



Kiana Webb Talks McDonald's 'Next Generation' Program
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Ruben Santiago-Hudson's Play 'Lackawanna Blues' Lands in L.A.
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VOL. LXXXV NO. 15, \$1.00 +CA. Sales Tax "For Over Eighty Years The Voice of Our Community Speaking for Itself" THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

Nipsey Hussle: A Legacy That Transcends Rap



{See NIP A-10}

Nipsey Hussle COURTESY PHOTO

A peaceful vigil is set in front of THE MARATHON CLOTHING Store, in honor of slain rapper. PHOTO BRANDON I. BROOKS

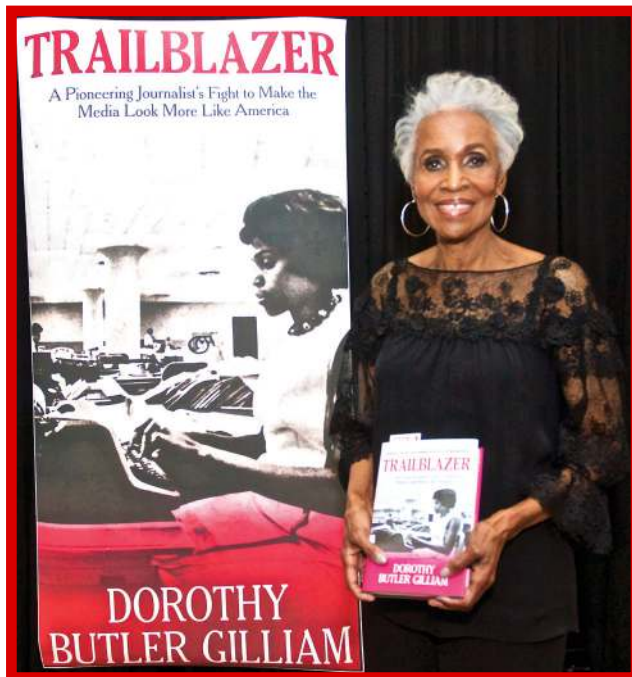
Dorothy Butler Gilliam - Washington Post's First Black Woman Reporter

BY CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Staff Writer

Being the "first" can be more than challenging, but Dorothy Butler Gilliam cleared every high hurdle to claim the title and succeed beyond all expectations.

Gilliam was the first Black woman reporter at the Washington Post, one of the nation's most respected newspapers. Hired in 1961, she went on to become an award-winning journalist, editor and columnist during her 50-year career.

The trials she endured – blatant racism, gender discrimination, segregated facilities – could easily destroy a lesser person, but Gilliam determined long ago that journalism was her joy and defeat was not her goal.



Dorothy Butler Gilliam displays her memoir.

"It was like diving into a sea of White men with two invisible weights – one was

race and one was gender. But, I knew that if I didn't succeed, it would be just that much harder for the next Black woman," insisted Gilliam.

She reveals her story of incredible perseverance and her efforts to report stories from an African American perspective in her new memoir, "Trailblazer – A pioneering Journalist's Fight to Make the Media Look More Like America." During a community book signing hosted by retired Congresswoman Diane E. Watson at the Lula Washington Dance Theater on March 25, Gilliam recounted her experiences as a Black woman reporter.

{See GILLIAM A-8}

Report Reveals How the NCAA Shortchanges Black Men



Money earned by schools during the famed March Madness tournament and the revenue generated from the College Football Playoff (CFP) series, will likely total \$1 billion for the NCAA, according to the report

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

With March Madness entering its final stages and the recent college admissions scandal continuing to unfurl, all eyes are on

higher education.

Coming into view behind the excitement of the scoreboards and drama of the bribery scandal is a troubling dynamic playing out in real time: Big-time college sports are deepening

{See NCAA A-8}

Missing & Forgotten: Bias and non-attention given to Black Girls who 'disappear'

The National Newspaper Publishers Association continues its series on missing Black women and girls.

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

Have you heard of Andreen Nicole McDonald of Texas?

She's young, just 29-years-old, pretty, married to a military husband and missing.

Like thousands of other Black females who've gone missing, there has been no national media coverage of her disappearance.

Earlier this month, her husband, Andre McDonald, was arrested in connection to his wife's disappearance. Andreen is still missing, but presumed dead.

Police say that Andre McDonald bought a shovel, an ax, two five-gallon drums of gasoline, work gloves,



Andreen Nicole McDonald, COURTESY LOOP JAMAICA (left) and **Victoria S. Wright**, NCMC

heavy duty trash bags and a "burn barrel," after friends reported his wife missing.

"He tried to destroy the receipt for those items

to conceal the timing and whereabouts of his purchase," said Deidra Robey, founder of Black and Missing But Not Forgotten, a

nonprofit based in Baton Rouge, La.

"After his arrest, the news coverage seemed to stop. It did not go beyond

local news, and even though the FBI is involved in the case, the story was never picked up nationally. I can only imagine that this is because she's just not the right color," Robey said.

When Victoria S. Wright was last seen, at about 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27, the 13-year-old was clutching a silver fanny pack and standing on the porch of a family member's home along Dale Drive in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Wearing a black hoodie with white writing, light colored blue jeans, and light blue and white

{See MISSING A-8}

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Local Business Fills Digital Void

Crypto Blockchain Plug will offer information on cryptocurrency among other amenities.

BY BRIAN W. CARTER
Contributing Writer

Cryptocurrency—sounds kind of like something from a sci-fi movie to some, but many are getting in the know. Entrepreneurs, Najah Roberts and business partner, Jaci Marie, want the community at the table when it comes to digital money.



Bitcoin Room

COURTESY PHOTO

“This brand-new technology has already shown its ability to disrupt the global financial system,” said Marie. “It has created a paradigm shift in the way we look at money.”

“Most cryptocurrencies solve a problem and for our community, it is crucial to begin to address some of the issues that plague us as it relates to finances,” said Roberts.

To that end, both ladies founded Crypto Blockchain

Plug, which recently celebrated its grand opening located at 614 E. Manchester Boulevard in Inglewood, CA. Marie and Roberts join other Black cryptocurrency enthusiasts becoming the first African American, women-owned Cryptocurrency OTC exchange in the country, which makes their business 1 out of only 3 cryptocurrency exchanges

in the United States.

They are both California natives, with Roberts born in Inglewood and Marie originally from San Mateo, CA. Marie’s educational background is in healthcare with a bachelor’s degree in nursing and public health from Cal State L.A. Roberts attended Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida and has a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice administration and her master’s degree in business

administration. They both shared how they came to take interests in cryptocurrency.

“I joined the Dr. Boyce Watkins, Black Business School Online in 2017 and went down a rabbit hole for about six months learning about how digital money works,” said Roberts. “I was already in financial services watching how things were done on the traditional side and this new money, new transparency was something that spoke to my soul.”

“Every day I spent researching and just could not stop reading, the more I understood what was in store for the future.”

“I got involved out of curiosity and wanting to understand this new technology of my son’s generation, the Blockchain,” said Marie. “This technology is a global platform that fundamentally changes what we can do online, how we do it, and who can participate.”

So, cryptocurrency, why is this important to the Black community? Is this important to the Black community? The creation of Crypto Blockchain Plug, a 3,000 square foot, beautifully designed office space built with Crypto and Blockchain enthusiasts in mind, says yes—it’s important.

“Cryptocurrency is essentially a digital ledger of

transactions,” said Marie. “Bitcoin, is a type of digital currency where a record of transactions are maintained and new units of currency are generated by computer solutions of mathematical problems which operates independently of a central bank.”

Marie continued, “Blockchain is a platform and its technology allows cryptocurrencies to operate within. Essentially, any transaction capable of being recorded can look to the use of blockchain, ie., medical records, birth certificates, insurance policies.

“However, as a financial-based blockchain, meaning it is not governed by any central bank or monetary authority, it is maintained by a peer-to-peer community computer network.

“Just like any other currency, from the US Dollar to the money in your Paypal account, currency has value because we all agree it has value.”

Crypto Blockchain Plug also offers two chic lounges, a 12-seat conference room, a kitchenette, Social Media Recording Studio, shared offices, a Crypto Blockchain store and a space for kids called the Krypto Kids Kamp. Visitors will also take note of the Crypto-Space Smart ATM with both Crypto and traditional bank-



COURTESY PHOTO

Najah Roberts and Jaci Marie at the grand opening Crypto Blockchain Plug.

ing capabilities. In an effort to educate the community with the proper understanding of the Cryptocurrency/Blockchain Eco System, monthly meet-ups and free workshops will be offered to bring individuals unfamiliar with this new financial concept, into realization.

“Unfortunately, in our community we are always subjected to the hype when it comes to people introducing ‘get rich quick schemes’ and those bad actors over the last couple of years introduced Bitcoin to our community in the wrong way,” said Roberts. “Network marketers swooped through our community, took people’s money and left a bad taste in their mouth giving them nothing in return.

“Cryptocurrency is not hype or something else altogether, it is an entire ecosystem.”

“It’s an amazing space

for crypto enthusiasts, a lounge for crypto beginners and the advanced within the community,” said Marie. “It’s a place where you have real people to answer your crypto questions.”

Marie and Roberts care about their community and want everybody to know exactly what’s going on when it comes to cryptocurrency. They saw a need in the community before most even knew it was needed. If anyone has questions, Crypto Blockchain Plug exists to help provide the answers.

“Cryptocurrency nor Blockchain Technology is going anywhere soon and we as a community don’t necessarily need to embrace it but we need to understand what is going on behind the scenes and position ourselves at this juncture is critical,” said Roberts.

For additional information, visit www.cryptoblockchainplug.com.

Changing the Narrative on ‘Diverse Representation’ in the Sports & Entertainment Industry

BY KIMBERLEE BUCK
Staff Writer

In 2010, attorney Jaia

Thomas combined her legal expertise and background in the sports and entertainment industry to create her very

own law practice, The Law Office of Jaia Thomas which primarily “focuses on providing quality and cus-

tomized legal solutions to corporations and individuals in all facets of the sports and entertainment industry.”

Recently, the Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper sat down with Thomas to discuss her practice and push for diverse representation in the sports and entertainment industry and why it matters.

Throughout her career, Thomas heard snide remarks about her gender and ethnicity and how that should affect her ability to adequately represent her clients.

“Being a Black woman who is an attorney, from the time I have started my career until now, I have always heard side comments from people about what they think an effective attorney needs to look like (ie) a White male, a Jewish male... I have heard comments like that my entire career and it’s even worse when it comes from people who look like you,” said Thomas.

During her career, Thomas met many Black athletes and actors who had a predominantly White team representing them in the courtroom and in their professional careers.

“I’m a big advocate for recycling money within our own communities and there’s no reason why more of us shouldn’t be hiring Black lawyers, Black agents, and Black publicists. For me this is something that I have always complained about but last year was the tipping point,”



COURTESY PHOTO

Jaia Thomas

she said.

“After that, I started to ask more Black actors and actresses ‘why don’t you have a Black person on your team?’ and a lot of them would say ‘I don’t know any Black agents.’”

In the words of Thomas, “that’s when the light bulb went on” for her. Soon after, she began using her frustration as a tool to create Diverse Representation, an initiative that would increase the amount of exposure for Black attorneys, agents, managers, publicists who are working in the sports and entertainment industry.

Diverse Representation is a free resource and free online database that offers a list of all the Black agents, publicists, and attorneys to clients who are in these prospective industries as

well as networking events throughout the country.

The primary goal of Diverse Representation is to eliminate the excuse “I don’t know any Black agents, attorneys, or publicists.”

“When we talk about diversity in entertainment, my big issue is that we always focus on the people that we see on screen and those really aren’t the people that have the power,” said Thomas.

“It’s really the agents, the executives, and the attorneys, those are the people who are the power players in this entire industry and those people are still very White and I am advocating to shift that conversation about diversity and entertainment and really talk about the people who are behind the

{See DIVERSE REPRESENTATION on A-4}

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The Diverse Representation kick-off panel at Lionsgate headquarters featured director of development and production, Lionsgate Motion Picture Group, Dana Gills; CAA talent agent CAA, Brandon Lawrence; The Mission Entertainment talent manager, Andrew Coles; Akerman LLP attorney Rebecca Beliard; and PS Media Talent publicist, Francis Perdue.

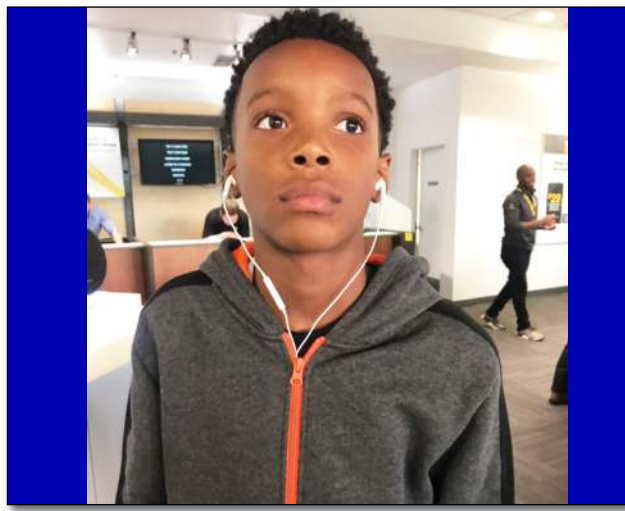
Pre-Teen Cystic Fibrosis Patient, An Inspiration to Others

By JENNIFER BIHM
Contributing Writer

Encouragement comes in so many forms and 11-year-old, Christian Collins is one of them. His biggest goal in life, he said, is to inspire others; to make sure they know that anything is possible. It would be a venture in cliché except for the fact that Collins is one of 30,000 Americans who suffer from Cystic Fibrosis.

A hereditary disease that affects the lungs, the prognosis for CF is grim. People with the disease are expected on average to live 44 years. But, Collins is already beating the odds. He is an athlete, he loves basketball.

He's a vibrant, outgoing, bright young man,



COURTESY PHOTO

Eleven-year-old Christian Collins is a student and an athlete, and is one of 30,000 Americans who deal with cystic fibrosis, a disease that affects the respiratory system.

improve the quality of life for CF patients.

Currently there is no cure, but medical experts have been working on they are calling a "breakthrough." Recently, two

mistic the results will hold up in the larger, longer-term trials already underway.

"What's most exciting, they said, is that the triple-drug approach could open up new options to nearly all cystic fibrosis patients," according to Amy Norton, reporting for Health Day.

And, according to Dr. Steven Rowe who led one of the trials, while not a cure yet, that could be game changing.

And, with Collins' brand of ambitious spirit and attitude, the chances of him being here for that cure are significantly great.

"Attitude is everything," Salinas said.

Fennell, Christian's mom agrees wholeheartedly.

"Sometimes at school,



COURTESY PHOTO

(L-R) Angel Fennell, Christian Collins and Justin Washington (cousin)

kids can be insensitive and talk about [Christian's mortality]," Fennell said.

"He has come to me and asked if he is going to die..."

She tells him, in so many words, that he has



COURTESY PHOTO

just has much of chance and a right to life as anyone else.

CF leads to the creation of thicker, stickier mucus than is usual. This mucus is difficult to cough out of the lungs. This can make breathing difficult and lead to severe lung infections.

The mucus also interferes with pancreatic function by preventing enzymes from properly breaking

down food. Digestive problems result, potentially leading to malnutrition.

A patient like Collins needs to be sure to get at least 3000 calories a day.

Also, CF patients need to keep their airways clear to allow easier breathing and minimize infections. Inhaled medication is effective at reaching the airways and commonly used. The medication can be given by aerosol or as a metered dose inhaler. These medications can thin mucus, kill bacteria, and mobilize mucus to improve airway clearance.

Treatment can manage the symptoms of the disease, say medical experts and improve quality of life. Symptoms can vary and treatment plans are usually individualized.

So, as it is, Collins gets up very early before school so that he can go through a series of treatments. In a video, sent by his mom, he dances during the breathing treatment. And off to school he goes, to learn, study and play along with his peers.

On April 11, Collins

will be honored at Children's Hospital Los Angeles' CF Family Education Dinner. He won't be able to physically attend the event due to issues with infection control. CF patients must be vigilant in avoiding lung infections by, among other precautions, avoiding unnecessary contact with people who could possibly carry contagious diseases.

Over 10 million Americans carry the CF gene and are unaware, according to Medical News Today.



COURTESY PHOTO



COURTESY PHOTO

PFT or Pulmonary Function test.

according to his mom Angel Fennell and his primary physician, Pediatric Pulmonologist, Dr. Daniel Salinas of Children's Hospital.

"I've been working with a team that has been working on a cure for CF," said Salinas, who has been involved in research for a CF cure as well as ways to

preliminary trials have found that either of two triple-drug regimens could potentially benefit 90 percent of people with the disease.

The trials were short-term, finding that the drug combinations improved adult patients' lung function over four weeks. But experts said they were opti-



COURTESY PHOTO

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Businesswoman and Community Philanthropist Kiana Webb Talks McDonald's 'Next Generation' Program

BY KIMBERLEE BUCK
Staff Writer

Although Women's History Month has come to a close, women are still making powerful moves! In late March, the *Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper* spoke with one extraordinary Black woman who is carrying the torch of her family's legacy and creating a name for herself in the business industry.



Kiana Webb

Local McDonald's restaurant franchisee, Kiana Webb always knew she would go into business given her family's background and widely known reputation for pioneering Black-owned franchises.

"My upbringing allowed me to learn about business and community engagement. Having an entrepreneurship conversation was always what [my family] did and is one foundation of who I am," said Webb.

"I understood the benefits and the pitfalls of being in business as a young person and how hard my par-



Kiana Webb and daughter Sanai.

ents worked, the sacrifices that had to be made and times when we had to budget and really go without while other people didn't around us. But, I understood that whatever we created for ourselves, we were going to be successful. I also understood the freedom that it created and that the hours were theirs to control."

Shortly after graduating college, Webb began working for a small clothing company that designed clothing for taller women, an experience that Webb could relate to given the fact that she is 6'3.

In 2001, Webb joined her parent's organization, the McDonald's Next Generation program and became an approved operator by 2005. Two years later, Webb was able to buy her first restaurant.

Currently, Webb is a five-restaurant franchisee in Southern California and the president of Webb Family Enterprises which oversees 16 McDonald's restaurants.

"The Next Generation program is about creating multiple generations of owner-operators within one family and affording an opportunity to achieve multi-generational wealth, loyalty, and commitment to the Brand and the success

of the communities we own our restaurants in. For better or worse, we are a family business, I am blessed to be able to work alongside my brother Kyle Webb and with our parents every day," she said.

"I am blessed to be a child of Reggie and Rene Webb. All of the lessons I learned as a child, I was now seeing through the lenses of an adult and a business owner; it made more sense as to why my parents were encouraging us to be more civic-minded and community focused."

When asked about the most fulfilling part about her job, Webb referred to empowering her employees.

"Seeing how my team develops their leadership style and creates their teams to be successful is proof to me that we grow

stronger together by transferring knowledge amongst each other. We continue that by sharing it with other people who are in the positions under us so that everyone really can achieve the greatest idea of who they are," she said.

"I love seeing the excitement on my supervisors' faces as they are creating plans - I love seeing the joy that happens when their people are successful and how much they brag about them."

Throughout her career, Webb has managed to incorporate philanthropy, a passion that she shares with her family. Some of the organizations she is involved include:

- Chapter president of the Black McDonald's Operators Association (BMOA) of Southern California
- Represents the Women's Operators Network (WON) nationally
- Creates employment opportunities in partnership with Turning Point Staffing Services, an organization that works with women who have been incarcerated
- Represents women operators nationally on the McDonald's NFLA

(National Franchisee Leadership Alliance)

- Board member of Casa Colina Hospital and Centers for Healthcare
- Board member of the Los Angeles County Fairplex

- Partners with the Pomona Unified School District to provide literacy grants and scholarships; sponsors the math and literacy fair in partnership with the University of La Verne
- Association Member of the LA County Fair

"For me, being a part of the community means taking care of the community. Whether it's giving back to the school district from a literacy standpoint - which is one of my passions - or whether it's giving food donations or providing scholarship money. Whatever it is, it's who we are," she said.

"I know that I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for the foundation that my great

dren. Also know it wasn't just them, it was the village that surrounded them that helped create each generation to be a little bit more successful."

During the interview, the Sentinel also asked Webb if she had any advice for young Black girls and women who were interested in pursuing business.

"I think we are powerful, women especially are powerful. We can make a way out of no way and that's really what you do in business," she said.

"You have an idea and you either believe in that idea so much that you move forward with it or you let fear and doubt stop you from doing what your dream is. I would just say choose yourself and choose your dream. Look to the world not for affirmation, rather ideation and create your future. Don't let what other people are saying about you stop you from



McDonald's owner/operators (from left) Kiana Webb-Severloh, Reggie Webb and Kyle Webb.

grandmother and grandmother had given to my parents and then in turn what my parents did with it and in turn what they passed on to me and what I'm passing on to my chil-

being your most successful self. At the end of the day it's me, it's God, and it's love. So my hope is that women understand their power, that they are creating opportunities for other

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Kyle Webb, Lindsay Hughes, Danny Bakewell, Sr. (LA Sentinel) Kiana Webb, Reggie Webb and Nicole Enearu attend McDonald's 10th Annual Inspiration Celebration Gospel Tour at the Taste of Soul Festival on October 15, 2016.

{Continued DIVERSE REPRESENTATION from A-2}

scenes."

Since launching in mid-2018, Diverse Representation held a kick-off event at Lionsgate headquarters. The event featured a panel conversation on diversity and entertainment with director of development and production, Lionsgate Motion Picture Group, Dana Gills; CAA talent agent CAA, Brandon Lawrence; The Mission Entertainment talent manager, Andrew Coles; Akerman LLP attorney Rebecca Beliard; and PS Media Talent publicist, Francis Perdue.

Recent events produced by Diverse Representation included an invite-only networking brunch with African American sports agents, attorneys, managers, team executives and special guests in Charlotte, North Carolina during NBA All-Star weekend and a panel conversation during

Sundance Film Festival which was the first of its kind.

Currently Diverse Representation offers membership options as well as the following benefits:

- Referrals
- Exclusive networking events
- Bi-monthly member newsletter
- Access to member page and message board
- Exclusive member events with partner organizations
- Access to additional data on diversity and the sports and entertainment industry

"I feel like all of the Black publicists should know all of the Black agents and all the Black attorneys should know all the Black agents. We need to do a better job of referring business to one another. We all have to know

each other in order for us to do that. We also need to build a very tight network amongst each other and that's a part of the perks of membership, being able to share referrals and events that you are doing."

By the end of the year, Thomas hopes that every person of color working in these industries will become aware of the Diverse Representation database. Thomas also told the Sentinel that she would like to see "more Black talent [and athletes] having Black reps."

Presently, Diverse Representation is planning events in New York and Atlanta as well as other cities. To find out how you can connect with Black agents, attorneys, and publicists, visit www.diverserepresentation.com. For more information on Jaia Thomas please visit www.jathomaslaw.com.

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• DR. MAULANA KARENGA •

King, Memphis and the Morality of Sacrifice: Dangerous Unselfishness and Righteous Struggle

In this month, we rightly turn toward Memphis and the martyrdom of Dr. Martin Luther King and again towards the enduring message and meaning of his life. Indeed, we turn to Memphis because it is the site of the martyrdom of Dr. King, one of the tallest trees in our forest of freedom fighters and a constant reminder we must continue the struggle and keep the faith. And we turn to Memphis because it is a microcosm, mirror and reminder of conditions we still must change in this country and the world, and of the work we must do and the struggle we must wage and win to accomplish this.

Martin and Memphis are essential and instructive parts of our history as a people, as an African people, as African Americans. And to understand Dr. King and the city that became the site of his ultimate sacrifice and assassination, we must always place King in the context of his people and in the context of the history, culture and the Black Freedom Struggle of his people that called him into being. It is his people's ancient and ongoing social justice tradition he embraced and in which he grounds himself and it is a tradition which makes morally imperative witness to truth, service to the people and self-conscious sacrifice in the ongoing righteous and relentless struggle to bring and sustain good in the world.

The message of Dr. King's life and his teachings, like all great messages of the world, are both particular and universal. They are particular in that they rise out of and speak first to a particular people, but it also universal in that it speaks to universal prin-

ciples and practices which resonate with other peoples of the world, for it speaks to the best of what it means to be African and human in the world. It is good we gather to remember, raise up and pay rightful homage to Dr. King on April 4, his Day of Sacrifice. We say Day of Sacrifice here rather than day of assassination, not because we don't acknowledge he was assassinated. But we want to shift the emphasis from assassination, which is what his enemies and the enemies of human freedom and justice did, to sacrifice which is what Dr. King did. That is to say, he refused to back down, surrender or be seduced by the system, but rather put his life on the line, demonstrating what he called on us to practice, i.e., a dangerous unselfishness.

In his prophetic speech in Memphis, his last message to his people, the country and the world, he marked out paths we must follow if we are to be successful in our righteous and relentless struggle for freedom, justice, equality, civil rights, and rightful recognition and respect as persons and a people. Thus, he left us lessons of life and struggle we, in rightfully paying homage to his life, struggle and awesome sacrifice, should raise up, reflect on and put into practice.

First, King, an astute reader of the signs of history, asked us to read those same signs and see the time we live in as a gift and good, a time for test and righteous and relentless struggle. He said he was glad to live in this great time of turning in human history when the struggle and cry everywhere is for freedom, justice, and recognition and respect of humans and human rights. "Something is happening in the world" he said, "The



DR. MAULANA KARENGA

masses of people are rising". And we are and must continue to be a powerful and assertive part of this revolution in the struggle for human rights and freedom.

Secondly, Dr. King tells us that if we are to honor the invitation of history that is offered us, "it means we've got to stay together and maintain unity". And that unity must be an active operational unity in the interests and advancement of our people. We can have coalitions and alliances with others, but without unity ourselves, we don't enter the battlefield or meeting room from a position of power rooted in the unified strength of our people.

Thirdly, King tells us "we must keep the issues where they are", i.e., clear and in the forefront and not let others divert us or decide the focus of our strug-

gle. He states that "The issue is injustice" and justice, the need for racial, social and economic justice. It is a justice that is sensitive to and actively strives to end suffering, hunger, homelessness, lack of healthcare, police violence, mass and unjust incarceration, unemployment and undeserved and needless deaths of all kinds.

King also tells us we must audaciously challenge America to live up to its best ideals and even go beyond them in the interest of a wider and more inclusive concept of freedom, justice and equity. And "we've got to say to the nation", he says, "It will be resolved"; and we will overcome, regardless of unjust and irrational resistance. For he says, "when people get caught up with that which is right and they are willing to sacrifice for it, there is no stopping point short of victory". Indeed, he says, these people, as history has taught, have "a certain kind of fire that no water can put out"; a fire of freedom, justice and the constant quest for good in and for the world.

Certainly, giving this speech in the midst of the Black sanitation workers' strike and struggle in Memphis in 1968, King speaks of the need for economic power through economic withdrawal, economic discipline, institution-building and support, pooling resources and supporting workers in their rightful struggle for fair treatment,

a living wage, safe and just working conditions, and the right to unionize.

Dr. King also calls on us to support and maintain a "relevant ministry", a body of preachers and priests that are deeply rooted in our social justice tradition, not in a gospel of prosperity; a gospel that "deals with the problems of the poor"; refers repeatedly to heaven, but is self-consciously engaged with issues of earth. He wants to reaffirm the faith tradition that brings good news to the poor, proclaims freedom for the prisoner and oppressed, and care and empowerment of the vulnerable.

Furthermore, King tells us, we must develop a morality of sacrifice, a "dangerous unselfishness" which asks the question not what will happen to me if I act to help persons in need and vulnerable, but rather what will happen to them if I don't? He says, "We've got to give ourselves to the struggle until the end... we've got to see it through" regardless of the costs. "Be concerned about your brother" and sister, he counsels. "You might not be on strike", or fired or harassed or killed by police violence, but we are all affected. For freedom and justice are indivisible. And thus, he says, "we either go up together or go down" together.

Dr. King ends his speech by giving thanks for being able to serve in his century and expressing joy in witnessing students

standing up for freedom and justice and Black people in Albany, Birmingham and elsewhere in defiant and righteous resistance; deciding to straighten their backs and actively resist, knowing that the oppressor "can't ride your back unless it's bent".

Closing, he reaffirms his faith in us, as a people, and prophesizes our ultimate victory and passing into a promise land, a land of freedom, justice, truth and righteousness that we have forged in righteous and relentless struggle. And thus, he ends saying, "Let us rise up in greater readiness and let us stand up with greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days of challenge to make America what it ought to be" and to remake the world. For as he said in his first speech to the Movement in Montgomery, "this is our task and overwhelming responsibility."

Dr. Maulana Karenga, Professor and Chair of Africana Studies, California State University-Long Beach; Executive Director, African American Cultural Center (Us); Creator of Kwanzaa; and author of Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture and Essays on Struggle: Position and Analysis, www.AfricanAmericanCulturalCenter-LA.org; www.OfficialKwanzaaWebsite.org; www.MaulanaKarenga.org.

• A BLACK PERSPECTIVE • LARRY AUBRY

A HISTORY OF BLACK AMERICANS IN AMERICA

The classic work, A Pictorial History of Black Americans (5th Edition), by Langston Hughes, Milton Meltzer and C. Eric Lincoln became the most widely used book on the civil rights era. First published in 1956, it is a compact but meticulously researched history of Black Americans. Words are important, and since its beginning, America has used different words, at different times, to describe Black people. However, no matter which term was used, none changed society's perception and treatment of Blacks as lesser human beings. (Even more important, is what Blacks call themselves, which reflects not only our personal feelings but how we treat one another.)

The analysis of the term "Negro" and other descriptive words for Black Americans in the book's Introduction is just as illuminating and applicable in the 21st century. Although written in 1956, a careful reading helps clarify "colored," "Negro," "Black," etc. Unfortunately, countless Blacks fail to acknowledge that fundamentally, nothing has changed no matter what we are called. Excerpts from the book's introduction follow:

"Who or what is a Negro? For America, the issue has never been settled with finality, for at various times, Black people have been known as "colored people," "people of color," "Negroes," "Afro-Americans," "Aframericans," "Black Anglo-Saxons," "Black Americans" and by a number of other appellations. The United States Bureau of Census declared: A person of mixed white and Negro blood should



LARRY AUBRY

be called a Negro, no matter how small the percentage of Negro blood. Black and mulatto persons are to be called Negroes, without distinction...."

The problem is the reasoning behind the state and federal pronouncements about Negroes seems to imply that somewhere, at some time, there existed a race or a nation of "Negroes," and that all of the people in the United States who are not 100 percent White and who are not distinctively Indian belong to the Negro race or nationality.....Many Americans who are called "Negroes" are "whiter" than tens of thousands of other Americans who are classified as "White." The Black American of pure African descent is rare and recent computer studies show millions of "white" Americans have, to varying degrees, African ancestry.

Who then is a "Negro" and what difference does it make? It is far easier to answer the second question than the first. In 1819, the South Carolina courts held that a Negro was a slave, or subject to becoming a slave,

and that a slave was ipso facto a Negro. The Mississippi Supreme Court said that, in the eyes of the law, "a Negro is, prima facie, a slave." The courts seemed to be trying to provide a simple rule-of-thumb for the complex problem of deciding who should have what rights in a society in which all men are held "created equal," but some, by common agreement by their (White) brethren were to be treated as though they were not.

Since slavery was officially abolished more than 100 years ago, it would seem that our efforts to get on with making this a free and equal society could be enhanced by avoiding the use of words which, because of past associations, are likely to be weighted with meanings we no longer intend to convey. The problem is that in their subconscious understanding, most Americans still associate "Negroes" with cotton fields and cakewalks and a debased status in society. It is probable that all Americans are descendants of slaves at some point in their history, but "Negroes" and "slaves" still have such a vivid association with our recent past that the use of the word Negro is not now an effective way to express the highest level of appreciation for people who consider themselves the equals of any other.

The Black people of America are African by derivation, American by nationality and Black American in terms of the rich, distinctive subculture they have developed here in the West. As Malcolm X said, "We are all Black, different shades of Black." Some Black Americans

have fair skin and blonde hair. Some are as Black as the African night their fathers knew. But being Black in the contemporary world is not so much a matter of skin color as it is a state of mind—an attitude about the value of persons and their rights as human beings without regard to such physical accidents as color. To be "Black" is to adopt a cultural response which denies and negates the traditional implications of being "white" or "non-White" or "Negro," as the case may be. It is an assertion that we are what we are without reference to what others may name us or name themselves.

Black people consider themselves American, not because national status was conferred upon them gratuitously, but because they were here in the beginning—before there was an America, and because their blood and sweat and tears are forever mingled with those others whose struggles and triumphs made this country great. Blacks cleared the forests, dug the canals and laid the tracks and fought to keep the country free, shoulder-to-shoulder and back-to-back with other Americans who happened to be White. They are Black Americans, proud of their heritage and confident of their future. And wherever you look, you will find them working, playing, worshipping, dreaming, creating and expressing their cherished freedom in the spirit of the country they would like to help make a model for democratic peoples everywhere."

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• DR. BENJAMIN F. CHAVIS JR., PRESIDENT AND CEO, NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION •

Stop Invisible Lynchings in America

No form of lynching should be tolerated or permitted in America. A lynching is defined as putting a person or a group of people to death by hanging a person or group with or without legal due process.

However, in the not so distant past, the hideous act of racially-motivated lynching African Americans was considered legal, judicial and moral under state and federal laws.

The Congress of the United States finally has a bill pending enactment that makes lynching a federal crime. We support this long overdue anti-lynching federal legislation.

However, there are other forms of lynching that are still occurring across the nation, without due process of law and without a national public moral outcry. Why? Because today, some lynchings are invisible.

There are no blood-thirsty mobs of people salivating their pleasures at the sight of a fresh Black body swinging lifelessly via a rope around his or her neck hanging from a tree or from the institutionalized gallows of history.

On college and university campuses in too many states, what is increasingly happening should be called an invisible and insidious form of lynching.

Disproportionately, young African male college students and others are being summarily expelled

from college based solely on mere allegations of sexual misconduct violations of Title IX rules without any due process of law or findings of fact. College administrators are arbitrarily determining that these targeted students are guilty and expendable until their innocence is proven.

This is not about guilt or innocence. This is about denial of due process.

For thousands of the accused students the outcomes are fatal to their education and life goals.

I know that this is a controversial subject that many would prefer to remain silent about. But, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. clearly warned: “An injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Currently, in the state of Missouri, there is important pending legislation (HB 573 and SB 259) in both the Missouri State House and Senate that seeks to stop and prevent these kinds of invisible Title IX-related lynchings from occurring at Missouri colleges and universities.

This year marks the 400-year anniversary of the enslavement of African people in America. The horrid history of racism and racially-motivated lynchings of African American men, women and children is a gruesome reminder of the depravity of humanity, as well as the malicious lack of due process when a person or group is deemed



Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is a civil rights leader and the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) based in Washington, DC.

expendable to satisfy the rage, fear and hate of “others.”

In the past, lynchings were very visible. Today Title IX-related lynchings on colleges and universities are less visible, but this form of injustice must be exposed and challenged in Missouri and in every state.

Equal justice and the constitutional right to due process should be afforded to all without regard to race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sexual orientation. This is the reason we add our voice and advocacy to encourage the Missouri legislature and all other state legislatures to stop Title IX-related invisible lynchings from occurring.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is a civil rights leader and the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) based in Washington, DC. He can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org.

• WELLINGTON'S ROAD •

Nipsey Hussle: A Community Angel

“I grew up on the streets of South Central Los Angeles and have witnessed many tragedies in my lifetime. I never glorify any situation like this and think it is disgusting.”

Nipsey Hussle shared those thoughts after a shooting at an Arizona nightclub, where he was scheduled to perform in 2012. As he stated, he understood the streets, he grew up in them, but he didn't let that dictate his future.

He stood up. He was a Los Angeles native, who grew up at the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and Slauson Avenue. His fan base is worldwide but the epicenter of his kingdom is the Crenshaw District in South Los Angeles.

Hussle didn't take the usual approach when it came to his passion and craft—he took it directly to the community. In 2013, the underground artist released his eighth official mixtape entitled “Crenshaw” with the price tag of \$100. He was an innovator, bypassing the questionable music industry by going to directly to the people. He crafted the “Proud 2 Pay” campaign, which got fans to embrace the idea of consumers paying artists directly for the value of their work.

“I have over 400k followers on twitter, 140k on Instagram and 400k on Facebook, but what good are they if they don't mobilize around my releases?” Hussle said in a statement to RapRadar. “If only 1000 of those people are engaged to the point of brand loyalty then that's who I'm focused on.”

From jump street, Hussle already had his internal antenna tuned into his community and wanted to share



Brian W. Carter

his passion of hip-hop directly with them.

In a 2017 video panel with Ava DuVernay, Dr. Melina Abdullah and other guests, where they talked about the film, “13th,” Hussle shared information about the importance of his businesses in South L.A. and it has changed lives.

“I want to give you a heads up, the city attorney has your store as one of the top ten gang targets in L.A.,” said an LAPD officer to Hussle after he was pulled over. “I was like, ‘why is that,’ and we just start talking and I'm like, ‘let me give you an example bro’—Number one, it's very, very hard to start a business and be successful, especially if you don't come from business owners that have been successful.”

“Number two, everybody that works at the store is from this area and if it wasn't for this store, it might be a part of your problem. Number three, they're doing a big development, they got a train getting built on Crenshaw, they got all types of stuff being built—only time it's a problem is when we're doing it ... it's not a gang hang out.”

“We've got a similar interest as business owners and the [officer] was like, ‘if the city attorney got to hear you speak, I'm sure their

opinion would change.”

“But we don't get to speak, we catch a case and they come and shut our [business] down and we dealt with reality. We're dealt with bills got to get paid, overhead is still real but we got our legitimate operation shut down based on tradition or based on how things are perceived to be.”

One perception that is undoubtedly clear is Hussle cared about his community and he gave back, not just with his music, jobs or money but of time. He shared himself and his presence with the community as social media has been flooded with pictures of people who got to take a picture with the completely accessible Hussle.

In 2018, Hussle teamed up with PUMA to refurbish 59th Street elementary school basketball courts. The court beatification also included a \$10,000 donation to the school. That same year, he took part in a The concert to raise awareness of legal prohibitions on job and housing eligibility and people living with the trials of past convictions after completing prison sentences.

“Failed policies have systematically made tens of millions of people across this nation and eight million of my fellow Californians second class citizens, even long after they've fully paid their debt to society,” stated Hussle. “The lasting barriers from old convictions negatively affect everyone in this country, especially children and families. We must solve this crisis so our communities can thrive.”

It's unfortunate that this light was extinguished on March 31, in a senseless shooting. Hussle passed with great things on his heart as he was planning to meet

• CHARLENE CROWELL •

\$62 Billion in Education Cuts Proposed, Key College Aid Could be Slashed

Every budget defines priorities and values. To put it another way, what's really important in life gets supported financially. For many families, having a home, food, and utilities usually rank pretty high. Then there are other budgetary concerns like saving for college or having a ‘rainy day’ fund to cover less frequent costs that can be much higher than the size of the next pay check.

Government budgets, built on taxpayer dollars, also reveal priorities. At the federal level, budgets are proposed by the executive branch, but it is the legislative branch that passes and funds budgets. What is in the best interest of the nation is supposed to be the guiding force in government budgets.

But as Sportin' Life sang in the folk opera Porgy and Bess, “It ain't necessarily so.”

The White House's FY 2020 proposal cuts Education funding by \$62 billion compared to that of FY 2019. Even worse, as the cost of higher education continues to climb, federal student aid would be seriously slashed while other programs would be totally eliminated.

Some of the most disturbing college federal cuts affect programs that lessen the amount of student loans that need to be borrowed for every academic term. As rising college costs have worsened the financial challenge faced by many Black and other low-wealth families, the availability of grant programs that do not have to be repaid and/or work-study programs are key sources for many college students and their families.

Among its many revisions, the Trump Administration stands ready to risk a sizeable portion of the proposed \$7.25 billion in Pell Grant funding next year. This program is the single largest source of grant aid for low-income households for post-secondary education.

On March 26, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Education budget was the focus of a hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor-Health and Human Services-Education. Secretary Betsy DeVos delivered testimony that expanded upon previously released materials from the Trump Administration.

“Since President Trump took office, Congressional appropriations for U.S. Department of Education programs have increased dramatically—in spite of the Administration's call to slow spending,” said Secretary DeVos. “We are not doing our children any favors when we borrow



from their future in order to invest in systems and policies that are not yielding better results.”

In response, Connecticut's Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the subcommittee chairwoman did not mince words. “This budget underfunds education at every turn,” said DeLauro who added “This budget inflicts harm.”

Even Rep. Tom Cole from Oklahoma who serves as the subcommittee's Ranking Member viewed the White House proposal as “short-sighted.”

Representatives DeLauro and Cole were absolutely correct.

The Work-Study program that brings campus-based jobs to students would suffer a double blow. Its monies would be reduced by 55 percent and remaining funds would be shared with proposed pilot program that targeted to private sector employers for workforce development of nontraditional and low-income students. That's the window dressing on these cuts.

The Work-Study program that received over \$1.2 billion in 2019 would be cut to \$500.4 million. Secondly, instead of students working on campus, they would need to figure out how to reach employment at private business.

Not every student has a car. Nor is public transit always available near college campuses. These businesses would supplement their revenue streams with public monies but the profits derived would still be private. Previously, Work-Study was jointly funded by the federal government paying 75 percent of hourly wages, with the remaining 25 percent paid by the college employer.

What for-profit business wouldn't want the government to pick up 75 percent of its labor costs? Seems that the private business—not the student—is the greater concern with this budget.

“Betsy DeVos has some explaining to do—her disinterest in prioritizing quality and affordable education for students is disheartening and erodes the confidence the public has in the Department of Education,” said Debbie Goldstein, an EVP with the Center for Responsible Lending.

Currently, the formula-based Pell Grant award averages \$4,251 per partici-

pating student. Next year as proposed, the program's average award will be slightly less at \$4,149 and traditional grant recipient students would be forced to share those funds with others enrolled in workforce development training that does not accrue credit hours or traditional academic terms.

Regular readers of this column may recall, many career and technical training institutions are also for-profit entities that in recent years have either failed to provide the training promised, or the earnings assured by admissions personnel—or both. In the worst-case scenarios, tens of thousands of students have been enrolled at the time of closures that came with little or no notice.

The Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant is need-based and financially helps low-income, undergraduate students. For the past two fiscal years, this program was funded at \$1.7 billion. If the Trump Administration's proposal holds, no monies will support this program next year.

The Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grants are available to students whose parent or guardian was a member of the Armed Forces and died as a result of their military deployment in either Iraq or Afghanistan after September 11, 2001. In FY 2019, the average grant in this program was \$5,293. In FY 2020, the White House would end it with no appropriation.

These are only a few of the cuts proposed to higher education at a time when education is more important today than ever before. The global economy requires a highly-skilled and knowledgeable workforce. It seems so ironic that this White House keeps placing businesses before the needs of people.

“Instead of punishing for-profit institutions that have deceived students and encouraged them to take on unaffordable levels of student debt, Secretary DeVos will defend President Trump's proposal to extend taxpayer money to finance unproven short-term programs, many of which will be offered by these very same for-profit college,” added Goldstein.

Here's hoping that Congress will hear a loud outcry on gutting federal financial aid. Enacting a budget that represents the needs of people should and must prevail.

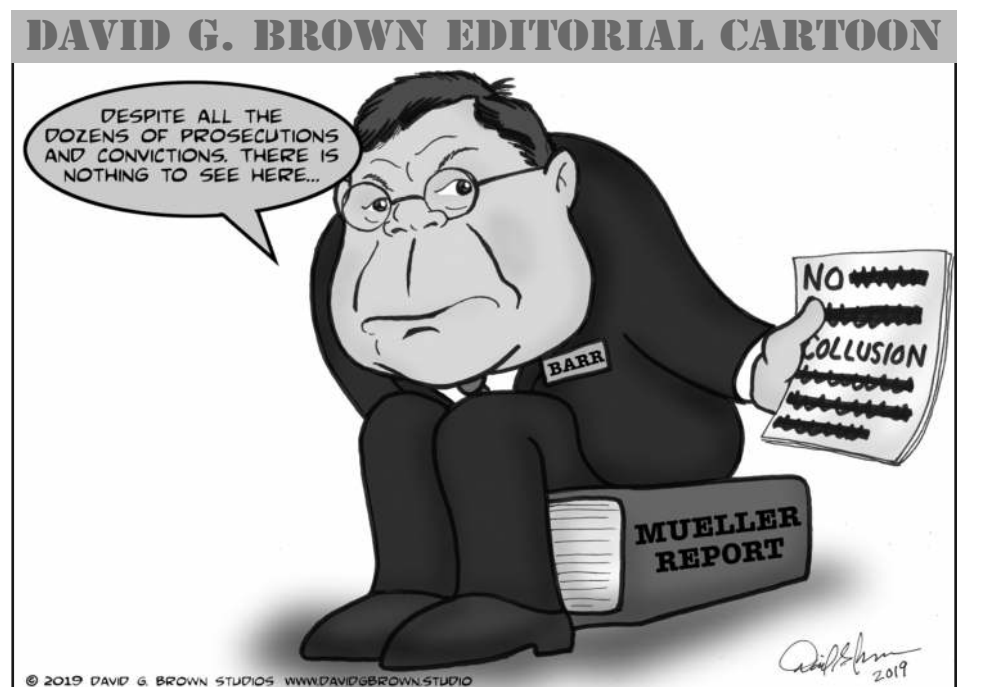
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with the Los Angeles Police Department to discuss gang violence prevention just one day before being shot outside his Marathon Clothing store on Slauson and Crenshaw Los Angeles.

There is a gem to take out of all of this and it is simple—take action. Hussle was respected because he wasn't talker, he was a doer. He took action to make his community better the best

way he knew how and because of his efforts, lives where changed.

Brian W. Carter is a freelance journalist, writer and social media advisor based in Los Angeles, CA.



Gilliam *{continued from Pg. A-1}*

Explaining why she penned the memoir, Gilliam said, "I thought it was crucial to write it. I think we, as African Americans, really have to tell our own story and I think so often we don't tell our stories. So this is a 'herstory,' not a 'history.' I am really happy – almost provisionally – that it was released just at a time when we have the kind of people running the country who are so against truth telling.

"We have a leader who calls the media 'the enemy of the people,' so it's just fortuitous that my story - which talks about the training that journalists go through and the ethics we have to observe – tries to capture how minority journalists worked to make a difference and worked to integrate mainstream media."

Gilliam went on to captivate the audience as she recalled how she worked closely with the late Robert Maynard, the Pulitzer Prize-winning owner of the Oakland Tribune who established the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education to assist Black reporters, editors and managers, and she also detailed some of the

conditions she faced and overcame to report the news.

"Unfortunately, the nation's capital was very segregated in 1961," said Gilliam. "President John F. Kennedy was talking about some things that needed to happen for the Black population. But as a reporter, when I would get my daily assignment and go out to try to hail a taxi to cover it, it took forever. I would walk and try to write my story and get back to file it before the deadline."

Sharing another episode, Gilliam said one assignment took her to interview an elderly White woman celebrating her 100th birthday. Although she was dressed professionally, the doorman told her, "The maid's entrance is in the back." It was only after she showed him her newspaper credentials that he let her inside the home.

In 1962, Gilliam was assigned to travel to Mississippi to report on James Meredith's integration of the University of Mississippi. "At that time, Mississippi was not a hospitable place for African Americans," she said.



Gilliam poses with retired Congresswoman Diane Watson and audience members with during her book-signing at the Lula Washington Dance Academy on March 25. (E. MESIAH MCGINNIS/LA. SENTINEL)

Undaunted, Gilliam hired a freelance photojournalist and went to report Black Americans' reactions to that historic event. Since segregation was still enforced, she dodged angry white mobs and the local KKK to get the opinions of local Blacks. At night, she "slept with the dead" by resting at a Black funeral parlor. She headlined her story, "Mississippi Mood: Hope and Fear."

Fortunately, her assignments were balanced by several positive encounters. She interviewed civil rights activist Medgar

Evers (just months before his assassination) who greatly impressed her with his courage, she was later appointed assistant editor of the Post's Style section where she hired others who could report on Black culture, and she served as president of the National Association of Black Journalists and of Unity: Journalists of Color.

Another memorable moment for Gilliam occurred when she spoke with Nelson Mandela following his election as president of South Africa. "I was a Mandela groupie and

to have him released [from prison] and become president was a marvelous moment. I was thrilled to be a part of the coverage and have lunch with him when he visited the U.S.," she said. "I could not believe the forgiving spirit that he had."

As Gilliam closed, she encouraged the crowd to support Black media. Acknowledging that news reporting has changed a lot, especially with the advent of social media, she still stressed the vital role of African American publica-

tions and broadcasts.

"The Black press is still an important source of information. It's very important because not every reporter who works for a mainstream paper can get into the newspaper. The Black press can really help delineate the issues and help us to know the most crucial issues Black people are facing."

Gilliam's memoir is available locally at Malik Books in the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Mall in Los Angeles. Call (323) 389-8040 or visit malik-

NCAA *{continued from Pg. A-1}*

ing the inequities faced by Black male students seeking higher education.

A new issue brief from the Center for American Progress (CAP), a Washington D.C.-based a nonpartisan research and educational institute, paints a vivid portrait of how college athletics distort the reality of Black male experiences on college campuses and raises significant concerns about racial equity in college admissions and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

The report, by Sara Garcia and Connor Maxwell, "The Madness Doesn't End in March: The Surprising Ways College Sports Shortchange Black Men,"

analyzes the total number of student athletes per athletic conference and the number of student athletes who receive some form of scholarship or athletic aid at a Power Five institution.

The authors said they found that Black men are overrepresented in major revenue-generating sports such as basketball and football – which have the highest risks of physical injury and academic insecurity – but are underrepresented on their campuses and in all other athletic programs.

Money earned by schools during the famed March Madness tournament and the revenue generated from the College Football Playoff (CFP) series, will

likely total \$1 billion for the NCAA, according to the report.

Colleges make a significant amount of money as well. In 2016, the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) sent six schools to the tournament's round of 16, bringing in a collective \$39.9 million for the conference.

Simply making it to the March Madness tournament can bring a school more than \$1 million in revenue – even if its team doesn't win a single game.

What receives less attention, say the report's authors, and is less easily observed on a TV screen, athletic court, or ballfield are the ways that college sports play into and obscure the inequities that

Black male students face in higher education.

And, while Black men generate profit for their colleges and the NCAA, they see none of those benefits trickle down. For the first time, the CAP said it's calling for compensating college athletes in revenue-generating sports.

"The NCAA relies on the athletic abilities of Black men to generate revenue but places little capital in their ability to complete a college degree," said Sara Garcia, senior research and advocacy manager for Postsecondary Education at CAP and co-author of the issue brief.

"It is time for these backwards, inequitable priorities to change," she said. "The experiences of

Black male student athletes compared with those of their white counterparts stand out in sharp relief," Garcia further noted.

The report, which can be viewed here, includes findings like:

- Black men comprise the minority of athletes in NCAA athletic programs.
- The majority of Black male athletes generate revenue, but they do not profit.
- White men have more opportunities to earn athletic scholarships.
- A disproportionately large share of Black

men on college campuses are athletes.

"Colleges and the NCAA must do more to prioritize academics and post-graduation outcomes above athletics, as well as ensure more equitable representation for Black men on their campuses," Garcia said.

"Failing to do so would send a clear message to student-athletes, and student-athletes of color in particular, that their academic success is secondary to the benefits they provide in their sports," she said.

Missing *{continued from Pg. A-1}*

tennis shoes, Victoria suddenly vanished.

Police suspect she may have run away. However, there's a chance that the longer she's missing, Victoria, like McDonald and so many others, will join an ever-growing list of Black girls who are gone and have been sadly forgotten by mainstream media, where coverage is too-often manipulated by the latest thong or see-through attire worn by a Kardashian, or the most recent tantrum thrown by President Donald Trump.

As Trump cries that a border wall is needed to eliminate an imaginary crisis, organizations like the Black and Missing But Not Forgotten, the Black and Missing Foundation (BAM) in Landover Hills, Maryland, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in Alexandria, Va., struggle to shed light on the real emergency that is of the nation's missing.

More than 424,066 girls of all races have gone missing since the beginning of 2018, according to NCMEC.

More than half of the total are women and girls of color, according to BAM, who, like NCMEC, rely on statistics from the FBI.

"The majority of these children most likely come from marginalized communities, and are primarily low-income people of color," said Dr. Ronnie A. Dunn, an interim chief diversity & inclusion officer and associate professor of Urban Studies at Cleveland State Univer-

sity.

"Given this nation's racially stratified socioeconomic class hierarchy, as evidenced throughout institutions in America where poor children of color have worst outcomes on all quality of life indicators, their lives are devalued in relation to upper class white youth," said Dunn, whose authored two books, "Race Profiling: Causes & Consequences," and "Boycotts, Busing, & Beyond: The History & Implications of School Desegregation in the Urban North."

Dunn continued:

"And even within that, while this nation espouses the valuing of children in general, this does not appear to be the reality as evidenced by the failure to act in the face of the onslaught of mass school shootings from Sandy Hook to Stoneman Douglas where the majority of those killed were middle class White youth. Therefore, we see less media attention paid to missing children, particularly those of color."

The ignorance toward the Black and missing isn't a new trend.

Black and Missing But Not Forgotten, BAM and NCMEC each maintain a database that dates back decades.

For instance, Margaret R. Dash went missing from her home in Clearwater, Florida, on June 14, 1974. Today, she would be 83.

Ethel Louise Atwell went missing from Staten Island, N.Y., on Oct. 24, 1978. If still alive, Atwell would be

86.

Jeffrey Lynn Smith, who today would be 49, went missing on Dec. 4, 1985, from her Hot Springs, Arkansas, home and hasn't been heard from since.

Other Black women and girls missing since the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s according to BAM, include Cynthia Renae Rodgers of Forestville, Maryland; Beverly Gail Johnson-Sabo of Ventura, Calif.; Trina Ann Winston of South Bend, Indiana; Erica Heather Smith of Ashburn, Virginia; Debra Dianne Sellars of Burlington, NC.; Bianca Lilly Jones of Detroit, Michigan; Crystal Keyona Anderson of New Carrollton, Maryland; Sandra Jean Cunningham of New York City; Yamisha Thomas of Columbus, Ga.; Mitrice Richardson of Los Angeles; Priscilla Ann Rogers of Wilmington, NC; Rochelle Denise Battle of Baltimore; Leslie Marva Adams of Atlanta; Chantel Bryant of Virginia Beach; Nancie Carolyn Walker of Chicago; Verlisha Littlejohn of Gaffney, SC; Theresa Bunn of Chicago; and Barbara Dreher of Washington, D.C.

"I'm a forensic psychiatrist and legal analyst on television, so I pay attention to media reports of crimes and missing children," said Dr. Carole Lieberman.

"The media doesn't do enough reporting of all the missing children, especially Black children ... this tells the viewer that it's more important to find White children," Lieberman said.

She continued:

"There aren't even any – or many – pictures on milk cartons of missing children anymore because they decided it was too upsetting to children eating breakfast. We need to do more to find missing children and do more to stop the family problems such as abuse that causes them to be vulnerable to predators or leave home to begin with."

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Post Office Celebrates Life of Marvin Gaye with New Stamp

BY CITY NEWS SERVICE

A stamp honoring the life of the late soul singer, Marvin Gaye was officially released at the Greek Theatre by the U.S. Postal Service, on what would have been the singer's 80th birthday.

"The Postal Service is honored to recognize Marvin Gaye, the Motown legend, with a stamp on his birthday in this venue that held a special place in his heart," said Gary R. Barksdale, USPS chief postal inspector. "Known as the 'Prince of Soul,' Gaye was a man whose timeless music was a true catalogue of human emotions that inspired, informed and entertained the world."

Among those attending the event were Motown

Records founder, Berry Gordy, singer, Mary Wilson of The Supremes and singer, Smokey Robinson, along with members of Gaye's family.

The stamp is part of the Postal Service's Music Icons series. Its design features a portrait of Gaye, inspired by historic photographs. The stamp pane is designed to resemble a vintage 45 rpm record sleeve. One side of the pane includes the stamps, brief text about Gaye's legacy, and the image of a sliver of a record seeming to peek out the top of the sleeve.

Another portrait of Gaye, also inspired by historic photographs, appears on the reverse along with the Music Icons series logo.

A pane is the unit into which a full press sheet is divided before sale at post offices.

Because of solo hits such as "How Sweet It Is," "Ain't That Peculiar," "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" and his duet singles with such singers as Mary Wells and Tammi Terrell, Gaye was dubbed "The Prince of Motown" and "The Prince of Soul."

Gaye won Grammys in 1983 for best male rhythm and blues vocal performance and best rhythm and blues instrumental performance for "Sexual Healing."

Gaye was elected to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1987 and received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1996.

"His music was cathar-



COURTESY PHOTO

tic," biographer David Ritz said. "His songs were prayers, meditations, strategies for survival."

A bill naming the post office at 3585 S. Vermont Ave. in South Los Angeles, the Marvin Gaye Post

Office was signed into law by President Donald Trump on July 24.

Gaye was shot and killed by his father following an altercation after he intervened in an argument between his parents at their

house in the West Adams district on April 1, 1984, one day before what would have been his 45th birthday.

Then-Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Ronald M. George, later chief justice of the California Supreme Court, agreed to grant the elder Gaye a plea bargain because of the amount of drugs in the younger Gaye's system and pictures of the elder Gaye's injuries during his final fight with his son.

The elder Gaye pleaded no contest to a voluntary manslaughter charge and was sentenced by Judge Gordon Ringer to a six-year suspended sentence and five years of probation. He died in 1998 at the age of 84.

State Leaders Kick Off \$100.3M Census Push With Call to Ethnic Media, CBOs to Help Get Word Out

BY TANU HENRY

California Black Media

California isn't playing around in its effort to avoid an undercount in the 2020 Census.

That determination was clear April 2, when the California Complete Count (CCC) office assembled a mixed group of stakeholders - advocates, state officials, legislative leaders and community members - to kick off an anticipated \$154 million statewide public information campaign. The event was held exactly one year away from Census Day 2020.

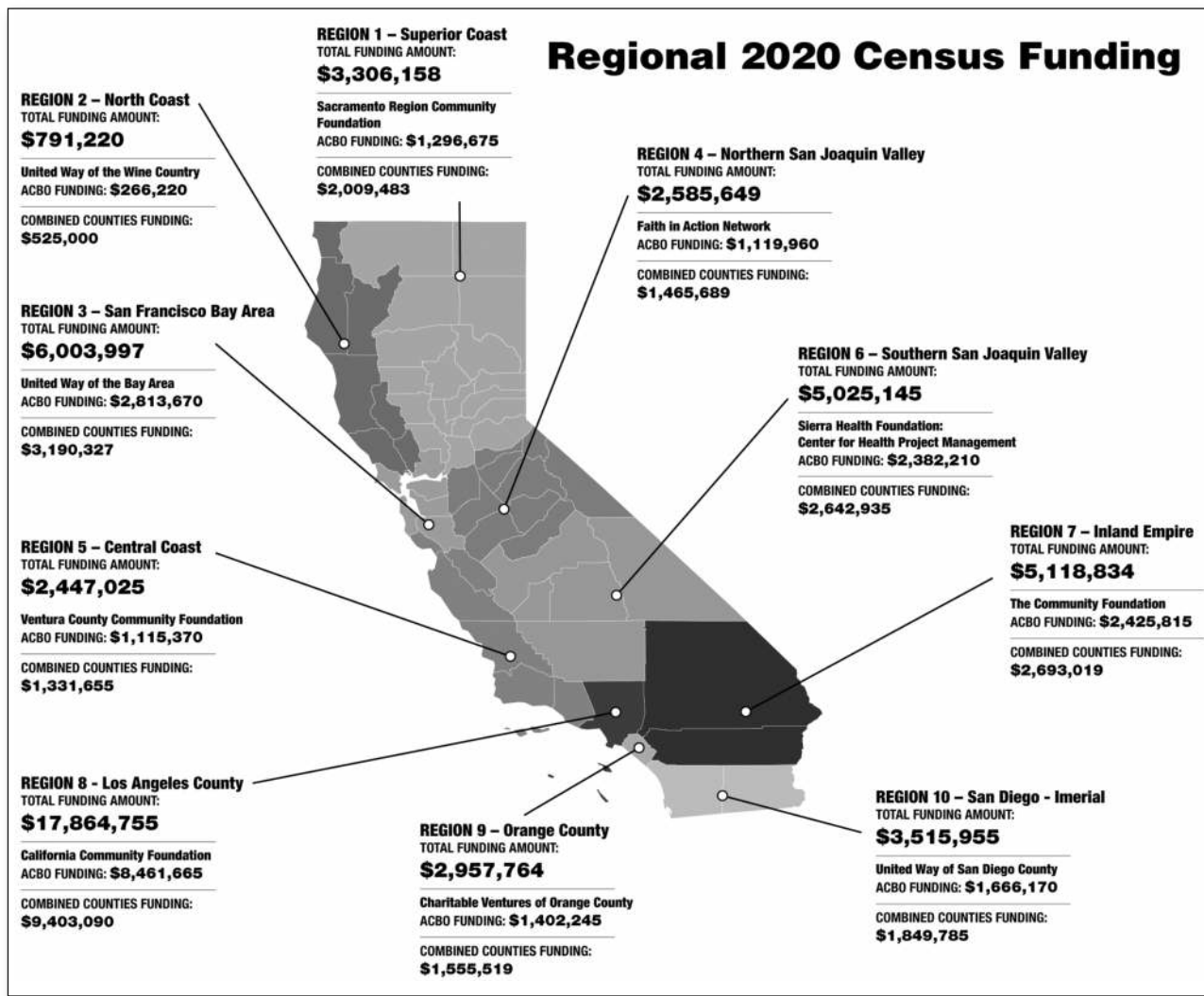
"California is determined to ensure we achieve a complete census count. We've started early and are committing more resources than any other state on a robust outreach and engagement effort to reach all Californians," said Ditas Katague, Director, California Complete Count - Census 2020. "Our collaborative partnerships throughout the state will make a difference in 2020, which may be the most difficult Census count yet for California."

To reach the high mark its setting for itself, the CCC is encouraging ethnic media, community based organizations and other groups they are calling "trusted messengers" to apply for bids in a third round of funding as it finalizes its Census 2020 communication push. The office says the new contracts will be funded from a \$22.9 million pot allotted to designated groups called Administrative Community Based Organizations in 10 regions of the state. The second source of funding, \$26.6 million, will be channeled through county administrations.

So far, the state has invested \$100.3 million to support its overall Census outreach. Gov. Gavin Newsom has proposed an additional \$54 million in the 2019-2020 budget.

Last month, during its second round of funding, CCC announced it selected California Calls, an LA-based community organization comprised of 31 local grassroots groups, to lead its African-American outreach ahead of next year's national Census.

"My district and California as a whole have some of the hardest to count populations in the country, but we're going to make sure everyone counts," said Speaker of the California State Assembly Anthony Rendon who represents an electoral area in southeastern Los Angeles. "The Census is coming and it's important. We all need to use our good reputations to remind every-



one in every community to participate."

California Calls joined 13 other local community groups from across the state in the \$4 million partnership with CCC. They are tasked with reaching out to ethnic minorities and other hard-to-count groups to ensure maximum participation.

The US Census has always undercounted African Americans and the reasons are mostly economic. Correctly counting all the individuals in households with multiple or multigenerational families called "sub families" is a major factor. Other variables like families without permanent housing, incarceration, homelessness, homes without broadband subscriptions and low literacy can all come into play.

During the last national survey in 2010 alone, US Census field representatives missed nearly 800,000 Blacks across the country and overlooked roughly 7 percent of all Black children. Other racial and ethnic minorities have been similarly undercounted as well.

"I represent one of the most undercounted census districts in California," said Assemblymember Reggie Jones Sawyer (D-Los Angeles). "It is imperative that we work to change the chronic undercounting of my district and many other disadvantaged communities throughout the state."

On March 29, CCC held a bidders' conference in Sacramento to share information about the state's Census 2020 priorities, the proposal process, application require-

ments and project deliverables with interested contractors and sub-contractors. People who attended could show up in person or patch in through a teleconference line. CCC told interested organizations to submit strategic plans by May 2019. Their proposals should include details of how they would spread the word about the 2020 decennial to the least-likely-to-respond people in the state and lay out the ways they would motivate them to participate.

Regina Brown Wilson, executive director of California Black Media, says she is encouraged by the steps the governor's office is taking to address the "solvable" undercount problem.

"We Black community leaders and media professionals - are committed," she said. "We are looking ahead and we are ready to do everything on the front-end, with all the tools that we have available to us, to prevent yet another undercount in the 2020 Census."

Inaccurate Census counts can lead to billions lost in federal funding for states. Those decreases can be far-reaching in disadvantaged communities that need the cash for things like social programs, infrastructure or schools. The number of Representatives a state is allotted in the US Congress is also determined by the Census count.

An undercount in California in 2020 could mean the loss of one seat in the US Congress. The state has the largest population in the United States and the highest

number of seats - 53 - in the United States House of Representatives.

"The 2020 Census will shape California's future for the next decade," said Assemblymember Marc

Berman, chair of the Assembly Select Committee on the Census. "California is a big, bold, beautiful, diverse state - and because of that, we're also the hardest to count in the country."

Research about past undercounts found that two demographic groups - immigrants and young, usually poor, unmarried women with children of all races - are overlooked the most.

The 10 regional administrative community foundations that the CCC announced at its quarterly meeting March 12, will be tasked with working with the local County Complete Count Committees, local community-based and grassroots organizations to help and get the word out.

Here's a list of those foundations and regions:

1. Sacramento Region Community Foundation
2. United Way of the Wine Country
3. United Way of the Bay Area
4. Faith in Action Network
5. Ventura County Community Foundation
6. Sierra Health Foundation: Center for Health Project Management
7. The Community Foundation
8. California Community Foundation
9. Charitable Ventures of Orange County
10. United Way of San Diego

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Nipsey Hussle: A Legacy That Transcends Rap



BY LAUREN A. JONES
Contributing Writer

The murder of Nipsey Hussle is personal. It is personal to me. It is personal to a generation in looking at social media and news interviews, there was a clear message that his death was felt deeply and hurt immensely, and particularly for anyone who came into contact with him, no matter how brief the interaction.

The Grammy-nominated rapper was gunned down on Sunday in front of his store, The Marathon Clothing, in the Crenshaw District of South L.A. To the Los Angeles community, Hussle was a hometown hero as a result of his innovation in entrepreneurship, activism, and philanthropy, who was anchored by humble beginnings. Hussle was 33, and while he was no saint, he was viewed as a messiah in the hood, leading the people to a better way.

LAPD alleges that the shooter is Eric Holder, 29, of South L.A. LAPD chief Moore also alleges that Hussle and Holder had a verbal dispute on the premises prior to the shooting. According to news sources, Holder, a known gang member, was captured in Bellflower, CA.

Born Ermas Davidson Asghedom, Hussle was just gaining popular culture traction for his musical talents, earning a 2019 Grammy-nomination for Best Rap Album for his debut project "Victory Lap." But, many knew of his musical skills long before his more mainstream success. His lyrics articulated the realities of many inner-city youth striving for success in an environment marked by violence, gang activity, and financial instability.

Hussle emerged on the music scene in 2005 with his first mixtape, "Slauson Boy Volume 1." In early interviews, Hussle differentiated himself from other young rappers by spreading a message to the communi-

ty to invest in real-estate property rather than jewelry and cars.

In 2010, Hussle founded his own music label, All Money In, which was one of the first illustrations of his innovative entrepreneurial beliefs and practices. He promoted the release of his 2013 "Crenshaw" mixtape by producing 1,000 hard copies with a \$100 price tag. His marketing genius garnered the attention of arguably the most successful rapper turned businessman, Jay-Z, who bought 100 copies. Hussle sold out, which generated a \$100,000 profit that further positioned him as a thought-leader in the music industry. Hussle often reminded his fans and emerging artists of the importance of owning the royalties to their music.

While climbing the rap charts with hits like "Checc Me Out," his reach as a change agent in the Black community was widely-spreading, due to his work on projects like Destination Crenshaw, purchasing the strip mall on Slauson & Crenshaw that houses his clothing stores with plans to renovate the space into a mixed-use affordable housing unit that included healthy food options.

Born on August 15, 1985, Hussle said his first passion was music but getting resources was tough after leaving his mother's house at age 14 to live with his grandmother. He admits that he became involved in street-life as he tried to support himself and as a teenager, joining the Rollin

60's Neighborhood Crips gang. Hussle walked a line between that lifestyle and maintaining a focus on technology and music, which were interests he always strove to pursue.

In 2017, he renovated The Marathon Clothing store, turning it into what he referred to as a "smart store," where consumers are provided with a one-of-a-kind shopping experience, utilizing the store app to unlock exclusive content related to his ventures.

In conjunction with his business partner, Dave Gross, Hussle expanded his ties to the tech industry with the launch of the Too Big To Fail initiative, which focused on bringing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs to the inner-city. The first iteration of the Too Big To Fail initiative is a STEM center and maker space located inside Vector 90. Hussle's vision was to bridge the gap between talented youth from underserved communities and employment opportunities in Silicon Valley, the first tech capital.

Hussle remained real and genuine despite financial success. He maintained compassion while creating his dream. While fulfilling his personal aspirations, he sought to bring his community with him. He was a young man on the precipice of attaining true greatness because of his vision, his belief in being true to self, and pursuing individual passions in a way that allowed control over your destiny.

As a result, his death has shaken many in his community: "Nipsey made me proud of not only being Black but where I was from, which is this neighborhood. Nipsey kept it real at all costs, and he lived what he actually rapped about," said Lisa Bonet. Others reflect on

Nipsey's influence on them personally. "I had a bad moment in my time, and just his motivation, his mindset, just helped me get out of that," said Jon Aguirre.

Members of the community gathered, chanting Hussle's name in unison. "We over here representin my boy Nipsey, man. Such a tragic situation. He left a legacy, man. He showed a lot of people how to open businesses, how to do something in the community. So, we are going to respect him and carry that on," said Mercello L.

Chance Wilson was born and raised in the community and looked up to Hussle. "Man, he meant everything to me. My favorite rapper ever. Inspirational, that's all I can say."

Activist, Terrel Richardson reflected on the vigil, comparing it to the Crips and Bloods gang truce in 1992. "Don't believe what the news is telling you. We all out here in unity, it's not no fighting. Black, White, and Brown for Nipsey Hussle, Richardson says he wants the killings to stop. "I hope this is the last killing in [South L.A.]. I hope [Nipsey] didn't die in vain because what he stood for was entrepreneurship."

Celebrities including Jay Z, John Legend, Diddy, Rihanna, Beyonce, Drake, Issa Rae, and Ava Duvernay took to social media to express disbelief and grief and to share personal stories about how Hussle touched their lives. They each passed along condolences to his family and loved ones and many paid tribute by mentioning one of their favorite Hussle songs.

Professional athletes also expressed their sadness over the passing of the West Coast rapper including Los Angeles Lakers'

LeBron James and Kyle Kuzma, who each shared heartfelt social media posts about their personal connections. Several professional Los Angeles sports teams expressed condolences about Hussle's death. During the Los Angeles Clippers game on Sunday night, Lou Williams and Montrezl Harrell paid special tribute to Hussle by hanging custom jerseys in their lockers with "Hussle" on the back. Hussle's picture was also shown on the Staples Center jumbotron before tipoff.

Ironically, following the news of Hussle's passing, L.A. Police Commissioner Steve Soboroff shared in a Tweet that he, along with LAPD chief Michael Moore had been scheduled to meet with the rapper to discuss ways to reduce gang violence and help young people. The meeting was still held in his honor as scheduled on Monday, April 1.

Eerily, shortly before his death, he tweeted "Having strong enemies is a blessing." While details surrounding his murder are still developing, as of Tuesday, local authorities reportedly arrested the suspected killer near a mental health facility in Bellflower, CA.

On Monday evening, thousands of people gathered for a vigil to honor and grieve the loss of Hussle in front of The Marathon Store. A memorial of candles, flowers and paintings of Hussle took shape with the sounds of some of his popular songs "Double Up" and "Hussle & Motivate" playing. Since Hussle owned all the rights and royalties to his music, by streaming his music, his family will receive all profits.

Celebrities and community leaders commented with heartfelt messages on their social media pages

and through various news and media sources:

"Nipsey loved his community and it showed. He was involved in many programs and projects to give back to South L.A., including Destination Crenshaw, which he worked on with Councilman Marqueece Harris-Dawson and others to honor our community with celebration and service. Nipsey's legacy will live on in all of those who continue to uplift, those who continue to inspire, and those who continue to lift as they climb. My heart goes out to his family and the community that loved and admired him. Nipsey Hussle's legacy will live forever in Crenshaw." — **Congressmember Karen Bass**

"Sadly, we have lost another good brother to senseless gun violence. Our community mourns deeply and our spirits ache, but I have no doubt we will prevail as a unified community and get through these trying times. My prayers are with the Crenshaw community and the family of Nipsey Hussle as well as the other two young brothers that were injured in the shooting. The legacy of Nipsey will undoubtedly leave a positive ripple effect for generations to come. — **Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., Executive Publisher Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper & L.A. Watts Times Newspaper, Founder/Creator of Taste of Soul Family Festival**

"Nipsey Hussle represents the enormity of the lives that we have lost, and I felt that as I looked at that message from L.A. Fire that told me we had 3 additional shooting victims that had just occurred at Slauson and Crenshaw. And I began that message as I was reading it, standing on the street, exactly where I
[See NIPSEY HUSSELE on B-1]

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What is the Plus in the PLUS Awards?

I've always been grateful for people who go above and beyond and have a heart for helping others. As a child I experienced abandonment by my biological mother and sexual abuse by my father. I was raised primarily by my paternal grandmother who instilled certain core values into me that have guided my life. My grandmother encouraged my activities in school, church and community and because of the various activities I was involved with, I became a "product of the community." As I worked in the community, the community sowed back into my life. Many people went above and beyond to help me, and they became

the PLUS in my life. As I grew and overcame many of the challenges of my childhood, I was often asked how did I do it? I didn't really understand what people meant or why they were even asking me the question, but as I continued my path it became apparent to me the role forgiveness played in my life. This was the motivation for me starting the organization called, Forgiving For Living, Inc., in 1999. Although we've been around for close to twenty years, the PLUS Awards has only been around for twelve years. It is our desire to bring attention and highlight the work of people in the community that are

committed to making our community a better place. They represent the PLUS. We also give out scholarships to deserving young ladies who desire to advance their education after high school. Over the past twelve years we've honored close to seventy-five individuals and have given out close to \$100,000.00 in scholarships!

This year Forgiving For Living, Inc., has six individuals we are honoring that have exhibited the plus in their lives by helping others and making a positive impact. The Honorable Diane Watson will receive the President's Award. Ms. Watson is a

{See PLUS A-14}

Success On "The Way"

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'Brave and Courageous Women!' Pharaoh and Herod: Villains Part 2

Shiphrah, Puah and Jochebed were most courageous and confident in their positions of righteousness. They were fearless! Imagine having to confront the Pharaoh and disobey his command to kill the boy babies. Think about their response to him when he learned they were not killing the baby boys, explaining, "When they would get to the Hebrew women who were having the babies, the babies had already been born and "the women are "lively" and have already birthed the babies." Jochebed, Moses mother his father saw Moses was a special child. Consider other fearless women: Harriet Tubman, an American abolition-

ist and political activist, born into slavery. Tubman was an activist in the struggle for women's suffrage rights. In honor of her courageous efforts to rescue family and friends from slavery, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison named her "Moses." Renowned for her courage, she purportedly carried a gun a revolver and was not afraid to use it. The gun afforded some protection from the ever-present slave catchers and their dogs. She purportedly threatened to shoot any escaped slave who tried to turn back on the journey since that would threaten the safety of the remaining group." Daisy Bates, a complex, unconventional and largely for-

gotten heroine of the civil rights movement who led the charge to desegregate the all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Sister Rosetta Tharpe: The Godmother of Rock and Roll, not well known today, she is one of the most influential artists of the 20th century. Her flamboyance, skill, and showmanship on the newly electrified guitar played a vital role in the conception of Rock & Roll as a genre of music. Featuring archival performances and using new interviews with fellow musicians, producers, friends, and colleagues, this film tells the story of a talented and determined

{See WOMEN A-14}

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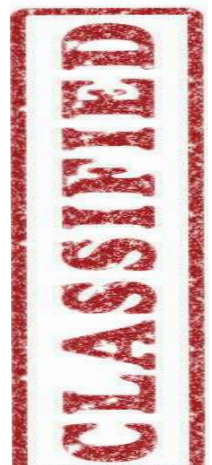
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Public Notices

the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019073618 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. Wckdthghts, 2. Wicked Thoughts, 4711 Cimarron St., Los Angeles, CA 90062, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3236574# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019053380 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. ASSURED SERVICES INC. 2. FREQUOTE INSURANCE SERVICES, 257 N LABREA AVE. #5 , Inglewood, CA 90301 County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3236577# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/04/2019.

NOTICE-In accordance with Subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk, except, as provided in Subdivision (b) of Section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to Section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed before the expiration. Effective January 1, 2014, the Fictitious Business Name Statement must be accompanied by the Affidavit of Identity form.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019067851 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: The Transporter, 529 W 98th St., Los Angeles, CA 90044, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3234771# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019059358 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. SUNCOAST FAULKNER, 2. SUNCOAST PEDESTAL PAVERS LLC, 2332 4TH AVE., Los Angeles, CA 90018, County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3233357# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

Registered owner(s): KYMBERLEY HALL, 8306 WILSHIRE BLVD 931 , BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90211 This business is conducted by this Individual

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3233208# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT File No. 2019055779 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: KIM Z JACOBS, 1741 E 109 ST., LOS ANGELES, CA 90059 County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3232569# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

Public Notices

The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See Section 14411 et seq., Business and Professions Code).

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019062610 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Fitness International, 3301 Hollywood Dr., #4, Inglewood, CA 90305, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231934# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019069110 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AAA FADES BARBER SALON, 4281 1/2 CRENSHAW BLV , LOS ANGELES, CA 90008 County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3234783# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019070004 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Black Hero Theater, 2838 S Bronson Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90018, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3233802# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019065470 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: M'Kouture, 16308 S Visalia Ave., Carson, CA 90746, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3233227# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019062319 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Ready Set Real Estate, 3651 S La Brea Ave., Ste 610, Los Angeles, CA 90016-5311, County of Los Angeles

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3233202# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019059593 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LOVE IS BOND, LLC, 532 S GRAMERCY PL APT 308 Los Angeles, CA 90020 County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231857# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019064071 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. Self Determination Independent Facilitator, 2. Parenting Class Services, 111 N. La Brea Suite 639, Inglewood, CA 90301, County of LA; Mailing Address: PO Box 7033, Los Angeles, CA 90007

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231857# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019063024 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Rashid Ullah Transportation, 434 S. Kensmore Ave Apt 106, Los Angeles, CA 90020, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231857# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019072814 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: D N A Developers, 1540 W 104th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90047, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3234774# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019054102 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DELL REALTY, 10603 HAAS AVE , Los Angeles, CA 90047 County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3234774# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019066865 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Curvy Doll Style Box, 2851 W. 120th Street, Suite E, #260, Hawthorne, CA 90250, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3233216# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019060021 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: WE ALL FALL 8306 WILSHIRE BLVD #311 BEVERLY HILLS CA 90211 County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231934# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019064071 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: 1. Self Determination Independent Facilitator, 2. Parenting Class Services, 111 N. La Brea Suite 639, Inglewood, CA 90301, County of LA; Mailing Address: PO Box 7033, Los Angeles, CA 90007

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231857# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019046323 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: COINSL0T LOS ANGELES, 550 S. MAIN ST #208, LOS ANGELES, CA 90013, County of LOS ANGELES

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231857# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

File No. 2019063024 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Rashid Ullah Transportation, 434 S. Kensmore Ave Apt 106, Los Angeles, CA 90020, County of LA

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true any material matter pursuant to Section 17913 of the Business and Professions code that the registrant knows to be false is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000).)

Original Filing 3/27, 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/19 CNS-3231857# LOS ANGELES SENTINEL

{Continued **Nipsey Hussle** from A-10}

was at, and then I saw the name Nipsey Hussle and I looked at that again and looked at that again it was like, I could not believe it. It just drove the added violence even just that more severe. So, I am devastated with that because this was a voice that was trying to help and was investing in his communities.” – **LAPD Chief Michel Moore**



COURTESY PHOTO

“Our hearts are with the loved ones of Nipsey Hussle and everyone touched by this awful tragedy. L.A. is hurt deeply each time a young life is lost to senseless gun violence. My Crisis Response Team is assisting the families coping with shock and grief.” – **Mayor Eric Garcetti**

“Ermias Asghedom, known to us as the hip-hop artist Nipsey Hussle, was a father, businessman, entertainer, and inspiration to many. We mourn his sudden and tragic passing and send his family our deepest condolences.” – **Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas**



GETTY IMAGES

Lauren London (wife) and Nipsey Hussle

“Ermias Asghedom, better known as Nipsey Hussle had a vision of a neighborhood built for and by the sons and daughters of South L.A. During his life, he



GETTY IMAGES

Emani (daughter) and Nipsey Hussle

moved from shadows into the bright hope of freedom and community revitalization. Nipsey was a partner and the inspiration behind the naming of Destination Crenshaw. He will be deeply missed and his vision will truly live on.” – **Councilman Marqueece Harris – Dawson**

“The tragic and senseless death of the man we knew as

Nipsey Hussle is an enormous loss to our community; not just because of his talent as an artist, but because of his commitment to his community. He understood the importance of economic empowerment and self-determination and the importance of giving back to the



COURTESY PHOTO

community from which his talent was born. He understood that he was able to succeed by standing on the shoulders of the giants of community activists who came before him and paved the path to his success. Now we must stand on his broad shoulders and finish what he started.” – **Michael A. Lawson, president and CEO, Los Angeles Urban League.**

“The entire community has come to a standstill. We are all in shock and deep mourning, not because of what Nipsey accomplished as an individual, but because he is such an integral part of us. He visioned and built for

us. He gave his light, his creativity, and his genius to us...for the collective. To ride for him, means to carry on that legacy, to be prolific, to be collective in our work, to be in it for the marathon. His work cannot die with his body.” – **Dr. Melina Abdullah, Professor and Chair of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, #BlackLives-Matter organizer**

“Rest in Love Nipsey. I am an admirer of your wisdom which will now be part of your legacy. My heart bleeds for all those who love him. Stay strong @laurenlondon, He’s an angel on your shoulder now.” – **Jada Pinkett Smith**

“F-k. My whole energy is just at a low right now hearing this. We just linked for the first time in years and said we were gonna do a new song this summer cause it had been too long. You were having the best run and I was so happy watching from distance fam nobody ever talks down on your name you were a real one to your people and to the rest of us. I’m only doing this here cause I

want the world to know I saw you as a man of respect and a don, Rest easy my g.” – **Drake**

“This doesn’t make any sense! My spirit is shaken by this! Dear God may His



PHOTO BY BRANDON I. BROOKS

spirit Rest In Peace and May You grant divine comfort to all his loved ones! I’m so sorry this happened to you Nipsey Hussle.” – **Rihanna**

“I got to know him last year and had a great conversation about who he was as a person, what he stood for, what his message was. Tried to inspire people, considering where he grew up. And how he turned that into something extremely powerful. Represented an entire city. Definitely sad, sad, tragic event.” – **Steph Curry**

“I’ll remember him this way, bright, genuine, forward thinking. I’ll remem-



COURTESY PHOTO



PHOTO BY BRANDON I. BROOKS

ber the beauty that he saw in our community. And the beauty that he was. Rest in Power, King.” – **Ava DuVernay**

“He was a staple and the backbone of the community...a father, a boyfriend, a brother, a son, A man...what he has done for his people will never be forgotten and I can only pray that everyone who had the blessing to meet him, felt his true spirit and inspiration. Prayers go out to Lauren, his kids, his family, Sam, Jorge, Archer, Adam, J roc, David and everyone else he touched and impacted...and I pray everyone



COURTESY PHOTOS

friends.” – **Jay-Z**

“You were about something positive and for your community in every chance you had to speak and because of that, you inspired millions who will uphold your legacy forever. Rest amongst the stars.” – **Pharrel Williams**

“RIP Nipsey man. This is tragic.” – **ChanceTheRapper**

“This is so painful! @NipseyHussle was doing great work for the people. Keep his legacy alive by carrying on his work! Sending love to his family. Rest in

Power King.” – **Colin Kaepernick**

“I’m feeling so f-ked up right now.” R.I.P Nipsey. Condolences to your family. WTF!! Can we please stop!!!” – **Dr. Dre.**

“I’m so sad right now I’ll just reflect on the good times we had.” – **Snoop Dogg**

Nipsey Hussle is survived by his mother, grandmother, brother, life partner and actress, Lauren London, his daughter, Emani Asghedom and son, Kross Asghedom. The Marathon continues, rest in peace Nipsey Hussle.



MATT WINKELMEYER | GETTY IMAGES FOR WARNER MUSIC FILE



LOS ANGELES SENTINEL RELIGION

B-2

www.lasentinel.net

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

JJ HAIRSTON & YP Mark 20th Year of God-praising, contemporary gospel albums

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

After two decades of singing contemporary gospel, JJ Hairston and Youthful Praise still delight in lifting God's name.

They have charted several award-winning tracks over the years, yet the group continues to release more songs about the Lord. Their latest single, "Miracle Worker," is dominating the airwaves and Hairston hopes listeners will be encouraged by its message.

"We're excited about 'Miracle Worker' and believe the song is uplifting," said Hairston, who spoke with the L.A. Sentinel while in Los Angeles for the Gospel Music Workshop of America's annual board meeting on March 17-21.

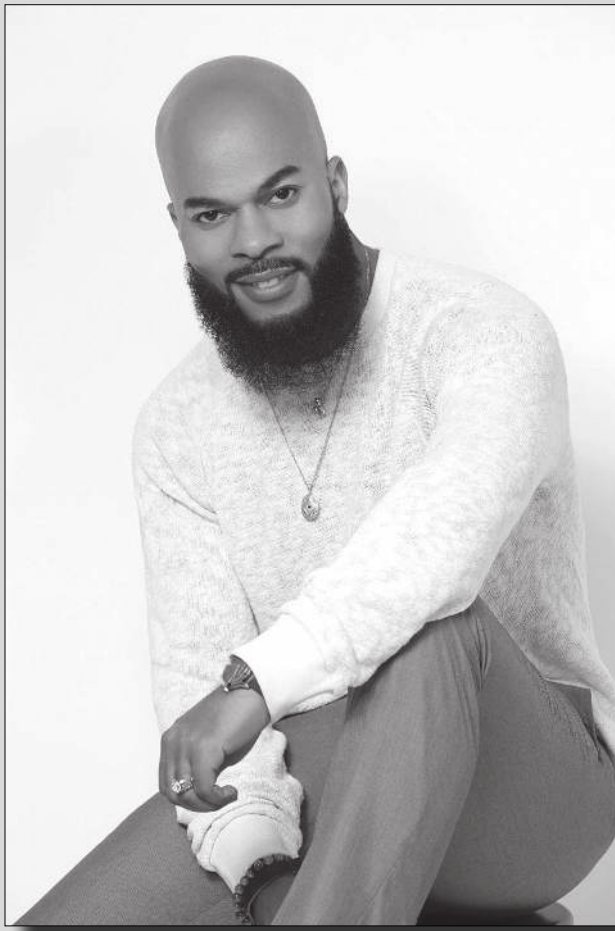
"There are a lot of people who are facing different situations and...if they could get themselves out of it, do it alone, they would. It's in those times that we need a miracle. We need God's interven-

tion," insisted the singer, songwriter and director.

"Sometimes, He empowers us to do what we need done and some things, He needs to do Himself. This song will give them faith and hope that God is a miracle worker and He will perform a miracle for them."

Hairston's confidence in God likely stems from his personal walk with Christ. Since the group's 2001 debut album, "Awesome God," blessings have followed and their national prominence increased. CDs such as "Thank You for the Change" (2004), "Exalted" (2007), "I See Victory" (2014) and "You Deserve It" (2017) have inspired people across the U.S. as well as raised their stature to an international level.

In fact, part of the upcoming "Miracle Worker" album was recorded in Abuja, Nigeria at COZA Church. The remainder of the project was recorded at City of Praise Church in Landover, Maryland, where Hairston serves as



JJ Hairston

an active director of music, despite his busy schedule.

"I'm very intentional in making sure that I'm always in place at my church because I really believe that in order to grow, you

have to be planted somewhere, so I'm planted at City of Praise," said Hairston. "Fortunately, I have a really strong team there that takes care of the music ministry when I'm away."

Throughout his long career, Hairston can look back on many highlights, but he noted that his most enduring memory is when he and Youthful Praise recorded the album, "Resting on His Promise" (2009), with participation by gospel stars Donnie McClurkin and Dorinda Clark Cole.

"Donnie McClurkin was already one of our biggest inspirations and a role model musically. We had heard that he may come and halfway through the recording, he walks up the middle aisle. Later on in the recording, Dorinda Clark Cole — one of my gospel favorite artists — was singing and he came up and joined her in the song," recalled Hairston.

"That moment will always stick out because it was my favorite male gospel singer and my favorite female gospel singer singing together on one of the songs that I wrote. That moment will always be huge for me!"

And the huge moments will probably con-

tinue for Hairston as his career moves forward. Future plans include a summer tour, an upcoming trip to Nigeria and a new book, "Amazing Love," written by Hairston and his wife, Trina.

But, whatever comes his way, Hairston said he will be guided by his favorite scripture, Romans 8:28 - "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."

"I really believe that even though there are some divers situations that we may face, we know that they are all part of the plan for things to work together in your life," said Hairston.

"So you have to look at every situation you face as an opportunity for God to show Himself mighty through your life."

"Miracle Worker," by JJ Hairston and Youthful Praise, is available in audio and video on all digital platforms.

Cannick Receives FAME-LA WMS Trailblazer Award

Noted journalist and advocate honored for her many contributions to the community and nation.

SENTINEL NEWS SERVICE

Jasmyne Cannick, well-known communications strategist, community advocate and journalist, received the Trailblazer Award from First AME Church Women's Missionary Society on March 31.

The annual award is presented to women who have made significant contributions to their community and nation.

Cannick received the honor for her exceptional work in politics and for her advocacy in advancing the voices, concerns and positions of Blacks in regards to social justice issues in-



Jasmyne Cannick and FAME Pastor J. Edgar Boyd

cluding criminal justice reform, LGBTQ issues, housing, Democratic Party representation and homelessness.

Through her journalism and public speaking, Cannick is widely known and heralded for her coverage of the disappearance and death of Mitrice Richardson, Los Angeles law enforcement and most recently, the drug overdose deaths of Gemmel Moore and Timothy Dean at Democratic donor Ed Buck's apartment.

According to a church member, "Jasmyne continues to seek out untold stories and uncomfortable

truths in an effort to give a voice to the voiceless."

Upon receiving the award, Cannick said, "If it hadn't been for God's grace and mercy and my grandparents -- my grandmothers specifically -- praying for me, I would not be the person I am today."

She went on to thank her FAME family including Pastor J. Edgar Boyd and First Lady Florence Miles-

Boyd; her cousin, WMS president Vivian Hines; her family and the community for allowing her "to be of service and putting their trust in me to always do the right thing."

Cannick added, "Having the community's support and trust really drives the work that I do and I am both honored and humbled."

Reflection: The Good, They Do Die Young!

Dr. Martin Luther King died 51 years ago. Rapper Nipsey Hussle died March 31.

By LARRY BUFORD
Contributing Writer

This morning when I got to work, a conversation ensued about the murder of rapper Nipsey Hussle on March 31.

I did not know much about him, but the younger people cited all the good things that the Grammy-nominee and former gang member had done for the community in which he grew up, and where he continued to invest his time and fortune.

When one person asked the question, "Why do those who do good get killed?" my mind immediately went to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was assassinated 51 years ago on April 4, 1968.

As news reports showed the saddened and bewildered crowd that had gathered at the scene where Hussle was gunned down,

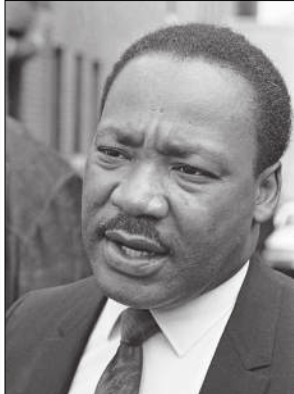


Larry Buford

I remembered the sunken feeling that came over me when I heard the news about Dr. King. I thought then, "Why is the world so violent?" as it had been just a little over four years since President Kennedy met the same fate.

I remember thinking, "Why even try to do good and make a difference if somewhere out there, there's a bullet with your name on it — contrary to the title of one of Hussle's mixtapes, 'Bullets Ain't Got No Name.'"

A month before JFK died, I was writing a speech



Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

for my fifth-grade class presentation. I practiced at home, emulating the way JFK and others pounded their fists on the podium as they spoke. I was inspired, and fascinated by the thought of becoming a great public figure.

When Dr. King died, I think something died within me and the spirit of Black men in general. Was assassination the reward for trying to do good? What good was it to aspire to become like JFK, Malcolm X or Dr. King (among so many others who were silenced)?

Then, I learned about

Jesus, the Son of God who willingly gave His life on the cross to redeem us and to reconcile mankind to God. The more I learned about Him, all the good He did, the anguish He experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane, and how He was obedient all the way to eternity for the joy that was set before Him; I understood purpose and destiny.

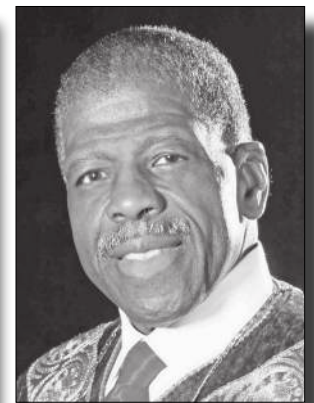
Dr. King knew his life was on the line, but as he once said, "A man who does not have something for which he is willing to die is not fit to live."

So, although the hope and trust we have in mankind may fail, our hope in Jesus is an evergreen — He will never leave us nor forsake us if we believe, trust and obey God's Word. Hussle was 33 (the same age as Jesus), Dr. King was 39. I guess the good, they do die young!

Larry Buford is the author of "Things Are Gettin' Outta Hand," and "Book To The Future" on Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



Bishop Craig A. Worsham



Bishop T. Larry Kirkland

Holy Week Services Planned at Agape-LA

By CORA JACKSON-FOSSETT
Religion Editor

Bishop Craig A. Worsham and the members of Agape Church of Los Angeles will host three Holy Week services in their worship center located at Consolidated Plaza, 3725 Don Felipe Dr., in Los Angeles.

Maundy Thursday worship will take place on Thursday, April 18, at 7 p.m. With a theme of "A Service of Love and Reflection," the program will include feet washing and Holy Communion.

The Resurrection Celebration is set for Sunday, April 21. At 8 a.m., the Right Rev. Theodore Larry Kirkland, Sr., who celebrates his 77th birthday on April 8, will bring the message. A retired AME

bishop, he served nearly 20 years as pastor of Brookins Community AME Church in Los Angeles.

The 11 a.m. Resurrection Day service will feature a sermon by Worsham, the founding pastor of Agape Church, who added that a continental breakfast will be served after the 8 a.m. worship.

Following the 11 a.m. service, brunch will be available and the Children's Ministry will present "Eggstraveganza."

"We invite the public to join us on this most holy of all days as we praise, rejoice and worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ," said Worsham.

To learn more, call (323) 295-5571 or visit agapela.org.

Words of the Week - It's a Big Deal to God

By BARBARA BRYANT
Contributing Writer



Barbara Bryant

You took the high road, made a sacrificial choice, and seemed to lose while the other person played dirty - was unfair, dishonest, and deceitful, and consequently benefitted from it.

I'm talking about evil behavior that drained your pocketbook; the kind of mischief that made you weep - lies, plots and fabrications that caused you repeated sleepless nights on your therapeutic mattress. This is such a big deal to God that He wrote about it in the Bible.

Have you ever wondered why God instructs us to not be envious of the prosperity or the advancement of the wicked (Psalms 37:9)? It's because the lives of the wicked are short-lived and shall be cut down like the grass. Their season is provisional and temporary.

You should never worry about the wicked, who believe they're winning,

but to God they are: "The Biggest Losers," and will come to a destructive end. That's the Bible. That's God's good order. His recompense will arrive on time.

Sometimes we make things more complicated than they have to be. God's plan is really, very simple:

Evildoers shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. . . . For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more. . . . The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming. . . .

God doesn't just have an encouraging Word for

us here. He doesn't just drop spiritual platitudes on us from afar and then abandon us, but He rolls up his sleeves, steps into our complexities and does battle on our behalf. The promise is that the Lord will not allow the wicked to fulfill their plans to destroy the righteous.

Our God, mighty in power, fights for us. He is bigger and greater than your craziest enemy. If you're in the heat of the battle right now, or if the enemy is hot on your trail, it's a big deal to God.

I would suggest that you buy some popcorn, pour yourself a large Diet Coke and lean back in your recliner and rest. Why? Because the unrighteous will get what is coming to them, while you come out on top in your movie.

Fret not! You are the upright, so don't get uptight. God can handle the wicked much better than you can.

To learn more about Barbara, visit www.barbarabryant.com.

CALL 2 WORSHIP!

by Cora Jackson-Fossett, Religion Editor

Church and community news throughout greater Los Angeles

Westwood Presbyterian Church

presents Mozart Requiem on April 7, at 5 p.m., at 10822 Wilshire Blvd., in Los Angeles. George Frideric Handel's "Messiah," will be performed. Dan Redfeld will direct soprano Christina Borgioli, alto Nandani Maria Sinha, tenor Orson Van Gay, bass Matthew Lewis, and the WPC Chancel Choir and Chamber Symphony. The donation is \$20 for adults, \$10 for students and free for children under 18. For information, email office@westwoodpres.org.

AME Community Lenten Caravan

hosted by eight AME churches continues on April 9, at 7 p.m., at New Philadelphia AME, Ward AME, 1177 W. 25th St., in Los Angeles, said host Pastor John E. Cager II. Pastor Benjamin Hollins of Price Chapel AME will preach. The next Caravan service will be held on April 17, at Bethel AME, 7900 S. Western Ave., in Los Angeles, said the Rev. Dr. Kelvin T. Calloway, Sr., host pastor. On April 19, at 12 p.m., Good Friday service will take place at First AME, 2270 S. Harvard Blvd., in Los Angeles. The Rev. J. Edgar Boyd is the host pastor.

AME Southern California Conference Lay Organization

holds its Annual Spring Revival on April 10-11, at 7 p.m., at Price Chapel AME Church, said Pastor Benjamin Hollins. The theme is "Laity: Empowered by the Holy Spirit." The revivalist is Bishop Clement W. Fugh, presiding prelate of the Fifth Episcopal District of the AME Church. Also, dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Dorothy Vails-Weber is the SCLCO president and Exhorter Gwen Williams is the event chair.

Carson Community Deliverance Center Church

sponsors a Women's Prayer Service on April 13, at 10 a.m., at 555 E. 220th St., in Carson. The public is invited to attend for worship and prayer. For information, call (310) 835-7905.

Holman United Methodist Church

holds a spring retreat for women veterans on April 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 3320 W. Adams Blvd., in Los Angeles, said Bishop Warner Brown, pastor. The theme is "The Power Within You: Strengthening Connections with Family, Friends and Community." The agenda includes guest speakers and lunch. On April 14, from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., the Children and Youth Ministry will sponsor their "Spring Flings and Easter Things" program in the L.L. White Hall. For details, call (323) 793-5868.

Brookins-Kirkland Community AME Church

plans Resurrection Sunday services on April 21, at 3719 W. Slauson Ave., in Los Angeles, said Pastor Mary Minor. At 7:45 a.m., the Young People's Division will present an intergenerational program and at 9 a.m., Resurrection Sunday worship will be held. Call (323) 296-5610 to learn more.

Los Angeles Master Chorale

presents Great Opera and Film Choruses on May 4, at 2 p.m., and May 5, at 7 p.m., at Walt Disney Concert Hall, 111 S. Grand Ave., in Los Angeles. Grant Gershon will conduct the program, which will include Los Angeles Master Chorale Orchestra, soloist Angel Garcia and 100 singers. For tickets, call (213) 972-7282 or visit lamasterchorale.org

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B-4

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THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

Student Athlete of the Week: D'Mar Johnson

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

Dorsey senior line-backer, D'Mar Johnson realizes how the lessons learned during a game can last long after the regulated minutes run out. Football does more than just develop a person's athleticism.

"I just like the contact of the sport and the sport, it gives you an edge on how to become a better person in life," he said. "It's not even just a game, it's really a lifestyle that you live."

Johnson helped the Dons earn an 8-5 overall record and pace the Coliseum League with a 5-0 record. Although they had a tough start to their season, the team came together to have a long playoff run.

"We got on a winning streak," Johnson said. "Key



AMANDA SCURLOCK/L.A. SENTINEL

Senior linebacker, D'Mar Johnson is ASB Treasurer at Dorsey.

factors really are discipline and playing the game, making minimal mistakes and executing the plays that coach gives us."

His junior year marked the first time he competed in the CIF City Section

championship, which took place at El Camino College. The Dons' championship game against the San Fernando Tigers was a highlight for Johnson. Dorsey fell to San Fernando 21-28.

"Even though we lost in the championship, it was still a big moment that I was even to be able to play on the big stage at a college stadium," he said. "That was a big moment, a big part of my life."

As a senior, he encourages his younger teammates to be patient when it comes to getting varsity opportunities.

"I tell them just because you're an underclassman, you may not get your shot now, it'll come," Johnson said. "I told them 'don't get down on yourself because you might not get in, but you're suiting up for varsity, it's a privilege to even suit up with us or even be able to practice with us.'"

Last fall semester, Johnson took three Advance Placement classes and had a 3.3 GPA. AP Psychology was his favorite.

"I want to learn psychology about why people do the things that they do and with me playing football, I'll be able to learn that," he said. "Since there's such a big thing

with concussions and football, I'll be able to get a job that could possibly help and prevent concussions."

Johnson is an avid student and member of the community. Along with being ASB treasurer, he works with the Urban League and the NAACP. At his church, he helps tutor small children.

With the Urban League, Johnson tutors middle school kids. Working with the NAACP, he discusses ways to improve the community. He handles all of his obligations with ease.

"If you do everything on time and you don't procrastinate, then you'll be alright," Johnson said. "Most of the time, I'm doing my work on time, turning it in. If I do need help, I'll go to office hours and then I'll come to practice."

The Los Angeles Clippers vs. The NBA Playoffs

BY AMANDA SCURLOCK
Sports Writer

The Clippers will return to the NBA Playoffs for the first time since 2017. This year marks the Clipper's fifth playoff appearance since Doc Rivers took the helm. As of Tuesday, the Clippers hold the number six spot in the Western Conference with the possibility of playing the Portland Trailblazer in the first round.

"We're playing at a really high level right now," said Clippers guard, Patrick Beverley. "We're moving the ball and it's fun. We're defending, so we really don't care who we play."

Along with the Utah Jazz, the Clippers have no All-Star players, yet some Clippers rank high in different stat categories. Center, Montrezl Harrell is fifth in the league in field goal percentage with 61.7 percent. Forward, Danilo Gallinari is sixth in the NBA in three-pointer percentage with 43.3 percent.

The team also has depth, they carried on without Gallinari on their Saturday game against the Cleveland Cavaliers to win 132-108. Gallinari missed the match up due to ankle soreness, the team compen-



TWITTER

Clippers center, Montrezl Harrell

sated for the loss of his 19 points per game with forward, JaMychal Green and guard, Landry Shamet scoring above their averages.

Reigning Sixth Man of the Year, Lou Williams remains a constant force off the bench, leading the Clippers with 20 points and five assists per game. Harrell is a physical frontcourt pres-

ence and Beverley prioritizes defense.

"[Beverley] a really good defender," said guard, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. "When you're in the mix with him, you see it every day at practice and what he does to opposing teams and his defense against All-Stars."

Having Rivers as head coach brings the players a

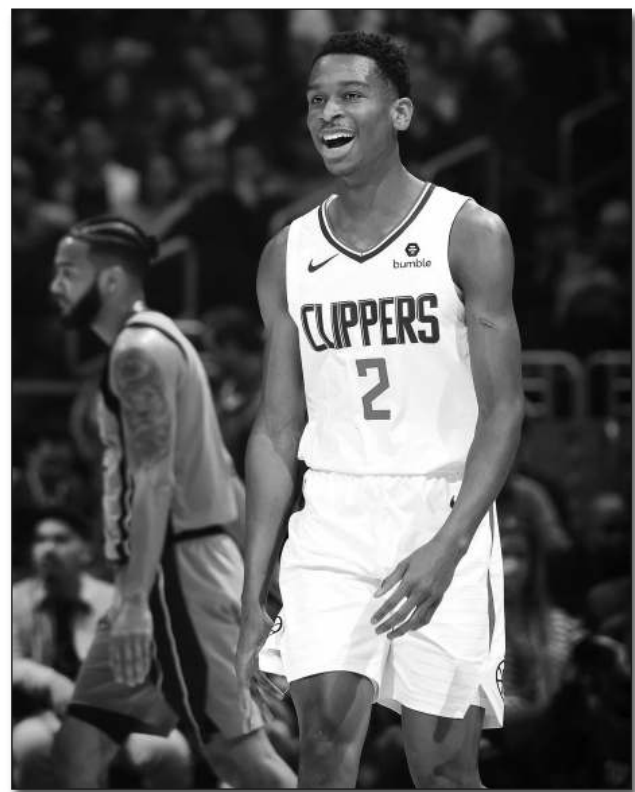
high level of postseason experience. In his 20 years as a head coach, he has missed the playoffs only five times. With the Boston Celtics, he won an NBA championship in 2008 and were the Eastern Conference Champions in 2010.

"It's great to have a coach that knows what it takes to get to that championship level and also win it," Harrell said. "Definitely been around this game for a long time, he's a great teacher with the team."

Another key factor of the Clippers is their youth. Gilgeous-Alexander has been a starting point guard for most of the season. He averaged 14 points per game in March and registered his first double-double against the Brooklyn Nets on March 17. His teammates noted how Gilgeous-Alexander has been playing with confidence.

"Lately he's been playing really good, he's scoring at will," said center Ivica Zubac. "Guys are going under him on the screens to, he's gonna have an open shot every time."

Shamet broke the Clippers rookie record for the most three-pointers made in a quarter and in a half in March. Zubac has been improving his rebound



TWITTER

Clippers rookie guard, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander

average throughout the season.

But how will they stack up against a tough Western Conference? Half of the western teams in the playoffs this year has not missed the postseason for the last years at least. The Trailblazers lead the league field gold percentage (54.9) and three-pointer percentage (51.4).

With 36.4 points per game, Houston Rockets star, James Harden leads

the NBA in scoring. Oklahoma City Thunder's Paul George paces the league with 2.1 steals per game. Utah Jazz center, Rudy Gobert is fourth in rebounds (12.9) and blocks (2.3) per game.

The Clippers games against the Rockets on April 3, the Golden State Warriors on April 5 and the Jazz on April 10 could be possible indicators of how long they will last in the playoffs.

Soccer Legend Pele Meets Rising Star Mbappe in Paris

BY SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

When Kylian Mbappe netted France's final goal in a 4-2 win over Croatia last July, the rising star became only the second teenager to score in a World Cup final — emulating soccer great Pele.

After exchanging praise for one another for months, the pair finally met on Tuesday at an event organized by a Swiss watchmaker in a lavish Parisian hotel. Their meeting had initially been planned for last November but was canceled because of the 78-year-old Pele's poor health at the time.

"I think he is envying me, that's why he is trying to emulate me," a relaxed Pele joked after they were

introduced on a small stage. "His style, the way he is playing, is Latino. Even Brazilian I would say. It's a shame he did not play for Santos (Pele's former club). But it's not too late."

Mbappe's rise to the top has been meteoric. After impressing with his former club Monaco, he received his first call-up with France in March 2017. He was sold to Paris Saint-Germain that summer for 180 million euros (\$210 million) and won the World Cup less than 12 months later. Mbappe's most memorable game in Russia was in a 4-3 victory against Argentina where he scored twice, earned a penalty and showed off his blistering speed under the eye of a powerless Lionel Messi.

Mbappe said he knew



AP PHOTO

Brazilian soccer legend, Pele, left, and French soccer player, Kylian Mbappe pose during a photocall in Paris, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

that he would "enter history" alongside Pele with a goal in the World Cup final.

After scoring twice in Brazil's 5-2 win against Sweden in the final of 1958, when he was just 17, Pele went on to win another

two World Cups with Brazil.

It remains to be seen if Mbappe will do the same, but the French forward believes it's "statistically possible."

"But it would be unre-

al," he said. "Of course, as long as I will be able to win World Cups, my goal will be to win them because France is a great nation of football," he said. "We will be back in 2022 to try and win again."

Pele said Mbappe and his French teammates reminded him of Brazil's great national teams from the 1960's.

"Mbappe said France will prepare to win the next World Cup, but he should know that we (Brazil) are also going to get ready," Pele said.

Mbappe was also named the World Cup's best young player in Russia, like Pele in 1958.

Mbappe has often been compared to the Brazil great for his precocity, but in terms of style, with his

devastating speed and skills, he is closer to France great Thierry Henry.

Asked about Mbappe's main qualities, Pele said he was impressed by his pace and intelligence.

"And he is unpredictable. He is changing his game all the time. It's his main advantage," said Pele, who scored more than 1,000 goals during his career.

That's a tally that Mbappe does not expect to match.

"It might be possible if you count the goals scored on PlayStation," Mbappe said. "But even if with the goals scored at training, it will be difficult."

Journalists were invited to attend the meeting but were not allowed to ask questions.



THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019

www.lasentinel.net

C-1

Ato Essandoh Brings Justice in CBS's Newest Drama, 'The Code'

By LAPACAZO SANDOVAL
Contributing Writer

Ato Essandoh (Ah-toe Ess-ahn-dough) is the type of actor that excites writers, producers, directors and studio executives.

Despite his distinctive looks, impressive height and his superlative command of language, you can stand back and marvel at his chameleon-like ability. He blends into characters so seamlessly that you don't know (at first) that you are watching Ato Essandoh.

Now, I bet, you're scratching your head while you are examining his photographic image. Perhaps his strong features trigger your foggy memory and you connect it to your binge-watching Netflix where he appears in the sci-fi series, "Altered Carbon," a popular choice which was conceived, written and executive produced by Laeta Kalogridis.

In this well-watched series, Essandoh plays Vernon Elliot, an ex-soldier whose wife was imprisoned and whose daughter was killed. Or perhaps you are a "Chicago Med" fan and know him as the African American Jewish doctor, Dr. Isidore Latham.

Now, perhaps your memory is clearing up and you recall his work in the 1970s drama, "Vinyl," produced by Martin Scorsese, Terence Winter, and Mick Jagger; and in BBC America's, "Copper." His additional television credits include "Elementary," "Percy of Interest," "The Good Wife," and "Blue Blood" to name a few. His film credits include "Jason Bourne," "Django Unchained" and "Blood Diamond."

If you've not seen any of the aforementioned film and television shows, soon you won't be able to miss him because Essandoh will appear in the X-Men feature film, "Dark Phoenix," slated for release in June 2019.

But right now, Essandoh is one of the stars of CBS's new series, "The Code," playing Major Trey Ferry in the drama about the military's brightest minds, who tackle the toughest legal challenges facing the U.S. Marine Corps.

As prosecutors, defense lawyers, and investigators, these Marines work together to serve their country with integrity while often putting aside their personal ideals for the sake of justice.

Operating out of Judge



Ato Essandoh

Advocate General Headquarters in Quantico, Captain John "Abe" Abraham is a driven prosecutor for whom becoming a Marine is a longstanding family tradition and a responsibility he treats with devotion and passion.

His colleague and friend, Captain Maya Dobbins, is the fearless lead defense attorney who is never hesitant to go up against one of her own, but is also a team player if it means finding the truth.

Major Trey Ferry (Essandoh) is Abe's eloquent and wise superior officer working for the prosecution who pursues suspects with ferocity.

Commanding officer Colonel Glenn Turnbull, one of the highest-ranking female officers in the Judge Advocate Corps, demands excellence of herself and her staff while inspiring intense loyalty. Assisting the team is Lt. Harper Li, a highly capable lawyer who is eager to take on bigger cases, and tech-savvy, efficient Warrant Officer Rami Ahmadi, the Marine equivalent of a paralegal.

These active duty Marines are attorneys who have chosen to serve their country in pursuit of military justice at home and abroad.

The Los Angeles Sentinel caught up with Essandoh between his very busy schedule to discuss his role in "The Code" and how he got started, 25 years ago, in the entertainment industry.

This is an edited phone conversation with the actor.

Los Angeles Sentinel: Tell me about your role in "The Code." You play Major Trey Ferry and you're back on CBS, congratulations!

Ato Essandoh: (laughing) Thank you. Yes, I am back on CBS, it's a good place to be.

LAS: I've watched

a few episodes of "The Code" and I think it might have a long shelf life much like "Law and Order." What did you think when you read the pilot for the show?

AE: I thought the same thing. What I loved about the character [Major Trey Ferry] is that he's a "by-the-book" Marine and he's also a lifer. He loves being in the Marines ... but he also realizes, based on his experience being a Marine and practicing law, that to achieve full justice is an ideal but one that we are always trying to achieve. Sometimes the outcome is not satisfying but we're looking for the best outcome possible. That's a more nuanced way of looking at things rather than a black-and-white way.

In reading the pilot and talking with the showrunner Craig Sweeny, I realized that it wasn't just a typical case of the week kind of thing.

LAS: Wait, but each episode is a new case, correct?

AE: Yes, it is a new case each week, but there is a lot of drama. These characters travel to far-flung places in this world. We have an episode that happens in Afghanistan and all over the country. We also get to go home with the characters and see what the life of a Marine is outside of being a "Marine," which is lovely and to your point, why people will want to watch because it's not exactly the same thing every week.

LAS: Do you personally have any connection with the U.S. military?

AE: No, not in my family, but I do have friends in the Navy, and I have a couple of Navy Seal friends. I've done something called "theater of war," which is an outreach program where actors per-

formed Greek tragedies with people who have actually been in the field [of war] and Guantanamo Bay [detention camp]. I've also talked to a lot of the armed forces people all over the world so while I do not have anyone in my family I do have some experience talking with actual veterans and active duty people.

LAS: What advice would you give to young actors? You were studying at Cornell University, chemical engineering, is that correct? That's not the most natural path to a career in film and television.

AE: It's crazy how it's

happened. When I look at the span of my career, which is about 25 years now, I've not been pigeonholed, I've not been typecast at all. I've played everything from an African rebel to a lawyer like I'm doing now (on CBS's "The Code") to an ex-blues singer, I did "Vinyl" for a season. I've had a very varied career. I really can't complain about anything, especially since I came from an [chemical] engineering background. You can imagine my parent's response. I went to Cornell University and I graduated. Then I decided that I wanted to act. That's, what would you call it, a 180, a weird pirouette into the acting world. Luckily, it's been a success.

LAS: Your parents must have been shocked. I mean, you need brains to get into Cornell University and then graduate. I tip my hat to you, sir.

AE: (laughing) Thank you. I remember talking with my dad years ago, when I had paid off my Cornell [University] loans, it's an expensive school. And my dad goes "Hey, congratulations," and then I say, "Pop, I don't think you heard what I said. I paid off my school loans with the money that I earned from

acting. Then, he sat me down and we had a nice drink and he said, "Hey son, that's pretty cool." That was a wonderful moment.

LAS: Your parents are from Ghana, correct?

AE: Yes. Both of my parents were born and raised in Ghana, but I was not. I was raised in Schenectady, N.Y. It's a long story about how two Ghanaese immigrants from West Africa get all the way to upstate New York. And my mom still smarts because it's so cold in upstate New York. That woman can not deal with the cold. Luckily, they moved back to Ghana and they have a pool and they are happy there.

LAS: How often do you go to Ghana, to visit?

AE: I try to go there once a year. My mom and dad are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this year, so I have to figure out a way to go this year.

LAS: That's amazing, God bless them both.

To read full interview visit www.lasentinel.net

"The Code" on CBS airs on Mondays beginning April 15th. Follow Ato Essandoh on Twitter and Instagram @AtoEssandoh



From left are Luke Mitchell as Captain John "Abe" Abraham, Anna Wood as Captain Maya Dobbins and Ato Essandoh as Major Trey Ferry in CBS' "The Code."

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Ruben Santiago-Hudson's Play 'Lackawanna Blues' Lands in L.A

By SHAQUILLE WOODS
Contributing Writer

Actor Ruben Santiago-Hudson has hundreds of creative accomplishments under his belt.

From award-winning plays to television, Santiago-Hudson has cemented his place as one of Hollywood's most hardworking artist.

He is now bringing one of those plays back after almost two decades after its original debut.

"Lackawanna Blues," the award-winning one-man play montage sharing Hudson's life experiences, debuted in Los Angeles on March 13 and will run through April 21 at the Mark Taper Forum.

The play is performed, directed, and written by Santiago-Hudson with live music by blues guitarist, Chris Thomas King.

Originally debuted in 2001 in New York, the play grew a wide audience and landed an HBO movie in 2005.

Santiago-Hudson spoke to the Los Angeles Sentinel Newspaper about the over-

all creation of this heart-warming play.

Los Angeles Sentinel: What was the process of creating "Lackawanna Blues?" How did this all begin?

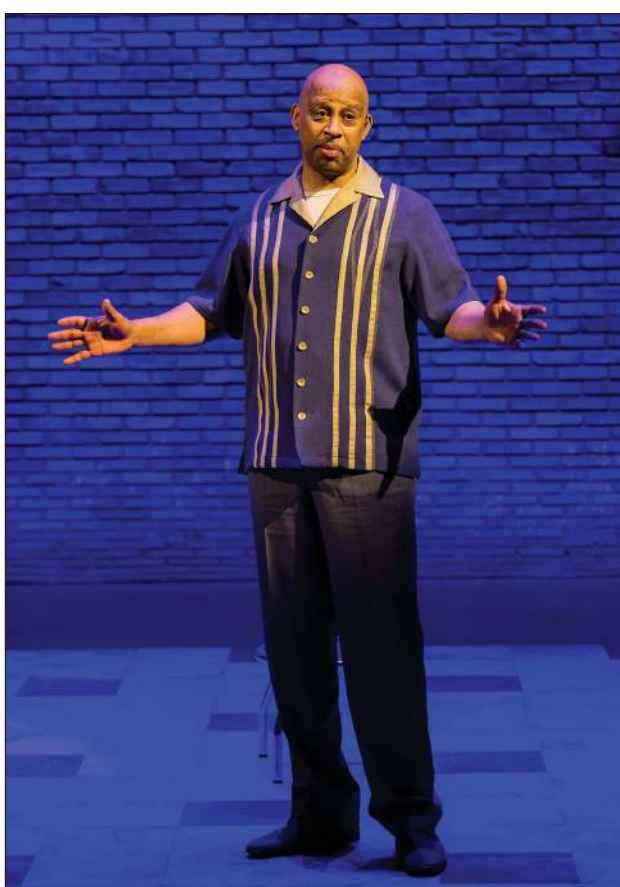
Ruben Santiago-Hudson: It started in 1999 in writing. I started writing the play on the prompt from George C. Wolfe. He was a dear friend.

George told me he was fascinated by my story and pushed me to write the play. The theater told me I could name it whatever I wanted so it became "Lackawanna Blues."

LAS: What brought forth the revival of the play?

RSH: The play has been dormant for almost eighteen years. Under the request of my collaborator, Bill Simms, who made his transition in February, he told me that we have to do the play again. He said the world needs to hear it again especially with our society's situation.

We are living in a politically and racially charged



Ruben Santiago-Hudson on stage during "Lackawanna Blues."

division right now. I never intended coming this far to Los Angeles, however the people have been great and totally embraced me.

LAS: Rachel "Nan-

ny" Crosby is mentioned throughout the play. Can you speak about how she impacted your life and others?

RSH: Well, she was a savior. She saved as many

people who needed her as possible. I'm one of the dozens of children she took in. Not only did she take in children, but also the homeless, abused women, drifters, or anyone who needed a place to land.

These women exist all over the country but rarely are they celebrated. I wanted to make a universal celebration of the Black women in our country who have been our rocks.

LAS: It's great that you are using your art to tell a bigger story. How important is art to move our society forward?

RSH: Art reflects society. It reflects your emotional, psychological, intellectual, and political influence. When times are hard, art gets hard. When times need love, art brings love. Our art always reflects the need to the community. Sometimes it may just be a wake up call. Now, I'm not saying every art brings the truth. Some artists just want to make money but don't bring enlightenment. If I'm entertaining you, I should also enlighten you

too.

LAS: With the success of "Lackawanna Blues," what advice would you give to aspiring artists?

RSH: Well first, you have to be true to yourself. Second part is not to be afraid to step out of the lines that have already drawn. No one can define you but you.

Also, be true to your community. Great amounts of people begin chasing that dollar and forget about integrity. I personally have sacrificed a lot of dollars for integrity. We have to stop being bought. We must sustain our art and trust each other.

The one thing that I do maintain is my freedom. I'm truly blessed that I spend the majority of the year doing exactly what I want.

Tickets for "Lackawanna Blues" are available at CenterTheatreGroup.org. You can also purchase in person at the Center Theatre Group Box Office at the Ahmanson Theater at the Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles.

Beyoncé, 'Black Panther' win at 50th NAACP Image Awards

By JONATHAN LANDRUM, JR.
AP Entertainment Writer

Beyoncé was named entertainer of the year at the 50th annual NAACP Image Awards that highlighted works by entertainers and writers of color.

After Beyoncé accepted the award Saturday night, the superstar paid homage to the people who were nominated in the same cat-

egory as her. She beat out Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James, Regina King, Chadwick Boseman and director Ryan Coogler.

"Regina King, I love you so much. You taught us patience, persistence and how to be masterful in your craft," she said. "Chadwick Boseman is teaching children to dream and to be seen as kings. LeBron James has taught us the

strength of all forms, leading by example and providing education to our kids. Ryan Coogler tells our stories in a way that celebrates our history and proves we do have power."

Beyoncé added: "I'm honored to be included among all of you, and to be a part of a vital and thriving community. Thank you to the NAACP."

Beyoncé released a



Omari Hardwick and Beyoncé attend 50th NAACP Image Awards.

joint album last year with her husband, Jay-Z, called "Everything is Love." The prolific singer also paid tribute to historically Black colleges and universities, as well as the dance troupes and step teams during her groundbreaking two-hour Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival performance. She also performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which is known as the national Black anthem, at the festival and donated \$100,000 to four Black universities shortly after her performance.

The awards ceremony aired live on TV One at the Dolby Theatre, the same venue that hosts the Academy Awards.

Jay-Z received the President's Award for the rapper's public service achievements. He was recognized for his efforts through his Shawn Carter Foundation and serving as co-founder of the REFORM Alliance.

The rapper executive produced the documentaries "Rest in Power: The Trayvon Martin Story" and "Time: The Kalief Browder Story," along with an animated documentary short called "The War on Drugs is an Epic Fail." That documentary highlighted the unfavorable treatment of Black and Latino people when it comes to drug-related crimes.

Jay-Z quoted Abraham Lincoln after he accepted his award and dedicated his trophy to his 93-year-old grandmother, Hattie White, saying: "She's so full of life."

He also paid homage to the women in his life, including his wife, Beyoncé, who smiled while her husband made his speech.

"It's not the amount of years in your life. It's the amount of life in your

years," he said. "That quote embodies my beautiful grandmother."

"Black Panther" was awarded best motion picture. The Marvel blockbuster hit beat out "BlackKlansman," "Crazy Rich Asians," "If Beale Street Could Talk" and "The Hate U Give."

The superhero film was a cultural phenomenon. It earned \$700 million domestically during its theatrical run.

"Black Panther" won in several other categories, including best actor in a motion picture (Boseman), supporting actor in a motion picture (Michael B. Jordan) and directing in a motion picture (Coogler).

Jussie Smollett, who lost to "Grey's Anatomy" star Jessie Williams in the supporting actor in a drama series category, did not attend the awards.

It has been a tumultuous week for the "Empire" star after a felony case against him was dropped in Chicago. The handling of the case, which accused Smollett of falsely reporting to police that he was assaulted by two men in downtown Chicago on Jan. 29, has drawn widespread condemnation.

Actor-comedian Chris Rock took verbal jabs at Smollett before he presented outstanding comedy series to ABC's "black-ish."

"They said no Jussie Smollett jokes," Rock said. "Yeah, I know, but what a waste of light skin. Do you know what I could do with that light skin? That curly hair, my career would be out of here. I would be running Hollywood. What the hell was he thinking? You are known as 'Jessie' for now on. You don't even get the 'u' anymore. That 'u' was for respect. You ain't getting no respect from

me."

In response to Rock's jokes, "black-ish" star Yara Shahidi made her stance in the Smollett controversy obvious.

"I stand with Jussie," Shahidi said before she handed the microphone to Marcus Scribner and ducked into her crowd of castmates including Anthony Anderson and Tracee Ellis Ross.

Anderson returned as host of the show and won for best actor in a comedy series. He opened the awards speaking about "Black excellence" in film, hoping his behavior wouldn't get him removed as host and made several jokes including one about Kanye West not being invited to cookouts.

Anderson brought his mother onstage with him and dedicated his award to "the woman who raised me in Watts (California) and pushed me to become an actor."

"Everything I do on screen is for you momma," Anderson said of his mother, who clutched his award. He also shouted out U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters, who sat in the first row.

Waters received the NAACP Chairman's Award for public service. She spoke about young voters taking a stance at the polls, her thoughts on getting rid of the Electoral College and President Donald Trump's presidency.

"I still think he needs to be impeached," Waters said of Trump. "This president has defined himself as a liar."

Donald Glover, who won four Grammys this year, won for his directing on "Atlanta." On the music side, his alter-ego Childish Gambino's song "This is America" won for best music video.

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Pfizer, Sickle Cell Advocates Address Disease During Black Press Week

BY STACY M. BROWN
NNPA Newswire
Correspondent

National Sickle Cell Advocacy Day 2019 is a great time to focus on key legislative issues that are important to individuals and their families who are living with the blood cell disorder, including promoting stable funding for research, better healthcare access, expanded programs and increased education and awareness for the Sickle Cell Disease community and programs throughout the country.

Lori Luck, the global medical director for Pfizer Rare Disease, joined Beverley Frances-Gibson, the president and CEO of the SCD Association of America; and Angie Snyder, a professor at Georgia State University, to discuss the latest in Sickle Cell Disease advocacy during Black Press Week in Washington, D.C.

The discussion came ahead of National Sickle Cell Advocacy Day, which is actually held over two days on April 8 and April 9, at the Kellogg Conference Hotel at Gallaudet University in Washington.

The event features advocacy training and meetings with legislative champions and a collaboration of federal partners, as advocates attempt to raise awareness to the disease which affects about 100,000 Americans and occurs among nearly 1 out of every 365 Black or African American births.

According to researchers, the illness occurs among about 1 out of every 16,300 Hispanic American births and about 1 in 13 Black or African American babies are born with sickle cell trait, meaning that the individual has inherited the sickle cell gene from one of his or her parents.

"We're educators and we're not only educating internal clients but external as well," said Luck, who noted that Pfizer has partnerships with the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention as well as other organizations.

The company also has a partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a trade association of more than 200 African American-owned community newspapers from around the United States.

The partnership is a collaboration to raise awareness of sickle cell disease, a lifelong and debilitating genetic disorder that affects red blood cells.

People with rare diseases, like sickle cell disease, have unique and complex challenges and the Pfizer partnership provides an opportunity for NNPA to inform and educate readers of Black-owned newspapers in more than 70 markets across the country on sickle cell disease, which NNPA president and CEO Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., said is an often misunderstood disease that has a profound impact on the health and well-being of those affected.

"Together with Pfizer, we look forward to providing sickle cell disease education that can underscore the importance of improving quality of care in the community," Chavis said.

Snyder, whose work at Georgia State University includes researching and advocating for the sickle cell disease community, said it's important that everyone is educated.

"We have to continue to study on what works and doesn't work for people," she said.

Francis-Gibson said conversations must take place in and outside the home. "Sickle Cell Disease is personal for me because I have a family member who died from sickle cell disease when I was in high school," Francis-Gibson said.

"We never discussed it and when I was offered my current position, I knew it was my calling because if my own family isn't discussing sickle cell disease, I knew that other families weren't discussing it ei-



Lori Luck, the global medical director for Pfizer Rare Disease, joined Beverley Frances-Gibson, the president and CEO of the SCD Association of America; and Angie Snyder, a professor at Georgia State University, to discuss the latest in Sickle Cell Disease advocacy during Black Press Week in Washington, D.C.

ther," she said.

In December, a bipartisan bill aimed at fighting sickle disease was signed into law by President Donald Trump.

The Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorders Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2018 was introduced by Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Tim Scott, R-S.C., in Febru-

ary 2018 and passed in the Senate in October.

The bill also reauthorizes a current sickle cell disease prevention and treatment program for nearly \$5 million each year over the next five years.

"Even though sickle cell disease is the most common inherited blood disorder in our country, research and treatment lags behind that of other chron-

ic illnesses," Booker said in a statement.

"Our legislation will help find new ways to improve the lives of people suffering from sickle cell disease. It's time we start treating sickle cell disease as a serious and debilitating illness and allocate adequate resources to monitoring, researching, and treating it," he said.

Francis-Gibson said ad-

vocacy for funding the bill is still needed.

"It's important everyone comes out during National Sickle Cell Advocacy Day and join me on Capitol Hill because when I'm speaking to the legislators, it's much better when they look and see all of the people behind me," she said.



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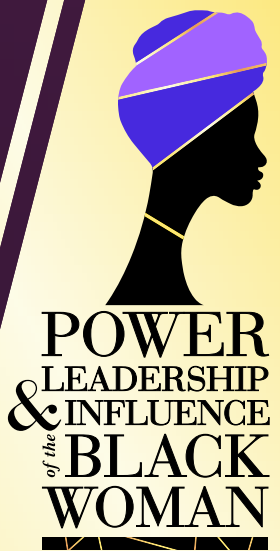
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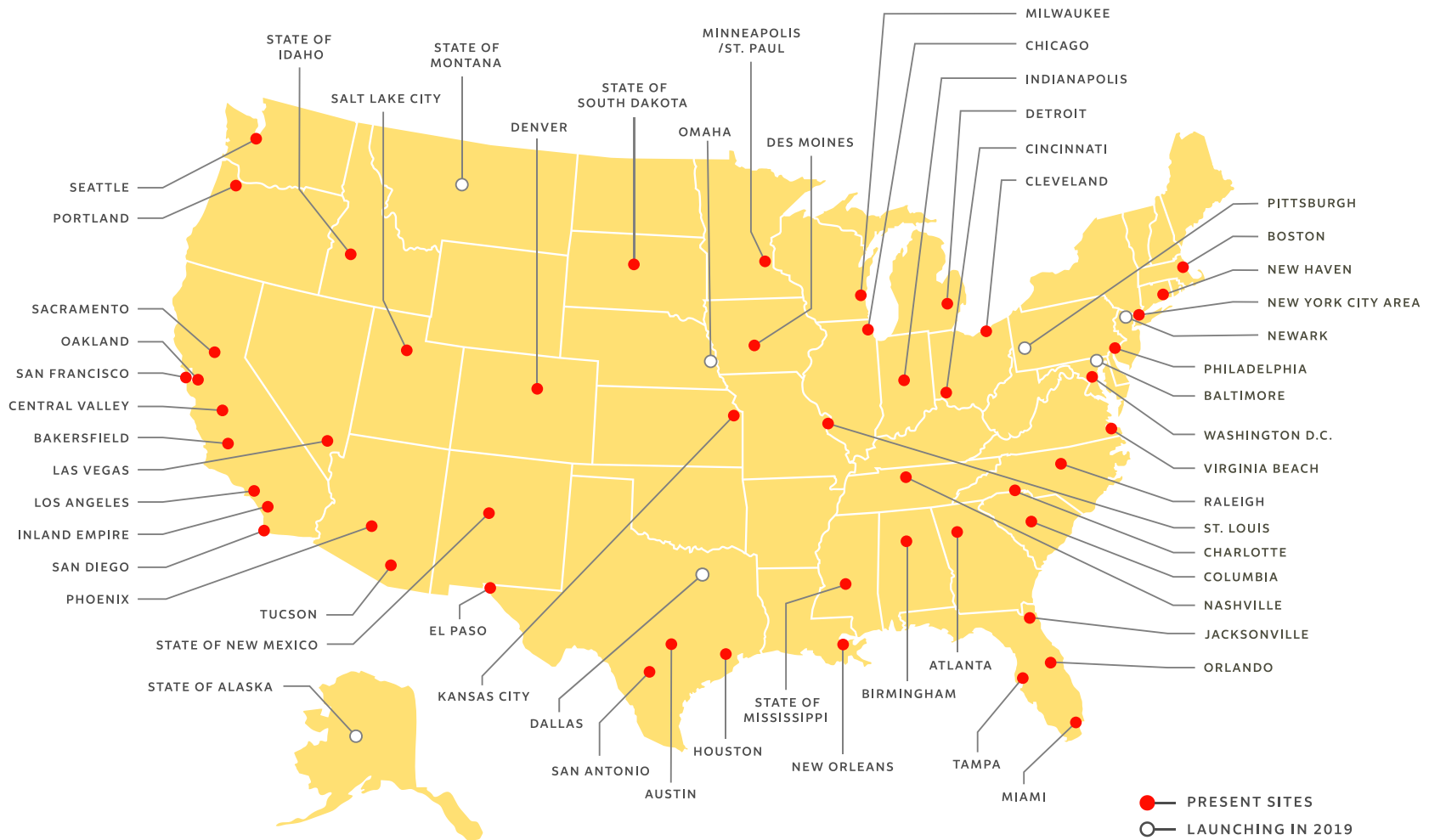
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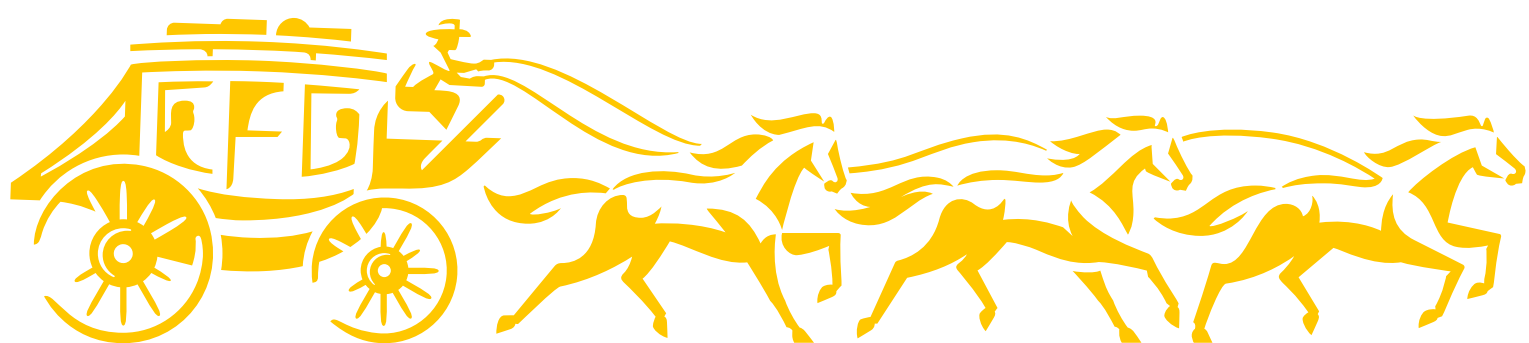
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