thousands of people dead, according to the UN.

Last week, the UN declared that the country was no longer suffering from a famine.

## Commercial farms to displace thousands in Ethiopia

*Special to the NNPA from the GIN*

Millions of acres of farm land are being leased to foreign investors for commercial export crops, under a nefarious plan that relocates indigenous villagers into "bantustans" lacking adequate food, farmland, healthcare or schools.

The lands are leased for pennies on the dollar and resemble "land grabs" that displace the county's poorest citizens.

Since 2008, six Indian, one Chinese, and Saudi Arabian companies have leased half a million acres in the state. A lesser amount is going to Ethiopians.

Critics say only foreign firms benefit, while ethnic groups such as the Anuak and Nuer are deprived of resources they have used for eons.

A lease agreement for the Gambela region was initially rejected by Ethiopian president

Girma Wolde-Giorgis and the country's Environment Protection Agency but Prime Minister Meles Zenawi gave it the green light.

Under the deal with Bangalore-based Karuturi company, investors would get some 3 million hectares - an area larger than The Netherlands - at just \$1.25 per year per hectare for 50 years. The Oakland Institute, an advocacy group in California, highlighted its concerns, including the forced relocation of locals to resettlement of villages and transfer of land coming under the Gambela National Park to Karuturi.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch, in a recent report titled "Waiting Here for Death," wrote: "The Ethiopian government ... is forcibly relocating approximately 70,000 indigenous people from the western Gambella region." Critical views on the relocations can be found at the website of the Solidarity Movement for a new Ethiopia. [www.solidaritymovement.org](http://www.solidaritymovement.org).

## Nigeria oil militants Mend 'hit Eni Bayelsa pipeline'

Militants say they have destroyed an oil pipeline in southern Nigeria, in their first attack in more than a year.

A statement claiming to be from Mend, a militant group that signed an amnesty in 2009, said the attack was a reminder of their presence in the area.

Witnesses said they heard an explosion at a pipeline run by Italian firm Eni in Bayelsa state on Saturday night.

But the firm has not commented, and the authorities

said they could not confirm that an attack had taken place.

The Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Mend), were once a feared militant group whose bombings and kidnappings paralysed the industry.

They claimed to be fighting for more rights and a share of oil wealth for local people.

Many of the group's leaders renounced violence after signing a truce with the government in 2009, and the group's last



Mend militants were once widely feared, but they have not carried out an attack since 2010

confirmed attack came in November 2010.

But a statement emailed to media outlets on Sunday said the group had "attacked and destroyed" an Eni pipeline near the Brass River. "This relatively insignificant attack is a reminder of our presence in the creeks of the Niger Delta and a sign of things to come," said the email.

It came from an account in the name of Jomo Gbomo, a name long assumed to be an alias of Mend's leaders.

# Black History Month Supplement

## Macy's marks Black History Month honoring Romare Bearden

This February, a unique American master returns to the spotlight as Macy's celebrates Black History Month with special events and exhibits dedicated to famed artist Romare Bearden. In conjunction with the Romare Bearden Foundation, Macy's honors the rich history and legacy of the incomparable artist, writer and musician in celebration of this year's 100th anniversary of his birth.

Romare Howard Bearden's life was marked by the pursuit of art in all of its forms. A prolific creator, Bearden's work encompassed art, music, design, history and literature. During his lifetime (1911-1988), Bearden experimented with many different mediums and artistic styles, but is best known for his richly textured collages. However his diverse interests included costume and set design for the Alvin Ailey Ameri-

can Dance Theater and Nanette Bearden's Contemporary Dance Theatre, music composition and literary work such as his famed children's book, "Li'l Dan, The Drummer Boy: A Civil War Story."

"Macy's is thrilled to partner with the Romare Bearden Foundation in celebration of the life and work of one of America's preeminent artists," said Dineen Garcia, Macy's vice-president of Diversity Strategies. "Every year, as we honor the contributions of African-Americans with our Black History Month events, we hope to empower a new generation through a look back at some of our nation's most important leaders. Throughout his life, Romare Bearden brought his exceptional talents to a wide range of interests, cementing his unique place in history and blazing a trail for those who followed."

"The Romare Bearden Foundation is pleased to partner with

Macy's on the occasion of the centennial celebration. This is a wonderful opportunity to promote to a wider audience the accomplishments of Bearden and his gifts to society," said Co-Directors Johanne Bryant Reid and Diedra Harris Kelley. "Through our traveling shows, archives and publications we aim to make Bearden's artistic legacy accessible to all."

To celebrate the artist's centennial, Macy's will spotlight Mr. Bearden's work through special exhibitions featuring watercolors, prints, oil on paper and dramatic black and white photostats that date from 1964 to 1984, when Romare Bearden was at the peak of his artistic power. These satellite exhibits will showcase some rarely displayed works loaned by private collectors, in addition to works on loan from local galleries. Taking place at 11 Macy's locations nationwide including stores in New Orleans, New York City, Pittsburgh, Chicago, Atlanta, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Houston, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Miami, the exhibits will be supplemented by works from artists influenced and inspired by Bearden. Opening receptions will further highlight Bearden's artistic endeavors including music, highlighted by performances from a new generation of jazz musicians playing his compositions, which have been previously recorded by masters including Branford Marsalis, Tito Puente and Billy Eckstine.

Additional in-store celebrations will include children's collage-making events, special readings of Bearden's children's book, "Li'l Dan, The Drummer Boy: A Civil War Story," as well as cooking demonstrations from local chefs featuring Bearden's favorite recipes and Caribbean dishes from the out-of-print cookbook, "Ma Chance's French Caribbean



Romare Bearden

Creole Cooking," which he illustrated.

At the opening receptions, customers will have the opportunity to receive a 15 percent off community shopping pass, and a \$10 Macy's gift card. Additionally, with a purchase of \$50 or more, while supplies last, customers can receive a printed scarf featuring Romare Bearden's most revered work, "The Lamp." From Feb. 2-23, Macy's will also offer the opportunity to enter for the chance to win a trip for two to Paris, Romare Bearden's beloved city and the inspiration for his work on the project, "Paris Blues Revis-

ited." Courtesy of American Airlines, the prize includes round-trip coach air travel, hotel and a \$500 Macy's shopping spree. American Airlines is a proud partner of Macy's Black History Month celebration. (Please visit [www.macys.com/celebrate](http://www.macys.com/celebrate) for complete entry rules or visit the event store for more information)

Below are the stores and event information for Macy's - Romare Bearden's Centennial celebrations:

Macy's Lakeside, New Orleans, LA - Thurs. 2/2 at 6 p.m. - Exhibit

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

## Israeli Consulate General cites Rev. Jacques DeGraff

In celebration of Black History month, the Consulate General of Israel, The Jewish Community Relations Council of NY, and The Jewish National Fund hosted the 21st Annual Commemoration of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The MLK Award was presented to Rev. Jacques DeGraff prominent Social Justice Activist (MLK Lifetime Achievement Award) and Dari Alexander, Anchor, Fox5 News for their efforts in spreading compassion and uniting communities of all backgrounds.

Speakers included: Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York, Michael Miller, Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, Roger Ailes, founder of FOXNEWS Network, Chief Philip Banks, NYPD highest ranking uniformed African American, Lloyd Williams, CEO of the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, Timo-

thy Marshall, Founding CEO Jamaica Business Resource Council and others.

Music selections were performed by the Canaan Mass Choir and the Israeli Music Group.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Award has been presented by the Consulate General of Israel in New York for the past 20 years to individuals and organizations promoting ethnic and cultural understanding. To commemorate this great visionary, each year the State of Israel, together with the Jewish National Fund and the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, honor those whose work keeps alive Dr. King's legacy of hope and peace.

Past honorees include: Martin Luther King, III, former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, civil rights activist Harry Belafonte, entrepreneur Russell Simmons, opera singer Jessye Norman, author Toni Morrison, and jazz.



l-r Dr. Thomas D. Johnson, Sr., Senior Pastor Canaan Baptist Church of Christ; Ido Aharoni, Consul General of Israel in New York; Honoree Rev. Jacques DeGraff; Rabbi Miller, Jewish Community Relations Council of NY; Honoree Dari Alexander; Michael Feinman, Jewish National Fund Representative

## City Tech's History Month events to focus on migration

"Black Migrations" is the theme of New York City College of Technology's (City Tech's) 2012 celebration of Black History Month this February. The free events, which will take place at 300 Jay Street (at Tillary) in Downtown Brooklyn, will include a lecture, choral and dramatic performances, an exhibition and a reading. For additional information, please contact Hazel Gibbs at 718.260.5205 or [hgibbs@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:hgibbs@citytech.cuny.edu).

February 23, 2012, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Black Migrations Atrium Amphitheater

Keynote address at 11:30 a.m. by Dr. Jo-Ann Graham, "The Great Migration: Agent of Change." Preceded and followed by performances by the City Tech Community Choir and Black The-

ater students on the theme of migration.

Dr. Graham will explore how The Great Migration of American blacks from the South in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century changed the nation, changed the individuals and changed the roles of American blacks in the US. She will reference the vision of two artists of different generations — painter Jacob Lawrence, who in 1941 produced The Migration Series — 60 paintings depicting the mass movement of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North between World War I and World War II — and writer Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* (2010), a *New York Times* best seller and winner of the National Book Critics Circle

Award for Nonfiction.

Dr. Graham has lectured around the world on abstract expressionism and the African American artist, among other topics. She has served on the board of the Hammond Museum and also served with the Cinque Art Gallery, founded by Romare Bearden, Ernest Crichlow and Norman Lewis to enhance opportunities for Black artists and establish an educational venue for the public. Holding a PhD from NYU, she chaired the Department of Communication and served as coordinator of the Division of Humanities at Bronx Community College.

Other Black History Month Events at City Tech

February 1 - 29, 2012

Library Exhibit: "Black Migrations"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

# AUDREY'S SOCIETY WHIRL



By Audrey J. Bernard  
Lifestyles & Society Editor

On Wednesday, January 18, 2012, the world's most beloved funnyman Dr. William "Bill" Cosby, Jr. came to Harlem to attend a booksigning party for his new tome, *I Didn't Ask to Be Born But I'm Glad I Was*, at his beloved Hue-Man Bookstore & Café. In this hilarious new collection of observations that are sure to become instant classics, Cosby brings us more of his wonderful and wacky insights into the human condition.

In the tradition of Fat Albert,

## Dr. Bill Cosby comes to Hue-Man; *Juice* is still fresh at 20!



Drs. Braxton Cosby and Bill Cosby with Hue-Man Bookstore owner Marva Allen



Dr. Bill Cosby, young admirer



Attentive audience



Amelia Moore, Dr. Bill Cosby



Drs. Braxton Cosby and Bill Cosby



Jackie Rowe Adams (center), Renaldo Ballkman, NY Knicks and Team



The Impact Dance Group



The Hollis Group, Fred Yaeger, Angela Hollis

Cosby introduces a host of new characters, including Peanut Armhouse and Old Mother Harold. Not since *Mushmouth*, *Dumb Donald*, *Bucky*, and the *Cosby Kids* has there been such a memorable cast. The doctor of comedy holds forth on everything from a game show contestant's confusing origins, to a grandchild with a *Godzilla* infatuation, to his first love *Bernadette*, and many more delightful digressions.

Dr. Cosby was accompanied by his handsome nephew Dr. Braxton Cosby, a new and upcoming author who penned a sci-fi space saga called *Protostar*. Both Cosby men books were instant book favorites. Bill Cosby may not have asked to be born, but we're sure glad he was.

On Tuesday evening January 17, 2012 actor Khalil Kain hosted a red carpet 20th anniversary screening of the classic hip hop film *JUICE* about four Harlem male youths whose lives are forever altered by senseless gun violence. The event was held at the AMC Magic Johnson Theater in Harlem and commemorated the 20th anniversary of the happening and to serve as a message for youth to silence the violence. The 1992 film starred hip hop icon Tupac Shakur, Khalil Kain, Omar Epps, and Jermaine Hopkins as the morally hijacked foursome.

The anniversary screening of this ground breaking film took place in conjunction with Harlem Mothers S.A.V.E. — the city's prominent anti-gun violence group.

Nearly twenty years after its original release, the memory of *Juice* is fresh in the minds of three generations of urban movie goers. Audiences today still relate to each of the characters in the cult classic film and its tale of friendship, betrayal, bullying and death by guns.

The invitation-only screening



Jackie Rowe Adams (center) with friends & Harlem Mothers

served as Khalil Kain's gift to 250 Harlem youth and parents who have lost children to gun violence. The pride-filled event included a red carpet pre-screening mixer with notables from the entertainment industry, members of the cast, artists, athletes, and community leaders.

Immediately following the screening, the young people participated in a "Kicking-it with Khalil" session featuring in a Q&A about the film's themes and messages. Sponsors of the impressive event included A Loft Hotel, Harlem Park2Park, Manna Restaurants, RGF Holdings, and REMY Cointreau.

(Photos by Seitu Oronde)

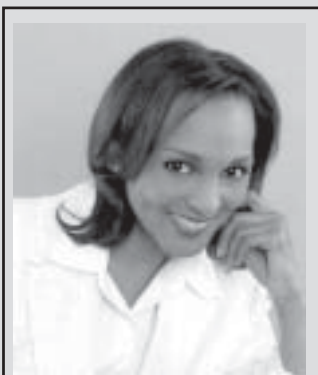


Impact dance leader with Khalil Kain, original actor

# THE ADAMS REPORT

Fashion, Beauty . . . . . & Stuff

By Audrey Adams



Audrey Adams

## Show some love!

to re-think the relationship.

If you are single, don't get caught up in what others are getting—show some love to your family and friends and most importantly to yourself! If it will make you feel better, get your own flowers and candy.

Are you a parent? Do something unexpected for your children. At breakfast or dinner do something silly; "draw" hearts on their plates with ketchup or write "I love you" in chocolate syrup on their ice cream or cake. Yes, you run the risk that they will tell you it's corny, but what you'll gain is their memory of your love for them.

For family members, instead of the standard card giving, share some family love across the country with a conference call. If your family is local, keep "the ties that bind" with an impromptu potluck or dessert party.

Your sister-friends and male friends usually have the least expectations of receiving acknowledgement on Valentine's Day. Not because they don't think you care but like you, they may be addressing their own Valentine's Day issues. Give them a gift that is one of the best and easiest to give; just pick up the phone and say, "Happy Valentine's Day, I love you my friend." Or whatever message of love and support you would like to convey.

As for those of you who are reading this but feel blue because you are afraid that no one will acknowledge you on Valentine's Day, please allow me — Happy Valentine's Day! See you next week.

TALK! with AUDREY RADIO ON DEMAND THIS WEEK: My guest is Stephen M. R. Covey, cofounder of Covey Link and Franklin Covey's Global Speed of Trust Practice and long-time business partner Greg Link have written a new book called SMART TRUST: Creating Prosperity, Energy, and Joy In A Low Trust World that offers a compelling and insightful discussion as to why business leaders chose loss of trust, and not the financial crisis, as the biggest impediment to the economy, what they are doing and the 5 actions they are commonly taking to prosper against the odds.

Visit my website, TheAdamsReport.com and checkout my online radio show, *Talk! with Audrey* for a series of interviews that will inform, motivate and inspire you. Discover your personal power and use it to create the life you want. Tune in to listen to a live broadcast of *TALK! with AUDREY* . . . every Tuesday from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M. on Harlem's WHCR 90.3 FM.

Audrey Adams, former director of corporate public relations and fashion merchandising for *ESSENCE* continues to motivate and inspire women through her syndicated columns and motivational speaking engagements. E-mail your fashion, beauty and lifestyle questions or comments to her at:

Audrey@THEADAMSREPORT.com  
THE ADAMS REPORT©

Valentine's Day is next week, and I know that you are expecting me to write about all sorts of Valentine's related things—gift ideas to consider buying hot, sexy lingerie to surprise your significant other, getting one of those glamour photos, etc . . . Not this year! Valentine's Day is, simply put, the commercialization of romance! Advertisers send a subliminal, yet very powerful message that everybody should be in a relationship, and that something is wrong with you if you are not.

Valentine's Day is also a day that you can use to let all the people in your life know that you love them, which means you'll have different expressions of love for each. So, instead of giving into the hype, consider giving a gift from the heart instead.

If you are in a relationship, don't put so much weight on what your significant other gives you on V-Day. How does he or she treat you the other 364 days of the year? If they treat you well, then don't quibble if you don't get the flowers, candy or whatever you feel you should get . . . If he/she treats you badly that means it is time

## State of the Dream 2012

(from Page 3)

prisoned in 2042 if things continue.

She feels that while America has made some progress, a great lack remains because people have ignored the institutions, programs, and structural practices that have historically kept people of color down. The treatment of Blacks during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 is one example, she continued.

"The official response to that disaster makes you think about how little things tend to affect what we do, think, and how our institutions operate . . . And carry forward back and look at all institutions in education and unemployment. Those things are still perpetuated," Ms. Mwangi said.

She believes there's hope if America invests in infrastructure, jobs, and education. Without education, there's no income and without income there's poverty and no food. People are jailed and cycles continue, so the solutions are for the good of everyone, not just Blacks and people of color, she added.

The answer to the crisis facing Black America is it must do for self, guides the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan. A first step is to pool money in a national treasury to buy farmland and rebuild wasted cities, he said during a January 9 interview with Cliff Kelley on WVON-AM 1690.

"Obama cannot make jobs for all of us who are unemployed, but we can," Min. Farrakhan said, continuing that donations to a national fund of as little as one nickel-a-day to \$1-a-month would yield \$480 million in one year.

Blacks will need every cent of that amount to survive the future, if the report's predictions manifest.

As disenfranchised minorities become a larger proportion of the population, their inclination to support more progressive policy will advance policies most helpful to rebuild a middle class economy, according to Mr. Muhammad.

"Yet as money becomes more and more of a determining factor in politics and barriers to voting become more and more common, the democratic voice of minorities will probably be weakened," Mr. Muhammad said.

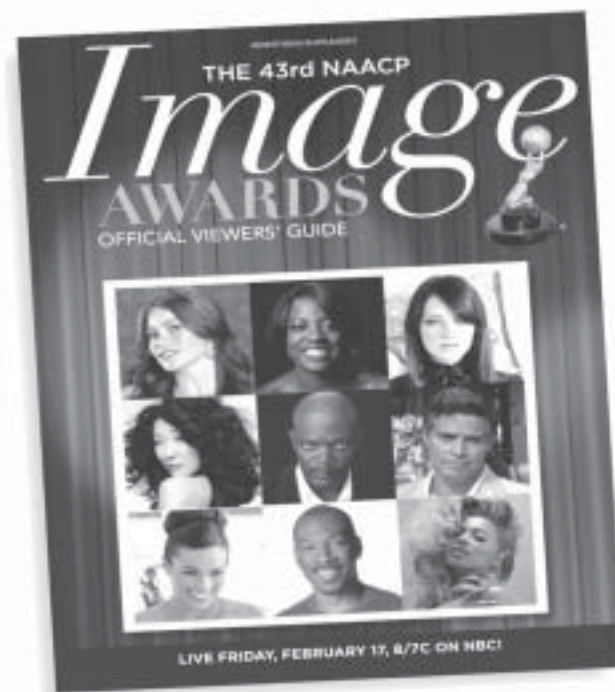
Report recommendations include stemming the foreclosure crisis by offering loan modification programs, increasing federal funding for higher education, and ending the war on drugs to substantially impact the racial economic divide due in upcoming decades and begin realizing Dr. King's dream.

Each year the organization releases its State of the Dream report on or around Jan. 15. The date is referred to as "King Day" and commemorates the civil rights leader's birthday. Tragically, many disparities he fought and sacrificed his life for still plague people of color, Ms. Mwangi said.

"We have a nation that has a history of racial inequality and White supremacy, all the things that have been put in place 50 years ago, 100 years ago, are still together, intact. If you break down all those institutional structures and start looking at things in a different way, we'll continue talking about disparities because we're not fighting the real thing," Ms. Mwangi said.

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# Beacon On

Meet McDonald's fifteen outstanding 2012 Faces of Black History

**McDonald's salutes the**

**FACES OF BLACK HISTORY**

**Black Media Legends & Trailblazers 2012**

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| Name              | Title                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elise Finch       | Meteorologist, CBS2 News                                                                                                                                                                |
| Jennifer Jordan   | Reporter, WPIX 11                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Tom Joyner        | Hall of Fame Radio Personality/ The Tom Joyner Morning Show Founder of the Tom Joyner Foundation Supporting Historically Black Colleges and Universities Creator of BlackAmericaWeb.com |
| Stephen G. Lucas  | Director, NBC NEWS                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Preston Davis     | President of Broadcast Operations and Engineering, ABC Television Network                                                                                                               |
| Jeff Burns Jr.    | Vice Chairman, John H. Johnson School of Communications/ Howard University Former Asst. Publisher, Ebony Magazine                                                                       |
| Dean Meminger     | Anchor/Criminal Justice Reporter, NY1 & NYL.com                                                                                                                                         |
| Gil Noble         | Producer and Host of "Like It Is", WABC                                                                                                                                                 |
| William J. Wright | Manager of Digital Production, NBC NEWS                                                                                                                                                 |
| Carole Owens      | Talent Coordinator, NBC 4 New York                                                                                                                                                      |
| Miatta Haj Smith  | Co-Publisher New York Beacon Philadelphia Observer                                                                                                                                      |
| Ann Tripp         | News Director/Announcer, WBSL & WLIB                                                                                                                                                    |
| Nicole Johnson    | Reporter, Fox 5 News/WNYW                                                                                                                                                               |
| Aikelee Daughtry  | ENG/EFP Photographer, Fox 5                                                                                                                                                             |
| Elinor Tatum      | Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, New York Amsterdam News                                                                                                                                      |

## McDonald's 2012 Faces

By **Audrey J. Bernard**  
*Lifestyles & Society Editor*

McDonald's has been a long-time supporter of the Black community and for the past 10 years, the McDonald's Faces of Black History campaign has become a signature event of Black History Month.

The pride-filled campaign presented by Irving Street was created to salute and honor Black History makers throughout our community and our country, from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks to present day heroes.

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012, McDonald's owners/operators from New York Tri-State area restaurants were joined by

top executives and friends and families of the 15 Black Media Legends and Trailblazers at an annual luncheon ceremony celebrating their achievements and talent at The Plaza Hotel on Fifth Avenue.

A highlight of the luncheon was the unveiling of the 2012 Faces of Black History poster that will be given away during Black History Month – with no purchase necessary – at the more than 600 McDonald's restaurants throughout the Tri-State area.

The 2012 honorees of Black Media Legends and Trailblazers who have "impacted the Black community through their achievements and positive examples" included Jeff Burns Jr., vice chairman, John H. Johnson School of Communications, Howard University;

Alkelee Daughtry, FOX 5; Preston Davis, ABC Television Network; Elise Finch, CBS 2; Nicole Johnson, FOX 5; Jennifer Jordan, WPIX 11; Tom Joyner, ABC Radio Networks; Stephen G. Lucas, NBC News; Dean Meminger, NY1; Gil Noble, ABC 7; Carole Owens, NBC 4; Miatta Haj Smith, New York Beacon/Philadelphia Observer; Elinor Tatum, New York Amsterdam News; Ann Tripp, WBSL/WLIB; and William J. Wright, NBC News.

The Black Media Legends & Trailblazers luncheon and ceremony began with empowering welcoming remarks from A. Curtis Farrow, Irving Street's president & chief executive officer, who introduced hosts Brenda Blackmon co-an-

chor, My9, WWOR-TV, and David Ushery, news anchor, WNBC-TV.

Following delightful remarks from Ken Ebo, director, US Marketing New York, and Tony Scari, president, McDonald's New York Tri-State Owner/Operator Association, eleven-year old Xavier Wise sang a joyful rendition of Lift Every Voice & Sing.

Prior to lunch, Linda Dunham, chairman, Ronald McDonald House Charities Global & McDonald's Owner/Operator, presented a video that addressed the important work of RMHC.

After lunch, Pete Samaha, chairman, McDonald's New York, Tri-State PR Committee, introduced the past honorees.

In addition to McDonald's

owners/operators other presenters included past honorees Fred "Bugsy" Buggs, Lewis Dodley, Marion Etoile Watson, Janice Huff, Bob Slade, Scott Pierce, Don Thomas, Charles Simmons, Brian Custer, Bill McCreary and Kathy Dow.

The program concluded with final accolades for the host from McDonald's owner/operator Cortesia Norman.

McDonald's is the world's best-known brand and is the global leader in food service. There are more than 600 McDonald's restaurants, owned by 100 franchisees, located throughout the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut tri-state area.

For more information, please visit:

[www.mcdonaldsnymetro.com](http://www.mcdonaldsnymetro.com).  
(Photo courtesy Irving Street)

# The Scene



By Deandra Shuler  
Contributing Scribe

## In the Bronx

# O'Jays gave the people what they wanted

Eddie Levert, Walter Williams, and Eric Nolan Grant of the O'Jays, recently rocked the house at Lehman Center for the Performing Arts in the Bronx, New York, singing songs from their classic repertoire. The entertainers lit up the stage in their ornate white outfits, regaling the crowd with amusing banter and dance numbers that had some women rushing to the stage, grabbing the hand of their favorite entertainer in the hope of receiving a touch, glance and/or even a smile from the fabulous O'Jays.

Adding a spark of warmth inside that made the temperature rise while the weather outside dropped down into the 20s making everyone feel the chill. The O'Jays got the crowd roaring and some feeling pretty hot. One woman even threw her scarf on the stage causing Eddie to gently wrap it back around her neck as she swooned in ecstasy.

Comedian "Hamburger" is one of the funniest men alive and he proved it, joking with the audience and even embarrassing a few late comers and 'seat stealers.' The late comers unfortunately for them were in the very front row. However, once they got down to the front row there were no vacant seats.

Confused and chagrined as Hamburger pelted them with quips, the late comers walked back and forth with tickets in hand, glimpsing at all the filled seats, walking from left to right in front of the stage, until Hamburger had to finally yell for an usher to get down stage and help them get seated.

What made it even more hilarious is — turns out, a daring couple who had usurped the late comers seats, now had to pub-

licly reveal themselves, get up and march sheepishly back to their own seats in the back while the audience laughed hysterically. Hamburger's opening act set the tone for the rest of the evening, putting everyone in a jovial mood.

Eddie got the crowd roaring himself when he introduced the band. He introduced all the band members he knew but when he got to the side of the stage where some of the musicians were white, he apparently did not know their names, so simply introduced them collectively as "the white folks," setting off peals of laughter. All was done in good fun.

The O'Jays started their career in Canton, Ohio in the late 1950s. They came to epitomize the Philly sound via their rich harmonies and contemporary funk. Two of the originals, Eddie Levert and Walter Williams still continue to regale their adoring fans with the songs they made famous.

The O'Jays sang "Love Train," "Backstabbers," "Use Ta Be My Girl" and "For the Love of Money," to a sold out house, proving why they have earned 24 Top 10 hits, 10 gold albums, 9 platinum and 10 number 1 hits.

In fact, all three O'Jays are putting out individual solo recordings. Walter Williams released his CD *Exposed* last year and Eddie and Eric are in the final stages of completing their individual CDs.

I had the opportunity to speak to Eddie Levert before their Bronx concert. "My project is called "Eddie Levert: I Still Have It" remarked Eddie. "There is a song entitled "Last Man Standing." This will be my first shot as a solo artist outside the O'Jays. I hope my fans will give me a chance and listen to it. It was hard for me.

"Even though I tried to reinvent myself while doing my album, it's difficult not to sound like an O'Jay. I just can't help it," chuckled the talented singer. "I stayed within my ballpark so the CD contains songs that have a spirit of its own. It's taken me 3 years to complete the project.

"I am rather proud of it. I wrote and produced it with the help of a

few talented people. I still appreciate the art of creating music from the bottom to the top. I

like doing it natural, doing it raw with no cut and no chaser," claimed the 2009 BET Lifetime

Achievement Award and the 2011 Trumpet Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

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The "Mighty" O'Jays, Eddie Levert, Walter Williams, Eric Nolan Grant (Photo: Joe Conzo)



Ivy Shades sportin' her eyewear

CATWALKIN' with Fashion & Beauty Editor Audrey J. Bernard

# Nuthin' shady 'bout Stephanie 'Ivy Shades' Johnson's meteoric rise



"I was out with friends and I decided to wear the shades," Ivy Shades recalls. "A girl bought them off of my face for \$350. So I made another pair, wore them to a club, and another girl bought them for \$210. I decided to create a few more. My first line consisted of eight pairs of shades and I decided to release them."

Stephanie "Ivy Shades" Johnson



Rockstar Red Hots shades



Rockstar Gladiator shades

**Stephanie "Ivy Shades" Johnson** was recently cited as one of *Black Enterprise Magazine's* 13 Young Innovators in the business of Design, Style and Fashion for 2012 (<http://www.blackenterprise.com/2012/01/20/13-young-innovators-business-of-design-style-fashion>). The young designer's elaborate designs have taken the fashion industry to the next level in the blink of an eye; and this eyewear designer and recording artist is taking 2012 by storm!

Johnson a.k.a. Ivy Shades recently released her eagerly awaited fifth and sixth accessory eyewear collections: the *Mad Max* inspired *Rock Star* for men; and ultra-chic *B.B.O.* for women. In addition, she is unleashing two hot new singles, "BBO" and "Super Bitch" on her own Houston independent-based label.

This modern day woman is all about empowerment. Strong, sexy and independent, she creates music and eyewear that reflect today's woman. "Every female feels that they're 'bad' in a good way," she explains.

"I have a college degree, I run my company, and I handle my business. I created this line for all the proud, beautiful, independent women across the board that can do so many great things and still rock Ivy Shades. The person you hear musically is the person who created the shades. I put the same heart, blood, sweat and tears into both," she concluded.

Born in Los Angeles, Ivy Shades grew up in Houston, Texas, and received a degree in accounting from the University of Houston. She worked in the corporate world while launching her modeling and music careers, working with artists such as Master P, Avant, Slim Thug and Brooke Valentine, with whom she was signed to H-Town's label, Subliminal Entertainment.

Last year, the singer released her second mixtape, "The Resolution," tracked at Lion's Den Recordings in Houston with engineer Lacemode, to excellent reviews.

In September 2010, *The Ivy Shades Eyewear* collection was introduced for the very first time in Houston. A longtime aficionado of fashion and eyewear, she created the brand unexpectedly from a personal pair of shades that she enhanced with gold chains to wear for a video shoot.

"I was out with friends and I decided to wear the shades," she recalls. "A girl bought them off of my face for \$350. So I made another pair, wore them to a club, and another girl bought



BBO Gold shades



Premium Boss Gold shades



Peek-a-Boo Shades

them for \$210. I decided to create a few more. My first line consisted of eight pairs of shades and I decided to release them," she stated.

Within months, she was shipping eyewear internationally. Six lines later — *Boss, Retro, Flawless, Envy, Rockstar, B.B.O.* — Ivy Shades are everywhere, from the hippest clubs to the most upscale boardrooms.

Gospel singer Yolanda Adams and Ashley Nicole King (Season 6) and Ashley Cheatham (Season 5) from television's *Bad Girls Club* are just some of the celebrities who are wearing the shades.

Who does Ivy Shades envision wearing glasses from *The Ivy Shades Eyewear* collection when she designs? A diverse wish list — Justin Bieber, Willow Smith, Fergie, Cee-Lo, Gwen Stefani, Will.i.am, Tamar Braxton (Braxton Family Values), and Jersey Shore's Snooki — are a few who come to mind.

Ask this remarkable woman about her meteoric rise to the top of the fashion world, and she immediately humbles herself. "I've done a lot of interviews and this is probably the best question that was ever asked," she says.

"I can't answer it, but I do have a formula for you. Grind + faith + God = success. If you work hard, have faith as small as a mustard

seed, and keep God first in everything you do, the good outweighs the bad and that equals success. I had no idea that God was going to present me to the world as a number one shades designer. I thought I would do it with music or modeling. All I can say is work hard have faith and keep God first. That equals success," she explained. For more information about *The Ivy Shades Eyewear* collection, visit <http://www.ivyshades.com>.

Stephanie "Ivy Shades" Johnson was born in Los Angeles, California on December 7, 1984. She lived in California until the age of 12, and then was relocated to Houston, Texas where she obtained a degree in accounting from the University of Houston.

Since the beginning of the model, aspiring actress, fashion designer, entrepreneur, and recording artist career, she has been engulfed in the fashion and entertainment industry. Her career began in music entertainment that has resulted in her working with many notable artists and music legends such as Master P, R&B singer Brooke Valentine, Avant, and Slim Thug, just to name a few.

In January 2011 Ivy Shades released her second mixtape en-

titled "The Resolution" hosted by GO DJ Hi-C. Based on the demand from her following base Ivy Shades released her new single "BBO."

The narrative of the song addresses her fabulous and lavish lifestyle of being an international model. It's a certified bottle popper in the clubs. The accomplished and independent star is the Alpha and Omega for "BBO" as the song paints a vivid picture of a woman who makes her own way all while doing 'em... "BAD."

Her acclaimed work in the music industry sparked several modeling opportunities, including photo shoots with Willie ESCO, *Black Men's Magazine*, *Hype Hair Magazine*, *So Ruff Magazine*, and *The Chronic Magazine.com*.

The Ivy Shades Designer Eyewear collection launched in Houston, Texas for the first time on September 28, 2010. Shortly after the debut of the first line, sales spread across the United States, even taping into the International market.

Due to the success and demand of the first line, Johnson was inspired to create her second line of designer eyewear *Retro*. Most recently she released her fifth and sixth lines of

designer eyewear in October 2011. These new lines were named *Rock Star* and *BBO*.

The inspiration for the two lines was *Mad Max* inspired and captured her talent as a true pioneer in shade wear.

Johnson has earned her place in the Shades designer world, and when all the smoke and dust clears Ivy Shades will be the last designer standing.

As a designer she has had many notable accomplishments. In Summer 2011 she conducted a model search and received an impressive amount of entries from beautiful models all over the world.

The "2011 Ivy Shades Model Search" allowed the winners of the contest the opportunity to build their portfolio and become the new face of Ivy Shades Designer Eyewear.

In addition to the model search and because of her nationwide exposure she was contacted for an interview with *Jet Magazine* in their Designer Spot Light which appeared in the October 3, 2011 edition.

Ivy Shades is still working hard and has a lot more to accomplish in her career. Her designer shades (on top of being sold online) are also available in high end boutiques; so look forward to seeing Ivy Shades in a store near you.

(from Page 2)

stitutions to evade local county recording fees, avoid the hassle and paperwork of publicly recording mortgage transfers, and facilitate the rapid sale and securitization of mortgages. MERS operates as a membership organization, and most large companies that participate in the mortgage industry – by originating loans, buying or investing in loans, or servicing loans – are members, including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac. Over 70 million loans nationally have been registered in MERS System, including about 30 million currently active loans.

Through their membership in MERS, these companies avoided publicly recording the purchase and sale of mortgages by designating MERS Inc. – a shell company with no economic interest in any mortgage loan – as the “nominal” mortgagee of the loan in the public records. Instead, MERS members were supposed to log mortgage transfers in the MERS private electronic registry.

The basic theory behind MERS is that, because MERS Inc. serves as a “nominee” (or agent) for most major lenders, it remains the “mortgagee” in the public records regardless of how often the loan is sold or transferred among MERS members. Thus, although MERSCORP has only about 70 employees, MERS Inc.

serves as the mortgagee of record for tens of millions of loans registered in the MERS System.

MERS has granted over 20,000 “certifying officers” the authority to act on its behalf, including the authority to assign mortgages, to execute paperwork necessary to foreclose, and to submit filings on behalf of MERS in bankruptcy proceedings. These certifying officers are not MERS employees, but instead are employed by MERS members, including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo.

MERS’ conduct, as well as the servicers’ use of the MERS System, has resulted in the filing of improper New York foreclosure proceedings, undermined the integrity of the judicial process, created confusion and uncertainty concerning property ownership interests, and potentially clouded titles on properties throughout the State of New York. In fact, several New York judges have questioned the standing of the foreclosing party in cases involving MERS loans and the validity of mortgage assignments executed by MERS certifying officers.

The lawsuit specifically charges that the defendants have engaged in the following fraudulent and deceptive practices:

\* MERS has filed over 13,000 foreclosure actions against New York homeowners listing itself as the plaintiff, but in many instances, MERS lacked the legal authority to foreclose and did not own or hold

the promissory note, despite saying otherwise in court submissions.

\* MERS certifying officers, including employees and agents of JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo, have repeatedly executed and submitted in court legal documents purporting to assign the mortgage and/or note to the foreclosing party. These documents contain numerous defects, including affirmative misrepresentations of fact, which render them false, deceptive, and/or invalid. These assignments were often automatically generated and “robotsigned” by individuals who did not review the underlying property ownership records, confirm the documents’ accuracy, or even read the documents. These false and defective assignments often masked gaps in the chain of title and the foreclosing party’s inability to establish its authority to foreclose, and as a result have misled homeowners and the courts.

\* MERS’ indiscriminate use of non-employee “certifying officers” to execute vital legal documents has confused, misled, and deceived homeowners and the courts and made it difficult to ascertain whether a party actually has the right to foreclose. MERS certifying officers have regularly executed and submitted in court mortgage assignments and other legal documents on behalf of MERS without disclosing that they are not MERS employees, but

instead are employed by other entities, such as the mortgage servicer filing the case or its counsel. The signature line just indicates that the individual is an “Assistant Secretary,” “Vice President,” or other officer of MERS. Indeed, these documents often purport to assign the mortgage to the certifying officer’s own employer. Moreover, as a result of the defendants’ failure to track the designation of certifying officers and the scope of their authority to act, individuals have executed legal documents on behalf of MERS, such as mortgage assignments and loan modifications, when they were either not designated as a MERS certifying officer at the time or were not authorized to execute documents on behalf of MERS with respect to the subject loan.

\* MERS and its members have deceived and misled borrowers about the importance and ramifications of MERS’ role with respect to their loan by providing inadequate disclosures.

\* The MERS System is riddled with inaccuracies which make it difficult to verify the chain of title for a loan or the current note-holder, and creates confusion among stakeholders who rely on the information. In addition, as a result of these inaccuracies, MERS has filed mortgage satisfactions against the wrong property.

The lawsuit seeks a declaration that the alleged practices violate the law, as well as injunctive relief, damages for harmed homeowners, and civil penalties. The lawsuit also seeks a court order requiring defendants to take all actions necessary to cure any title defects and clear any improper liens resulting from their fraudulent and deceptive acts and practices.

The matter is being handled by Deputy Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Consumer Frauds & Protection Jeffrey K. Powell, Assistant Attorney General Clare Norins, and Assistant Solicitor General Steven C. Wu, under the supervision of First Deputy Attorney General Harlan Levy.

## Obama can stop Israel

(from Page 6)

Post’s David Ignatius reports, “The Israelis are said to recognize that damage to the nuclear program might be modest, requiring another strike in a few years.”

So while Israel insists on its freedom of action, it realizes it would need America’s help. This means that the Obama administration holds the upper hand: it is in a position to stop Israel from igniting a catastrophic war in the

Middle East simply by declaring publicly that it will not back Netanyahu if he orders an attack — or covertly provokes Iran into firing the first shot.

Americans who oppose war with Iran can best serve peace by demanding that Obama make such a declaration.

Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation ([www.fff.org](http://www.fff.org)).

Remove my name from all future email correspondence

## Stringer unveils bold agenda to reclaim NYC for the middle class New Yorkers

(from Page 2)

need to ramp up this effort dramatically.”<sup>3</sup> EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES Calling small businesses “the heart and soul of our neighborhoods,” the Borough President said that, for all they value they add to our City, they face major problems in getting access to credit. “Banks have rolled down the teller windows on small businesses. It’s become impossible to get a loan, to fix up existing spaces or grow into new ones,” he said. “When it comes to small business, I believe it is time for the City to put its money where its mouth is.” The Borough President urged creation of a new program—the New York City Small Business Growth and Retention Fund—that would offer loans to these businesses. It would be modeled after a similar program running successfully in Philadelphia, and act as a financial lifeline to unlock the much-needed capital that small businesses need. The City could seed this fund with an initial capitalization of \$20 million, and that in turn could be used to leverage five times this amount from the private sector. “There’s no reason why my friend Nino Di Giovanni at La Corsa Restaurant on East 110th Street should be shut out from the capital he needs,” Stringer said. “He’s got great credit, and he needs a modest loan to fix up his thriving pizzeria in East Harlem. But those dreams will remain on hold, unless someone steps in to

help.” Proclaiming that the time has come to stop forcing parents to choose between staying home with a sick child or losing their jobs, Stringer also called on the City Council to pass Paid Sick Leave legislation immediately. “We are supposed to be the progressive capital of the nation,” the Borough President declared, “We should start acting like it.” In other initiatives, Stringer announced his office is underwriting a new tech-incubator for Upper Manhattan in partnership with CUNY’s Grove School of Engineering, creating a space where students and faculty can perfect their ideas and move them into the marketplace. The Borough President’s office will also sponsor a \$3 million demonstration project to install solar panels atop several Manhattan schools, in order to boost the growth of New York’s solar power economy. Both efforts are designed to spur creation of thousands of new jobs now, and to keep talented entrepreneurs in New York. “We can’t allow other cities to steal our best and brightest after we’ve educated them, and we have to hold onto our talent,” the Borough President said, referring to promising startups whose New York owners are being lured by financial offers from Silicon Valley. “This is an exodus we must stop.” Borough President Stringer renewed his call for the New York Police Department to re-evaluate and change its controversial stop and frisk policy. He noted that the NYPD last year stopped, questioned and frisked nearly 700,000 New Yorkers – most

of them for no reason at all. “In 94% of the stops, no arrests are made. In 99.8% of cases, no gun is found. And 85% of those stopped are Black or Latino,” String said. “How do you quantify the fear that so many parents and grandparents feel when their sons and grandsons step outside? How do you measure the worry that an everyday errand could become a potential confrontation with the police? Parents who look like me don’t have to live in fear that their children will be stopped on their way to school, walking to the store, or hanging out with friends,” the Borough President said. “But that doesn’t hold true if you happen to be born Black or Latino in today’s New York. President Stringer also blasted the Department of Education’s failure to engage parents and to make sound, long-term plans to combat the scourge of overcrowded classrooms. “Today a quarter of a million kids spend part or all of their day in an overcrowded classroom. We have kindergarten wait lists in every borough,” he said. “It’s time to open the doors, open the books and demand some answers,” Stringer said. “Without good public schools we might as well hand parents a map to the suburbs – because that’s exactly where they are going if they think their kids aren’t getting a good education. We must plan better and smarter. We must direct resources where they belong. And above all we must work together, because nothing is more important than educating our children.”

## Women in Black History

(from Page 6)

National Coalition for Black Civic Participation. For Barbara Lee, the Oakland Congresswoman who has been fearless in her support for economic justice. For Maggie Lena Walker, the Richmond woman who was the first black woman to start a bank. For Marianne Spraggins, the first black woman to be a managing

director on Wall Street. Sing a song for sisters, for those well known, and those unknown. We are the backbone of African American history, and our song is one that must be sung, trilled, placed into crescendo. When we sing our sister song we empower and uplift each other.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina

## Your pharmacy may be in danger

(from Page 6)

color who live near these stores. But ESI does not care whether community pharmacies remain in its network, or even survive. In fact, CEO George Paz told Senator Kohl at a Judiciary Subcommittee hearing about the merger, “I can’t stop certain pharmacies from going out of business.”

The other company, Medco, is requiring many of its customers to use mail-order pharmacies instead of retail pharmacies, deciding for patients in Big Brother fashion which pharmacy services they can use. This also threatens community pharmacies. But don’t look to the company for sympathy. Medco CEO David Snow believes his pharmacy robots are

better than your local pharmacist down the street, and if he has his way, you will no longer have a choice.

Viewed in light of existing health disparities and economic difficulties, and the indifference of the PBM executives, there are no benefits for African American consumers in allowing the merger to proceed, and there are many risks.

If the FTC gives the merger the “most serious review” requested by Senator Kohl, it is difficult to see how they could possibly allow it to move forward.

Mr. Alford is the co-founder, president/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce @ . We b s i t e : [www.nationalbcc.org](http://www.nationalbcc.org). Email: [halford@nationalbcc.org](mailto:halford@nationalbcc.org).

# Plantation where 14-year-old slave was hung to become outlet mall

(from Page 3)

the archeological artifacts at Salubria will be taken out of the ground in order to “prepare it for economic development opportunity that is very poorly located,” said Ms. Bick.

In its findings, county Park and Planning staff concluded that protection of the 2.7 acres should be removed because the site has few remaining physical structures that can be restored or preserved, and the best way for the site to be preserved is through archaeological removal.

The Peterson Co., the developer of the glitzy, nearby National Harbor in Prince George’s County, has now received permission to remove all the archeology from the ground at Salubria, and has had the site’s historic designation removed.

William Shipp, a lawyer representing the Peterson Co., said that had the original structures on the property not been destroyed, the site proposal would have been “a different design than what we have today.” Black residents in the area are angry.

“I’m an African-American woman, and I’m sick of my history being obliterated. Nothing that matters to African Americans has been preserved,” Joyce

Hawkins, a 69-year-old Tantallon, Md. resident told Gazette.net last summer when residents first organized to oppose commercial development of the property.

At that time The Washington Business Journal referred to the site in a headline as “Hallowed African American Ground.”

But after the vote, Commissioner Robert H. Schnabel said it was “unfortunate” that the structures on the land had not been maintained properly. In 2003, a historic permit was approved that allowed for the demolition of remaining structures on the property. “What was done was inadequate, and it’s completely gone now,” Mr. Schnabel said, according to Gazette.net.

“What really gets me is that Milt Peterson—the developer—he purchased National Harbor property for \$10.3 million, and he’s already gotten \$500 million subsidy for his entrances and exits from the taxpayer,” Ms. Bick said. “So, it just seems so wrong for them” to take away the Black history, and subsidize it with taxpayer money. “As many as possible of the costs of this development are being externalized to the taxpayers,” she said.

Even the road leading to the projected outlet mall is being widened to four lanes by the county. The developer is proposing to put statues of select individuals in poses

telling the story of Salubria, commemorative plaques, an interactive video, and floral and plant arrangements representing Dr. Bayne’s work as a horticulturalist at the site to designate its historical importance.

“It would have a tremendously negative impact on a Black neighborhood,” Ms. Bick argued. “The story has national significance and should be interpreted on the site,” and not removed for study.

A 140 page Phase II Archeological Evaluation prepared in Oct. 2011 by the firm Thunderbird Archeology for the P.G. County Historic Preservation Commission agreed with the preservationists. “It is our opinion that the historic component of (the) site is eligible for listing,” under three of the five criteria of the National Register of Historic Places, the report stated. Any one of these three could be adequate for the site’s qualification for national listing, and its preservation, its supporters insist.

“The location and boundaries of the site (are) considered to have significant research potential ... Few National period farms or plantations have been studied at the Phase III level in Prince George’s County, Maryland and the lives of enslaved African Americans in the mid-19th century remains a neglected area of archeological in-

quiry throughout the region. Expansive and comprehensive data recovery at (the) site would create a valuable record of this significant site,” the report concludes.

“It is so wrong to have the county executive (Rushern Baker) supporting this,” said Ms. Bick. “It’s being promoted as a place for the community to shop, but there are alternatives where it wouldn’t be destroying a residential community that Peterson owns, but he’s not investing there” because he is continuing to buy property at alternative sites at “fire sale prices because of the

public safety problems there. It’s very unjust.”

Prince Georges County, Md., is a majority Black county, which ranks as the most educated and affluent Black county in America. The county executive is Black and the majority of the county council is also Black. The bottom line, Ms. Bick maintains is the negative impact the outlet mall development will have on the community, after the important historic site is destroyed. “Is this going to widen the gap between the economic barriers in the Washington region?” She insists the outlet mall will widen, not narrow the economic barriers.

## Governor Christie distorts civil rights history

(from Page 7)

to bring marriage equality to all New Jerseyans.”

It is almost unthinkable that a sitting governor would either be so uninformed, so callous to suggest that civil rights movements have not played a necessary and

positive role in ensuring that the promise of freedom, equality and democracy is made real for every citizen. We think the Governor owes the people of New Jersey and all Americans a clear explanation.

*Marc H. Morial is the President and CEO of the National Urban League.*

## Macy’s honoring Romare Bearden

(from Page 9)

runs 2/2 – 2/9

Macy’s Herald Square, NYC, NY – Thurs. 2/9 at 6 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/9 – 2/12

Macy’s Downtown Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA – Thurs. 2/9 at 5 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/9 – 2/12

Macy’s State Street, Chicago, IL – Thurs. 2/9 at 5:30 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/9 – 2/12

Macy’s Lenox Square, Atlanta, GA – Thurs. 2/9 at 6 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/9 – 2/12

Macy’s Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles, CA – Thurs. 2/9 at 6:30 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/9 – 2/19

Macy’s Center City, Philadelphia, PA – Wed. 2/15 at 6 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/15 – 2/19

Macy’s Houston Galleria, Houston, TX – Thurs. 2/16 at 6:30 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/16 – 2/26

Macy’s Union Square, San Francisco, CA – Thurs. 2/16 at 6 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/16 – 2/19

Macy’s Metro Center, Washington, D.C. – Thurs. 2/16 at 5:30 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/16 – 2/19

Macy’s Aventura, Miami, FL –

Thurs. 2/16 at 6:30 p.m. – Exhibit runs 2/16 – 2/19

The Romare Bearden Foundation was established in 1990 as a non-profit organization by the estate of Romare Bearden (1911-1988) to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of this preeminent American artist.

The Foundation realizes its mission by preserving a collection of Bearden’s artworks and extensive archives of books, articles, letters, photographs and other materials; hosting, supporting and presenting scholarly and public programs, including symposia, panel presentations and school-based programs featuring Bearden’s art and life; providing support for and encouragement of museum exhibitions and new scholarly research on Bearden and his contributions to twentieth-century art.

The Romare Bearden Foundation is one of the oldest foundations established by an African American visual artist. For more information [www.beardenfoundation.org](http://www.beardenfoundation.org).

*Macy’s celebrates the Romare Bearden Centennial for Black History Month Image courtesy of the Romare Bearden Foundation (*

## Disrespect and psychic lynching of Prez Obama

(from Page 3)

preme Court Justice Clarence Thomas accused his opponents of a “high tech” lynching.

The current disrespect given President Obama can be considered a “psychic lynching,” in that individuals are encouraged to hate

the president, to disrespect him, and to wish for his death.

This has got to stop! A luta continua.

## Eddie Long apologizes for use of Jewish Torah

(from Page 3)

held the Torah scroll, which was identified as being rescued from Auschwitz.

“The ceremony was not my suggestion, nor was it my intent, to participate in any ritual that is offensive in any manner to the Jewish community.”

Long wrote in a letter sent Saturday to Bill Nigut, Southeast Re-

gional Director of the Anti-Defamation League, according to the Atlanta Journal Constitution. Nigut released the letter on Sunday.

In an article in the newspaper last week, Nigut was critical of the ceremony, saying it “in no way represents any Jewish ritual that I’m familiar with. We do not proclaim individuals to be kings.”

In the letter sent to the ADL, Long

also said “I sincerely denounce any action that depicts me as a King, for I am merely just a servant of the Lord.”

Nigut told CNN that he thought the apology was “very heartfelt, sincere.”

“I was very gratified by Bishop Long apparently recognizing what our concern was,” Nigut also said. Information from CNN.com and JTA contributed to this report.

# City Tech’s History Month events to focus on migration

(from Page 9)

Atrium Building, 4th Floor 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Daily when College is open.)

This two-part exhibit includes a poster presentation by City Tech’s graphic design students (including selected work by Albert Li, designer of the College’s Black History Month artwork) and a visual history using photos, circulars and other printed material tracing the history of migrations by people of African descent throughout the world—the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, The Great Migration and Caribbean Immigration to New York City, among others.

February 6, 2012  
Storytelling in Black Theatre Atrium Student Lounge – Ground Floor Atrium Bldg.

11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

This presentation will include storytelling and a lecture by African American Studies faculty member Monica Williams. It will highlight how storytelling has shaped early and contemporary Black Theatre.

February 16, 2012, 12:45 p.m. – 2 p.m.

City Tech Celebrates the 23rd Year of the National African American Read-In

Namm 119 – New Student Center  
The National Read-In will include student, faculty and staff participants, who will share various forms of literature, including poems, essays and excerpts from novels and plays. Students also will read from original works. Most of the readings will focus on the movement of African people throughout the world.

Among the sponsors of City Tech’s Black History Month events are the College’s Department of African American Studies, Office of Enrollment & Student Affairs, Office of the Provost, Black Male Initiative and Black Women’s Networking Committee. Dr. Graham’s lecture is made possible through “Speakers in the Humanities,” a program of the New York Council for the Humanities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

New York City College of Technology (City Tech) of The City University of New York (CUNY) is the largest public college of technology in New York State. Located at 300 Jay Street in Downtown Brooklyn, the College enrolls 16,000 students in 62 baccalaureate, associate and specialized certificate programs.

## Maryland HBCU desegregation trial

(from Page 7)

at UMBC that duplicated an offering by Morgan State. Salisbury University was permitted to offer a computer science degree that was already being offered by University of Maryland-Eastern Shore. Especially controversial was the decision made by the state in 2005 to allow Towson University and the University of Baltimore to operate a joint Masters in Business Administration program, which had been offered by Morgan State since 1964. Overall, more than a half dozen programs at TWIs duplicated programs already in existence at Maryland’s HBCUs.

Testifying as an expert witness, University of Wisconsin Education Professor Clifton F. Conrad said that the state of Maryland

still operates a segregated higher education system.

“The dual education systems remain,” he testified. “There continues to be substantial differences – severe differences – in terms of the number of programs and the quality of programs. Those students who enter Maryland’s historically Black institutions – whether Black, White, or other races – do not have an equal educational opportunity as those students who attend the state’s traditionally White institutions.”

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com) You can also follow him at [www.twitter.com/currygeorge](http://www.twitter.com/currygeorge).

# WHAT'S GOING ON



By Victoria Horsford

## BLACK ART AND CULTURE

This is to call attention to the African American aesthetic during Black History Month: to **STICK FLY** and to **EVIDENCE, A DANCE COMPANY**.

**STICK FLY**, the Broadway play, produced by Alicia Keys and others, destined to become a classic. The story is set during the dog days of summer in Martha's Vineyard 2005, Not Oak Bluffs, as the playbill indicates, serves up a large doses of an uber middle class African American family with enough dysfunction to satisfy a Shakespeare- Hellman-Hansberry trilogy. Written by Lydia Diamond, directed by Kenny Leon, and starring Condola Rashad, Tracie Thoms, Dule Hille, Mekhi Phifer, Ruben Santiago-Hudson and Rosie Benton, the play delves deep into Providence's most complicated human institution, the family. Family values, memory, sorrows and revelations each take their turn in the unfolding drama, which is in turns funny, dramatic and great theater.

Ron Brown, is a visionary and the founder of the Brooklyn-based Evidence, A Dance Company, which is a household name, an American cultural treasure. The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Evidence, A Dance Company Gala, an Awards Dinner-cum-Benefit, will be held on February 13 at the Grand Ballroom at Manhattan Center. Established in 1985 to promote understanding of the human experience of the African Diaspora through dance, ritual storytelling, **EVIDENCE** was chosen by the US State Department to tour Africa, in 2010, for its Dance Motion, USA program. Brown is choreographer of The Gershwin's Porgy And Bess, a running on Broadway. Visit [www.evidencedance.com](http://www.evidencedance.com)

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

February Independence Dates: Grenada, February 7, Gambia, West Africa; February 18; St. Lucia, February 22; Dominican Republic, February 27 Senegalese court ruled that two-term, term limited President Abdoulaye Wade could run for a third term despite constitutional 2 term mandate. Same court denied presidential candidacy to Senegalese world music phenom Youssou N'Dour and two others because of their failure to produce 10,000 valid signatures. Violence and fires threatens the nation's tranquility. Senegalese in NY, staged anti-government demonstrations in

Harlem last week. Election Day is February 26.

Newly-elected Jamaica Prime Minister Portia Simpson Miller, is the recipient of congratulatory calls from President Obama and US top diplomat Hillary Clinton.

Jamaica celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Independence Anniversary in August and is eyeing republic status, graduating from its commonwealth.

## EDUCATION AGENDA

NYU Professor, Dr. Pedro Noguera, one of 17 NY State University of New York SUNY Board of Trustees, tendered his resignation last week because "SUNY is approving charters that increase inequality and needlessly divide the community." Timing is everything. Dr. Noguera, whom many say should be the next NYC chancellor, resigned a week before the NYC Department of Education announces closures of 25 public schools, to make room for charter schools, on February 9. Harlem's Wadleigh Middle School is on the DOE hit list.

The Emma Bowen Foundation offers paid internships "to minority students interested in Media industry careers" and scholarship assistance to college students majoring in media studies and communications. The Foundation is looking for students with 3.0 GPAs for the internships. Additionally, it offers college scholarship assistance to students on the communications track. WLIB, WBLs, Turner Broadcasting, Time Warner Cable, Post News, NBC Universal, Comcast are some of the Foundation's partner corporations. Application deadline is February 15. Visit: [emmabowenfoundation.com](http://emmabowenfoundation.com).

## THE NYUL

The NY Urban League (NYUL) kickoffs Black History Month with its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Champions of Diversity Awards Breakfast, honoring four exemplary corporations: Kraft Foods Inc.; McDonald's Corporation; Nielsen; and Time Warner Cable, Inc. The NYUL power breakfast on February 8 at the tony Four Seasons Restaurant on East 52 Street.

NYUL President/CEO Arva Rice will host a screening of the CBS Sports documentary "1<sup>st</sup> & Goal In The Bronx: Grambling vs Morgan State, 1968," the historic game which became the precursor for the NYUL Annual Football Classic, at the Schomburg on February 15. Football greats Raymond Chester and James "Shack" Harris, who played the 1968 game have RSVP'd acceptances to the screening.

## BLACK HISTORY CALENDAR

FEB 9: G. William "Billy"



Alicia Keys



Arva Rice



Billy Hunter

Hunter, executive director of the National Basketball Player (S) Association, guest speaker at the Harlem based Mt. Morris Park Community Improvement Association, MMPCIA, Talks, discussing his days as a US Attorney, his football career the 121 day 2011 NBA lockout at the Harlem Branch of the NY Public Library located at 9 West 124 Street. From 6:30 to 8 pm.

FEB 9-11: Macy's at Herald Square, Manhattan, celebrates the legacy of fine artist Romare Bearden during Black History Month on 2/9 at 6 pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor for a reception and exclusive satellite exhibit of his works. On 2/9 Mobay Uptown restaurateur/chef Sheron Chin-Barnes creates Bearden's favorite Caribbean recipes. In Macy's Cellar Kitchen at 1 pm. For full Macy's schedule twitter @macysevents.

FEB 9-26: A Musical comedy revival set in 1950s New Orleans **The Widow and Miss Mamie**, about the conflict between two women after their cheating man dies. Written and directed by Lee Kirk and which boasts 9 fabulous songs. Call 212.368.1237 for more info. Previews begin on 2/9.

FEB 10: Charles Martin month-long photography exhibit, **MANHATTAN**, at the June Kelly Gallery at 166 Mercer Street, NY. 212.226.3660. Opening reception 6-8.

FEB 10: **Metamorphosis In Harlem**, works by four fine artists. Alexis Duque, James Rauchman, Anya Roz, Damian VanCamp, curated by Mariano Cinal at the Poet's Den Gallery, located at 309 East 108 Street, East Harlem. RSVP for opening night reception at [raphael2145@aol.com](mailto:raphael2145@aol.com)

FEB 10-12: The 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL **HARLEM FINE ARTS SHOW** at the Riverside Church at Riverside Drive at 120 Street. Visit [www.hfas.org](http://www.hfas.org) for calendar of events, participating artists and galleries.

FEB 10-12: Harlem's Faison Firehouse Theater presents **Cook, Dixon and Young**, the original Three Mo' Tenors, in concert, a part of the Opera Is Hot At The Firehouse series. This will be the first time that Messrs. Victor Trent Cook, Rodrick Dixon and Thomas Young have performed together since videotaping their 2004 PBS-TV Special, which was staged by George Faison.

Concert is a music journey across many genres - opera, American Song Book, R&B, spiritual and jazz, from Handel to Ellington. Tickets are \$25-45. For reservations call at 212.665-7698. or 212.665.7698. Visit: [www.faisonfirehouse.org](http://www.faisonfirehouse.org).

FEB 11: A screening of the George Lucas feature film **RED TAILS**, about the African American Tuskegee Airmen, the heroic escort and fighter pilots during WWII, will be held at the Convent Avenue Baptist Church located at 420 West 145 Street. For more info, call 212.234.6767

A management consultant, Victoria Horsford is also a NY based journalist and pop culture historian who can be reached at: [victoriahorsford@yahoo.com](mailto:victoriahorsford@yahoo.com)

NNPA Award Winner

# Entertainment



By Don Thomas

## Remembering

# Don Cornelius' *SOUL TRAIN* laid the rails of a cultural revolution



Don Cornelius (THEN)

By Marco R. della Cava and Steve Jones

Armed with sharp suits and a mesmerizing voice, Don Cornelius set out in 1970 to entertain viewers of Chicago's WCIU with a song-and-dance TV show called "Soul Train." Turns out, America wanted in on the party. Robert Hanashiro, wrote "Soul Train" host Don Cornelius introduced television audiences to legendary artists including Aretha Franklin, Marvin Gaye and Barry White.

Cornelius, 75, recently died at his home in Sherman Oaks, California from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, the Los Angeles County coroner's office said. The music maverick struck financial and cultural gold with "Soul Train," whose 35 years on the air made it the longest first-run syndicated show in history, with an effect that crossed generations and races.

"Soul Train" gave the Black community reason to be proud," says Kenneth Gamble, half of the fabled songwriting team Gamble & Huff, who wrote the show's

chugging theme song, known as T.S.O.P. (The Sound of Philadelphia). "It was so rare at the time to see someone Black doing anything like that."

If Dick Clark's "American Bandstand" was Saturday morning's placid place to play, "Soul Train," with its driving music and innovative dancers rooted in the urban scene, was the coolest party you could hope to crash. Its minimalist stage played host to everyone from the Jackson 5 to Elton John.

"That show was the centerpiece of my Saturdays," says hip-hop artist Terius "The-Dream" Nash, who co-wrote the Beyoncé hit "Single Ladies (Put A Ring on It)" and performed on the program in 2005. "Don reminded me of my old band teacher. He could look you in the eye and you felt like he knew what you were going to be."

"Soul Train" had a substantial impact and was very much a part of contemporary music history," says Clive Davis, chief creative officer of Sony Music Worldwide and the record mogul who nurtured the careers of Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston and Dionne

Warwick. "His show reached a sizable and devoted audience, and every major artist of the time did it and did it willingly."

### The music industry mourns

News of Cornelius' death rippled through the entertainment industry and the blogosphere, where fans famous and anonymous alike were eager to pay tribute to a man whose signature sign-off — "We wish you peace, love and soul!" — became as familiar as family. "Don Cornelius! It's so shocking and stunning," Aretha Franklin said in a statement. "A young, progressive brother set the pace and worldwide standard for young aspiring African-American men."

Earvin "Magic" Johnson, the basketball legend and chairman of Soul Train Holdings, recalled being glued to the television on Saturdays: "Soul Train taught the world to dance" and gave musicians and dancers "The ultimate platform to showcase their talents when no one else would."

When Arash Shirazi came to the USA from Iran, he watched "Soul Train" to learn English and wound up going into show business as a booking agent. He tweeted his condolences, adding that the show "opened the door to R&B dance culture. ... It shaped my musical tastes and added a visual element to a song."

Actor Omar Epps thanked the man for "creating a platform which helped uplift me through my childhood," and rapper MC



Don Cornelius displays one of the many awards he received during more than 3 decades *SOUL TRAIN* aired globally on television



Don Cornelius (NOW)

Hammer wrote: "It meant more to me to perform on "Soul Train" than to win a Grammy ... Loved U So Much Don."

With his smooth, resonant baritone, Cornelius introduced hundreds of stars to the nation's multicultural TV audience, including James Brown, Jerry Butler, Marvin Gaye, The O'Jays and Barry White. In the background were a colorful menagerie of partiers who influenced dance and fashion and opened a window onto black culture that had received scant media exposure.

"Back then, there was no targeted television and I just had the sense that television shouldn't be that way," Cornelius told USA Today in a rare interview in 2010, when the show was celebrated with a VH1 documentary. "The primary mission of the show was to provide TV exposure for people who would not get it otherwise. People

who didn't get invited to The Mike Douglas Show, or (Johnny) Carson. There was no ethnic television, just general-market television, which meant mostly white people."

Soul Train's role in pushing Black culture into the mainstream cannot be underestimated, says Mark Anthony Neal, professor of Black popular culture at Duke University. "Motown had laid down the sonic groundwork, but Don Cornelius let you visualize it," he says. "Black power was visible on "Soul Train." It's what led to the love affair between Black and white culture, and why eventually you started seeing white musicians like Boz Scaggs on Don's show. That show filled a gap."

Cornelius developed his brainchild while working as a journalist and DJ in Chicago. "Soul Train" started as an after-school dance

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 20)

## CELEBRATE 'BLACK HISTORY MONTH' 2012



BET Honors education honoree Beverly 'Bev' Kearney

By Audrey J. Bernard  
Lifestyles & Society Editor

During Black History Month, BET Honors which took place on Saturday evening, January 14, 2012 will be telecast on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 8 p.m. (central). The fifth consecutive show took place at the historic Warner Theater in Washington, D.C. and honored seven exceptional legends in music, literature, entertainment, media, service and education.

Prior to the awards show, the honorees enjoyed a delightful private dinner reception hosted by **Debra L. Lee**, chairman and CEO of BET networks at the Corcoran Gallery of Art on Friday, January 13, 2012.

Other honorees included renowned poet/author **Dr. Maya Angelou** (literary arts); internationally acclaimed musician **Stevie Wonder** (musical arts); Grammy-Award winning songstress **Mariah Carey** (entertainer); influential filmmaker **Spike Lee** (media); the heroic **Tuskegee Airmen** (service); and inspirational coach and mentor **Beverly "Bev" Kearney** (education). Actress **Gabrielle Union** hosted the star-studded affair, which also featured an on-stage appearance by our stunning **First Lady Michelle Obama**.

As one of the exemplary honorees, Kearney, head coach of the University of Texas women's track and field for eighteen years, received the education honor for her extraordinary work as an inspirational coach and mentor. "There is not an honoree who I don't feel a connection to. It's truly an amazing group of people," Kearney said. "I am humbled and inspired. For me, this is the highest honor I've been given. I'm blessed to be among such great individuals."

Following a powerful musical tribute by soul lyricist **Common** and vocalist **Anthony Hamilton** alongside an impressive high school choir, Kearney, whose pretty tight-fitting beaded gown, showed off her curvaceous body.

"I just didn't know it was possible for me to feel better than I look and I look good," said the revered coach in accepting her award. "My legacy is a long line of people who have succeeded in spite of tragedy; they have

## BET Honors presents education award to sports superstar coach Bev Kearney



BET Honors honorees (left to right) Colonel Charles McGee, Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., Beverly Kearney, Spike Lee, Mariah Carey and Stevie Wonder with First Lady Michelle Obama and gala host Gabrielle Union (Photo courtesy BET Honors)

*"There is not an honoree who I don't feel a connection to. It's truly an amazing group of people. I am humbled and inspired. For me, this is the highest honor I've been given. I'm blessed to be among such great individuals." - Bev Kearney*



Bev Kearney presented with BET education honor by her mentee Sanya Richards Ross

taught me that failure is not an option."

Kearney's story of triumph through tragedy of losing her mother at 17 years old, experiencing homelessness and working multiple jobs at an early age to support herself, not only inspires, it motivates. Her unique lesson, which applies to people of all walks of life, is that persistence can help you reach goals.

This latest distinction from BET only adds credence to that notion. "I really just want to sit and listen and absorb," Kearney said. "With these other honorees, I'll be sitting at the feet of greatness."

Her passion and gift for coaching and mentoring has inspired some of the finest athletes to achieve their greatest successes. This includes twelve Olympians



First Lady Michelle Obama hugs honoree Spike Lee as honoree Bev Kearney admiringly looks on

winning seven Olympic medals, three of which were gold. Her record of seven national championships is the highest among African American coaches in all collegiate Division I Sports, and second among women coaches.

Recognized as one of the most victorious coaches in the history of track and field, Kearney was inducted into the prestigious International Women's Sports Hall of Fame.

Her other accolades include United States Track and Field Hall of Fame; and the lifetime achievement award from Auburn University marking only the second time in history that a woman has received that award and the first African American in history to receive the award.

In 2009 Woman's Day maga-

zine named her as one of their "50 Women on a Mission" along with such notables as First Lady Michelle Obama, Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**, and actress and philanthropist **Angelina Jolie**.

She also served as the head coach at University of Florida and University of Toledo and assistant coach at University of Tennessee and Indiana State University. The men and women she has coached throughout her 30-year career stand out as America's best athletes with over a 95% graduation rate and a total of 250 All-American's calling her their coach.

Through a coaching career that now spans four decades, Kearney has grown into one of the most decorated and distin-

guished coaches in the sport of women's track and field. A revered athlete, she has led the Longhorns to six national titles and in 2007 was enshrined in the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association's Hall of Fame.

In addition to her coaching accolades, Kearney is a proactive philanthropist in the Austin community and nationally as well.

In addition to her invaluable work as UT head coach, the hardest working coach on any field founded *Pursuit of Dreams*, a non-profit organization providing intervention resources, motivation, and guidance.

She dreamed up the *Minority Mentorship Symposium* six years ago as a forum for teaching, inspiring and mentoring student-athletes, but it has grown to an event that reaches the entire community.

This year the *Minority Mentorship Symposium* will take place Friday, March 30, through Saturday March 31, 2012, and will include the popular *Intimate Conversations with Greatness*, to give UT students an opportunity to listen and learn from those who have already achieved excellence.

Initially an intimate gathering of pupils and mentors, the symposium is now a focal point of the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays weekend, drawing and attracting professional athletes, high-profile minority executives and stars from the sports, music, political and corporate industries.

The stellar symposium event will culminate at the *Divas & Gents* honors/awards dinner on Friday evening, March 30, 2012 where my esteemed colleague **Don Thomas** (Gents awardee) and **Audrey J. Bernard** (Divas awardee) will be honored.



BET Honors honoree Bev Kearney arriving at gala

# Don Cornelius' *SOUL TRAIN* laid the rails of a cultural revolution

(from page 18)

show on WCIU, supported by such local acts as Curtis Mayfield and The Chi-Lites. The show was sponsored by Johnson Products, makers of Afro Sheen, and with owner George Johnson's help, Cornelius moved production to Los Angeles for a weekly syndi-

cated show that premiered in 1971. Stations skeptical of the unproven series were won over when Gladys Knight agreed to do the pilot. Other artists quickly jumped on board.

The program was rife with iconic elements. There was the "Soul Train" line, in which pairs of dancers popped creative dance moves

and flashed outrageous jumpsuits and Afros on their way down.

The Scramble Board gave two dancers 60 seconds to unscramble the name of a notable African-American entertainer or historical figure.

The dancers became stars in their own right and created moves such as locking, roboting and waacking (later known as voguing) that would be replicated at clubs and parties around the world.

Singer Jody Watley and dance partner Jeffrey Daniels, who would become part of hit-making trio Shalamar, got their start on the show. (Daniels' backslide step is credited with influencing Michael Jackson's moonwalk.) So did Rosie Perez and Fred "Rerun" Berry (What's Happening!!).

"He was the host with the most," says Jermaine Hall, editor of Vibe magazine. "He was the representation of cool. He put across to the culture at large what was going on in the African-American community, much the way later on hip-hop would do the same."

The power of "seeing yourself on television can't be put into words, that wonderful reinforcing image of what it meant to be Black," says Jeanne Sparrow, co-host of a morning TV show on WCIU, where she once worked with colleagues who had helped Cornelius launch his hit.

"I wasn't aware of that right away, because I was just a kid in Louisiana and all I cared about was the great fashions and learning the new dance moves," she says. "But there was clearly a lot more going on there. Today, I still say goodbye to some friends with, 'Love, peace and soul.'"

## Troubled times in later years

Cornelius would conduct his "Soul Train" until 1993, which stayed on the tracks another 13 years with assorted hosts. By the time he sold it to MadVision Entertainment in 2008, he had created an empire that included the Soul Train Music Awards and Lady of Soul Awards.

But privately, life wasn't always a party for Cornelius. In recent years, he was beset by health and legal problems. He was arrested in October 2008 at his Los Angeles home on felony domestic abuse charges. Two months later, he pleaded not guilty to spousal abuse against his estranged wife, Russian model Victoria Avila-Cornelius. He changed his plea to no contest in March 2009 and was placed on 36 months' probation.

During 2009 divorce proceedings in Los Angeles County Superior Court, Cornelius stated in court documents: "I have significant health issues. I want to finalize this divorce before I die." He had had a stroke and undergone brain surgery.

So far, no reason for Cornelius' apparent suicide has been offered. And those who knew him say there were no signs he was depressed in the

days before his death.

"He was not a despondent guy," says Kenard Gibbs, CEO of Soul Train Holdings, who had been in contact with Cornelius in efforts to revive the brand. "We've been in talks about bringing Soul Train back to TV," he says. Another close friend and associate also says there was "no indication this was going to happen."

"Just last week, he and I spoke about dropping in on a friend's new restaurant outside of L.A.," says Darryl Porter, co-founder of PorterGeller Entertainment, which had been working with Cornelius to translate the story of "Soul Train" into a feature film. "He didn't seem like a guy who wasn't planning on a future."

Porter says he and Cornelius

met with studios about a film, but nothing stuck. (Warner Bros. confirms the project is no longer in play at that studio.) Porter says scripts and titles came and went as Cornelius struggled with what tale he wanted to tell.

"There's a story worth telling about how Don changed the culture for Black Americans," says Porter, who adds he knew Cornelius for 26 years and was treated like a son. "He influenced dance and fashion, taking regional fads and making them national trends. He helped put Black products on TV. And he was so charismatic and funny. "Soul Train" for us was like church on Saturday," Porter sighs. "It's a sad ending to a phenomenal life."

**Contributing: Edna Gundersen and Carly Mallenbaum**

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James Earl Jones arriving at media meet & greet

# Tony Award winner James Earl Jones headlines *Gore Vidal's The Best Man*

On Wednesday, February 1, 2012 Jeffrey Richards Associates hosted a media day and invited the press to meet and greet the cast and creative team behind a revival of *Gore Vidal's The Best Man* at the New 42nd Street Studios in Times Square, New York City.

The first revival since the critically acclaimed 2000 production began rehearsals on Monday, January 30, 2012, with the first preview performance set for Tuesday, March 6, in anticipation of an April 1, 2012 opening at the **Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre** (236 West 45th Street, NYC) for a limited 18-week engagement.

Two-time Tony Winner **James Earl Jones** ("Fences" and "The Great White Hope") will play Arthur Hockstader, a Trumanesque chief executive deciding between endorsing the potential presidential nominees William Russell and Joe Cantwell in this play about power, ambition, political secrets, ruthlessness and the race for the presidency.

The all-star theatrical event also stars, Tony and Emmy Award winner **John Larroquette**, Emmy and Golden Globe winner **Candice Bergen**, Emmy Award winner **Eric McCormack**, Tony Award nominee **Kerry Butler**, Tony Award winner **Jefferson Mays**, Drama Desk Award winner **Michael McKean** and five time Tony Award winner **Angela Lansbury**.

*Gore Vidal's The Best Man* will be directed by **Michael Wilson**, who recently directed the acclaimed epic production of Horton Foote's *The Orphans Home Cycle* Part I, II and III at The Signature Theatre Company as well as the recent *Dividing The Estate* on Broadway.

*Gore Vidal's The Best Man* is set at the national convention where two candidates are vying for their party's nomination during the primary season. It's an inside look at the dirt-digging, double-dealing, triple-crossing chicanery of presidential electioneering and what could be more fun in a presidential campaign season than these theatrical fireworks.

The design team includes Tony and Drama Desk Award winning scenic designer **Derek McLane** (33 Variations, Anything Goes), Tony and Drama Desk Award winning lighting designer **Kenneth Posner** (The Coast of Utopia, Part 2 - Shipwreck), five-time Tony Award nominated costume designer **Ann Roth** (The Book of



*Gore Vidal's The Best Man* cast, crew members, creative team and producers meet the press



*Gore Vidal's The Best Man* director **Michael Wilson**



**Gore Vidal**, Author & Essayist



*Gore Vidal's The Best Man* producer **Jeffrey Richards**

Mormon), Drama Desk Award winning sound designer **John Gromada** (Seminar, The Orphans' Home Cycle) and projection designer **Peter Nigrini** (Fela!, 9 to 5: The Musical).

*Gore Vidal's The Best Man* originally ran on Broadway in March of 1960 and was nominated for 6 Tony Awards including Best Play. Melvyn Douglas, portraying candidate William Russell, a former secretary of state, won the Tony Award for outstanding actor. The production ran for 521 performances. The 1964 film version starred Henry Fonda, Cliff Robertson, and Edie Adams.

The political parody which last played Broadway in September 2000 starred Spalding Gray, Elizabeth Ashley, Charles Durning, Christine Ebersole, Michael



*Gore Vidal's The Best Man* cast (left to right) **Michael McKean**, **Candice Bergen**, **Angela Lansbury**, **John Larroquette**, **James Earl Jones**, **Eric McCormack**, **Kerry Butler**, **Jefferson Mays**, **Donna Hanover** and **Michael Wilson**

Learned, Chris Noth, Mark Blum, Jonathan Hadary and Jordan Lage; with Walter Cronkite as the voice of the news commentator. That production was honored with the Drama Desk and Outer Critics Circle Awards for Outstanding Revival of a Play and featured first time producer and longtime theatrical press agent **Jeffrey Richards** making his Broadway debut.

The spring 2012 production of *Gore Vidal's The Best Man* marks the first major revival of the play and will reunite Richards with his 2000 producers **Jerry Frankel**, **Michael B. Rothfeld** (Eagle Productions) and **Darren Bagert** (Infinity Stages). Visit:

[www.thebestmanonbroadway.com](http://www.thebestmanonbroadway.com) for additional information. (Photo Credit: **Walter McBride / Retna Ltd.**)

**Gore Vidal** is recognized as one of our foremost authors and essayists of the last seven decades. In addition to a major sequence of novels about American history and satirical novels, Vidal has written dozens of television plays, film scripts and even three mystery novels under a pseudonym. He has also written over a hundred essays, gathered in several volumes published between 1962 and 2001. Vidal's career as an essayist culminated in 1993 when he won the National Book Award for *United States: Essays, 1952-1992*.

# The Dallas Dance Theater delivered a powerful debut performance



The duet "Absolute Rule," by Elisa Monte (Photo: Jimbe Carroll)

By Jimbe Carroll  
Contributing Scribe

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre (DBDT), recently delivered a powerful debut performance for their 2011-2012 New York season to a packed house at The Ailey Citigroup Theater in Manhattan. DBDT, a modern dance company, founded by Ann M. Williams in Dallas Texas is celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this season.

Williams' mission is to create and produce contemporary modern dance at its highest level of artistic excellence. The company, which was birthed in 1976, is recognized not only in its native Dallas location but globally. They have toured throughout the world and are scheduled for Belize this year.

The ties with The Alvin Ailey American Dance Company (AAADC) go way back since Williams trained under Ailey in the 1960's. She would have the company as guest dancers at Bishop College in Dallas where she taught dance.

The program at The Ailey Citigroup Theater consisted of 7 pieces in all. "A Boundless Journey" choreographed by Dianne McIntyre, gave a sense of the spirituals of early century African Americans coming together to get to a better place. The duet "Absolute Rule," by Elisa Monte. The angular body positions of the dancers reflected the sometimes unusual angles of male/female relationships. Each move flowed with calculating precision.

"Lighting" by Milton T. Tatum Jr. rocked. One of the highlights of the evenings program was a piece by the late Ulysses Dove.

"Vespers," the religious inspired all woman group that takes you to that spiritual plane he envisioned from his surroundings in the church. The ballet consisted of 6 chairs and 6 dancers who

take you on a very moving trip.

"Interpret," choreographed by Hope Boykin. The all white clad dancers danced to the music of Tchaikovsky with a whimsical interpretation of ballet mixed with a modern twist to it. The dancers brought some of their own 'flavor' to the piece in

contrasts to other interpreta-

tions I have seen of this piece. "Instinct," a piece by Frances Harper dealt with a ceremonial and tribal bonding of the all male cast with powerful alpha male gracefulness. The attire of long golden metallic pant sheaths on the strong bodies gave them a regal look that followed them throughout their destination.

The one solo of the evening, "The Edge of My Life" by Bruce Wood, performed by DBDT II director Nycole Ray, who set a mood of mystery and question with the story of a woman who is at the edge of her patience being the one who has to carry the world on her shoulders.

And last but not least, the core group in "Night Run"

by former Ailey student, choreographer Christopher L. Huggins.

A fast paced relentless rhythm of dance and music that drives with building force till it almost stops in mid air.

A theme of social interaction is dominate though out the work. "Night Run" gave the finale of the evening a surge of momentous energy.

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Marc Rasbury

# BEACON SPORTS



## It's better to be lucky than good

By Marc "Razz" Rasbury

You know the old saying that sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. Well that might have been the case with the New York Giants, as they defeated the New England Patriots, 21-17, in Super Bowl XLVI. Now I'm not saying that the Giants were not good, but even the biggest Big Blue fan has to admit that their beloved team was lucky as well.

If you saw my Facebook postings or heard me on the radio last week, you know that I was concerned about the Giants' chances going into the big game. It was not because I did not think that the Giants were the better team, but I was just concerned that it seemed Big Blue was overconfident.

They were yapping it up as if they were their MetLife Stadium roommates, the New York Jets. You had one player telling the media that they rattled New England Quarterback Tom Brady, while another guaranteed a parade this week. Then to make matters worse, someone in the organization's Promotions Department posted on the team's official website that the Giants won the Super Bowl. The only problem was that it was posted on Saturday 27 hours before the coin toss. I understand that on paper they were the better team, but I just felt that it was too much bravado coming out of Big Blue's camp and that the situation with the web site was going to bring on some bad karma.

As the game got underway, the Giants took it right to Brady and company. They forced Brady into a safety on the Pats opening drive, and then later



Excited and jubilant fans march in parade to salute the New York Giants following their second Super Bowl thrashing of New England Patriots in four years.

scored a touchdown on 11-yard catch by wide receiver Victor Cruz for a, 9-0, lead. Then the momentum swung toward the Patriots sidelines.

The Pats ended the second half scoring 10 unanswered points with a touchdown at the end of the second quarter. I was sitting there with my beer in my hand thinking to myself that the Giants dominated the first half and went into the locker room down by one.

Then New England came out and put together another brilliant, time-consuming drive to take a 14-9 lead. My worse fears were materializing right before my eyes. The Patriots defense was keeping

Big Blue's offense at bay and their offensive line was giving Brady time to pick Coughlin's defense apart. But as dominant as the Patriots were in the second and third quarters, the Giants were still within striking distance because Coughlin and Company took advantage of some luck bounces of the ball.

The first break came two weeks before the game's kickoff, when the Patriots All-World Tight End, Rob Gronkowski, suffered a high ankle sprain, which limited his mobility on Sunday. Without Gronkowski at full strength, the Giants were able to focus on Brady's other weap-

ons.

Then the Patriots forced two fumbles and were not able to come up with any of them.

The Giants went on to score after the first one and the second one was deep in Big Blue's territory where the Patriots could have easily scored a touchdown or least came away with a field goal.

Brady was on fire in the middle two quarters, but was a little off in the fourth despite what his wife, Super Model Gisele Bundchen thought. Perhaps he was thrown off after getting sacked where he injured his non throwing shoulder in the third

quarter. The Giants pass rush, which was dormant for most of the first three quarters, came alive in the final 17-20 minutes of the game and Brady spent the last quarter running for his life.

Let's us not forget all of the passes that New England receivers dropped, especially in the fourth quarter. Wes Welker and Brady have been the most prolific quarterback/wide receiver tandem in the League over the past five years. Brady's poorly thrown ball forced Welker to turn 290 degrees in the air. Yes, Welker got both hands on the ball, but the degree of difficulty would have put that catch on par with Mario Manningham's gem in the closing moments of the game. That is a play that Brady and Welker make in their sleep and for them not to capitalize on that situation restored my faith that the Giants were going to win that game. Aaron Hernandez and Deon Branch also had significant drops during that final drive. Finally, Gronkowski's ankle came into play again on last play of the game.

If his ankle was full strength, there is a good chance he could have come up with that Hail Mary pass that ended the game. He could not push off of that bum foot and was just inches away from scooping that ball up after it was batted down to the ground. He had an excellent shot of grabbing that ball if his foot was even at 75%.

As great as the Giants were in this postseason, a little bit of luck played a part in them winning the Vince Lombardi trophy. I felt that Brady still had a little bit of magic left in his right arm and could have pulled out another miracle. Thank God for Big Blue fans that was not the case.

## Giants beat Patriots for second Super Bowl in four years

By Jason Clinkscales

It wasn't the prettiest of games and unless you are a true Big Blue fan, you'd probably stray from calling this the greatest Super Bowl ever played. However, the results were the same as the constantly-referenced classic four years ago in Arizona. The Giants came to Indianapolis, saw the prize and eventually conquered the New England Patriots to win Super Bowl XLVI, 21-17.

It was a rather spirited defensive battle where a mere handful of bad plays would be the difference between a fourth title for the Patriots and the same for the Giants. In a contest more like their Week 10 showdown in New England than Super Bowl XLII, the Giants jumped ahead of the Patriots and forced them to play catch up against a relentless defense. That very group bottled up another top offense from start to finish as each playoff game pitted

New York against four top-eleven offenses.

The Patriots, usually heralded for an obsession with perfection, made several mental errors that the Giants gladly took advantage of. Tom Brady was responsible for the game's first points, but on a safety because he was called for intentional grounding while throwing out of his own end zone. Rob Gronkowski fell short and Wes Welker dropped passes that would have given the Pats the win. Finally, in the vein of the overthinking that has consumed the NFL in recent years, on the Giants' final drive, the defense decided not to stop Ahmad Bradshaw from scoring in hopes that there would be enough time for Brady & crew to march down the field for the win.

Though Eli Manning took home a second Super Bowl MVP trophy (30-for-40, 296 yards, one touchdown), several players could have been considered the true star of the game. It was the pick of the litter



Manningham made a MVP caliber catch to put the Giants in position to win the game along the parade images.

between Justin Tuck's two sacks of Tom Brady, Michael Boley's game-leading nine tackles and pass deflection, Chase Blackburn's interception or Bradshaw's 73 rushing yards and title-winning score. However, the MVP honors could have gone to arguably the second best-player in these last

five weeks, Hakeem Nicks, who totaled 28 catches, 444 receiving yards and four touchdowns in a stellar first postseason. Victor Cruz scored the game's first touchdown and Mario Manningham's brilliant 38-yard catch on the sideline led to Bradshaw's score, but Nicks' ten catches for 109 yards

paced the team against an improved New England postseason defense.

Much has been said about the even-keeled nature of Manning, the steady hand of coach Tom Coughlin and the shrewd roster management by general manager Jerry Reese; all praise being deserved. Yet, it's comical considering that until this season, each had been criticized for being just that; themselves. The team certainly didn't make things easier for anyone - fans and team personnel alike - because of the notorious slide in November and December, but there was a united message of faith within.

That faith can very well be tested in the offseason as every team loses players in the offseason due to free agency. Even the champs won't be immune to defections as the team has 21 unrestricted free agents, including Osi Umenyiora. However, at least for a few weeks, these Giants as Reese built, Coughlin coached and Manning led can enjoy being part of another championship.