



MLB player Curtis Granderson and the JSU baseball team

N.Y. Mets star Granderson stressed education at JSU COFO Fences panel discussion

By Stephanie R. Jones
Contributing Writer

Curtis Granderson made it to “the show,” playing Major League Baseball. Yet the New York Mets outfielder told Jack-

son State University baseball players and others that his biggest accomplishment was getting a college education.

“The number one thing I’m proud of is getting my college

degree,” said Granderson, a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Granderson spoke Thursday at the panel discussion Fences: African Americans in Major

League Baseball at the Fannie Lou Hamer Institute @ COFO, where the crowd spilled out of the auditorium. He was joined by

COFO
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Debate on Sessions nomination explodes over Coretta Scott King letter



King



Sessions

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The United States Senate debate over Attorney General nominee Sen. Jeff Sessions (D-Ala.) boiled over into confusion and accusations February 7 as Senate Democrats carried their opposition into an all-night long protest.

But at 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, February 7, as Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) recited the words of a letter authored by Coretta Scott King, the late widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., that’s been in the Senate record for over 20 years, the drama hit an all-new level.

The Senate floor fiasco would lead to the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) releasing a blistering statement late in the evening calling the episode “disgusting” and evoking the name of Civil



Rights Era villain and unrepentant racist Bull Connor.

Republican Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho) objected to Warren’s reading of a 1986 letter by King’s widow, because it was critical of Sessions when he was a prosecutor. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) became the face of Risch’s objection, and rose to object to Warren’s reading of the Coretta Scott King letter. McConnell asserted the letter violated a Senate rule prohib-

iting senators from ‘Impugning’ other senators – known as “rule 19.”

Warren was then ordered to stop reading and take her seat on the Senate floor. The Senate then voted to effectively censure Warren for the remainder of the debate on the Sessions nomination by a vote of 49-43.

The Senate voted February 8 to confirm Sessions to succeed Attorney General Loretta Lynch as the nation’s top cop under the Trump Administration.

King wrote the letter in 1986 urging a Republican-controlled Senate Judiciary Committee to reject then U.S. Attorney Sessions’ nomination for a district court judgeship. Coretta Scott King’s letter in part read that, “Mr. Sessions has used the awesome powers of his office in a shabby attempt to intimi-

date and frighten elderly black voters. For this reprehensible conduct he should not be rewarded with a federal judgeship.”

The chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus released a blistering statement on the incident on the Senate floor hours later.

“Republican senators’ decision tonight to silence Coretta Scott King from the grave is disgusting and disgraceful,” said Rep. Cedric Richmond, the chairman of the CBC, in a statement.

“Mrs. King’s characterization of then U.S. Attorney Senator Sessions was accurate in 1986 and it is accurate now. He is as much of a friend to the black community and civil rights as Bull Connor and the

King
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R & B 2017 festival unveils partial roster of artists



By Jackie Hampton
Publisher

The 2017 Jackson Rhythm and Blues Festival is set to celebrate Jackson’s culture and rich musical heritage August 18 and 19.

Festival organizers released the first round of artists Wednesday at a press conference at the Jackson Convention Complex, but advised the crowd that headliners would be announced in the near future. The roster of artists was quite impressive, based on the reaction

of the audience. Thunderous applause and screams were heard throughout the theater room of the complex as the names were unveiled.

Artists announced so far include Jasmine Sullivan, Eric Benet, Ro James, Dreezy, Calvin Richardson, Angela Walls, Doug E. Fresh, Eric Roberson, Jarekus Singleton, Eddie Cotton, Jason Turner Band, Los Brown and AJC

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W.K. Kellogg Foundation Program Manager Greg Johnson headlines CSLC annual banquet

This year marks an increase in the number of scholarship essay contestants

The Mississippi Link Newswire

LEXINGTON, Miss. – Small town folks are always excited when one of their hometown boys grow up, do well, and return to give back to his community. That was exactly the case for a packed audience of mostly Holmes Countians at the Community Students Learning Center’s (CSLC) Seventh Annual Scholarship Awards Banquet, held January 28 in the Holmes County Central High School gymnasium in Lexington.

Holmes County native Gregory Johnson, program

manager for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, who is also an attorney, returned as keynote speaker and supercharged the scholarship candidates and the audience to go after their goals with vigor. “I need you to understand, young people, that in America, education provides the knowledge; politics provides the franchise; economic provides the capital; and that we have to mix those values with mutual and self-respect so that all of us can achieve that great American Dream of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” Johnson said.

Reflecting on the banquet’s theme, Education Empowers, Johnson stated, “You have to expose yourself to different things to acquire the many different experiential degrees of knowledge needed to make decisions to be successful in this life.”

This year, there were 11 contestants, as compared to nine last year. “This is why we are so excited about this year’s scholarship banquet,” commented CSLC Executive Director and Co-Founder Beulah Greer. “Our young people are not shying away from compe-

titution when it comes to an opportunity to do better. I am so proud of them. They are all winners just for trying in my opinion.”

Speaking of the winners, each of them were thrilled to learn they had placed in the scholarship’s essay competition. “I felt very enthusiastic after being informed that I had won first place,” said Shania Clay. “With this scholarship, I plan to cover some of my book expenses.”

Second place winner, Vanet-

Kellogg
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Kenneth Bryant, Community Relations – Hinds County Sheriff’s Department, encourages students to make the right choices to avoid negative consequences.

By Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Contributing Writer

Community partners joined first-time Principal Ben Lundy of Byram Middle School to rally against bullying during it’s Anti-Bullying Awareness Day, February 9. During three different sessions from 10:30 a.m. – 3:40 p.m. the anti-bullying team raised the level of consciousness of boys in grades 6-8. The occasion’s theme was Stop Bullying – Together We Can Be Bully Free.

Juan Cloy, Mississippi project

director of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, said social networks are ideal tools for various kinds of bullying. He discussed the social networks which included cyber bullying, digital fingerprints, and cyber stalking.

Cloy mentioned that many children become victims because messages are sent to intimidate or threaten them. He said many children commit suicide because they believe they are being controlled by online bullying. He ap-

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