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Why ending AIDS in Africa matters to black americans

By Dr. Djibril Diallo
Regional Director for Western and Central Africa, UNAIDS

World AIDS Day (December 1) is fast approaching and a recently launched initiative aimed at ending HIV/AIDS, as a public health crisis in Africa, could be a catalyst to trigger discussions about HIV in the African-American and African diaspora communities in the United States.

In recent months, several African heads of state have made public their commitment to support the goal of ending AIDS by 2030. In September, six African heads of state joined UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé at the “HIV Fast Track” side event organized during the 72nd United Nations General Assembly that was held in New York City and presided over by President Yoweri of Uganda.

Earlier in July, during the African Union (AU) Summit, AU chair, President Alpha Conde of Guinea convened the “AIDS Watch Africa Heads of State and Government Meeting” where the leaders endorsed the “Catch-Up Plan for West and Central Africa” and declared their commitment to providing the needed policy and resource changes to help achieve the target goals.

The Catch-Up Plan is an



Djibril Diallo, the UNAIDS Director of the Regional Support Team for West and Central Africa, says that Black Americans need to get more involved in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. UNAIDS

18-month initiative that has been developed to accelerate the AIDS response and prevent a resurgence of the HIV epidemic in the 25-country region. Its focus is on testing, knowing one’s HIV status, treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission; the initiative was crafted to complement existing health plans that the

countries have been using to address HIV and AIDS.

Today, thanks to advancements in medicine and increased access to antiretroviral medications for many people in Africa and around the world, being diagnosed with HIV/AIDS is no longer a death sentence. In so many cases, with treatment the disease can be man-

aged like a chronic illness and kept under long-term control with medication.

However, at a time when the global response to HIV is accelerating, millions of people in Western and Central Africa are being left behind. There is a considerable gap when it comes to people knowing their HIV status, and for those who test positive to receive the necessary treatment.

The same can be said for the populations most vulnerable to the disease in the United States, as well.

Many of the issues that continue to fuel the HIV/AIDS crisis on the continent are also the root cause for the high infection rates found in African-American and Hispanic populations in the U.S.; some of the same barriers including poverty, fear, stigma and discrimination also keep people from seeking to know their HIV status, having access to treatment and properly following up on treatment.

On both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, the HIV/AIDS mirror reflects the same faces: the young, the poor, women, high-risk populations, as well as children. In the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga., reported that “Afri-

AIDS
Continued on page 3

The Black Press mourns a New York beacon

Crusader Newspaper Group/NNPA Member

Walter Smith, 83, publisher and successful business entrepreneur, died suddenly while in Miami, Friday, Nov. 10, 2017.

As CEO of Smith Haj Group, Walter published New York’s premier weekly, *The New York Beacon*, and *The Philadelphia Observer*. The main focus of the two papers was on the African-American community. Smith, a longtime member of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) shared many of his thought-provoking articles, commentaries and editorials with other publishers’ newspapers that were members of the Black Press. He often wrote about Donald Trump and what was going on in the White House.

The Mississippi Link most recently published one of Smith’s articles in its’ October 26 Anniversary Issue. Jackie Hampton, publisher of *The Mississippi Link* was very saddened to hear of yet another publisher, whom she considered a friend, suddenly passing.

Smith passed just 18 days after Bernal Smith, 45, publisher of the *Tri-State Defender*, died of an apparent heart attack while in his Memphis home. Hampton served with both publishers on the Board of Directors of NNPA.

Smith’s life began as the seventh of 10 children to Walter Smith Sr. and his wife, Belle. He was raised in Badin, N.C. At 18, Smith was drafted into the United States Army where he served his country for 18 months in Korea. Upon his return, he secured a degree in business from the University of North Carolina at Durham after which he landed in New York and began his career.

Automatic Data Processing (ADP) was in its embryonic stage, and Smith became one of its founding employees. After attending computer school, his input to the company was invaluable. When he began with ADP, the company had just two offices but now has \$10 billion in revenues and approximately 570,000 clients.

In 1980, Smith met Bill Underwood, who was operating the Big Red, a numerology tip sheet selling approximately 100,000 sheets per day. He later re-named it *Big Red News*. Because of its unique style and content, Big Red became the largest circulated, ABC-audited African-American weekly in the nation. “I saw the opportunity to be a positive voice in the community and for a good, thriving business to develop as a result of this captive audience. I made some suggestions to him as to how to convert the production of a numerology sheet into a business of a newspaper,” Smith said.

During an interview in 2013 with the *Stanly News & Press* in Albemarle, N.C., Smith said he had been working for ADP for less than a year, making \$75 per week, sometimes \$100 with overtime, when he suddenly noticed something about his pay. “I looked at my paycheck one week, and \$15 a week was coming out for stock options. I said, “I can’t afford this,” Smith told the newspaper. His boss re-



American Express’s Chenault to retire

By Frederick H. Lowe
Special to the Trice Edney News Wire
from NorthStarNewsToday.com

American Express Co. announced that Kenneth I. Chenault, chairman and CEO of the New York-based credit and charge card issuer, and one of the nation’s few top black executives, will retire February 1, 2018 after a challenging tenure that began in the very early days of his career in the company’s corner office.

Chenault’s first year in office was 2001, a difficult time for him, his senior management and the company because in September of that year, two passenger jets crashed into New York’s World Trade Center complex, where American Express is headquartered, instituting a new reality for the nation’s security and the business world that relied on the security. Some analysts believed that American Express was doomed but under Chenault, the company survived and later thrived.

The business on Wednesday reported a third-quarter net income



Chenault

of \$1.4 billion on revenues of \$8.4 billion. “We’re starting a new chapter from a position of strength and this is the right time to make the leadership transition to someone who’s played a central role in all that we have accomplished,” said Chenault, who will be succeeded by Stephen J. Squeri, who board members on Wednesday elected CEO and board chairman.

Squeri has been American Ex-

press’s vice chairman since 2015. Prior to that, he was Group president of the company’s Global Corporate Services Group. Chenault earned a law degree from Harvard and an undergraduate degree in history from Bowdoin College. But what he faced during the first year of his tenure as CEO wasn’t a case study he could refer to in text books at the time.

On September 11, 2001, shortly after Chenault took over, two jets hijacked by Islamic militants crashed into New York’s World Trade Center, heavily damaging American Express’s world headquarters and killing 11 employees.

Chenault guided American Express after the 9/11 terrorist attacks that damaged American Express’s headquarters and killed employees. Chenault was working in Salt Lake City. He ordered his senior management to meet in his New York City apartment to determine a plan going forward.

“Spending on the travel business was in disarray and dropping. Many people were writing us off.

Still, the company had to lay off 15,000 workers. It tested us at the highest levels,” Chenault said.

Since American Express could not use its headquarters’ building, company employees were dispersed to three separate locations in the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. All of the employees met in Madison Square Garden where Chenault spoke to them. “I told my management team that it was our job to lead this organization,” Chenault said during a 2016 interview.

Warren Buffet, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, American Express’s largest shareholder, praised Chenault’s tenure.

“He led the company through 9/11, the financial crisis and the challenges of the last couple of years. American Express always came out stronger. Ken never went for easy short-term answers, never let day-to-day challenges distract him from what was right for the moderate and long term.”

Chenault
Continued on page 3

Heart recipient meets donor family 18 years after lifesaving transplant



Book Review: Encyclopedia of Black Comics



Share this issue with a friend by mailing it to:

Jackson State University wins big at 2017 HBCUGrow LEAD Awards

The Department of University Communications were presented with three LEAD Awards November 9, for outstanding work in social media advertising, the People of JSU and the university's main website.

Jackson State University won a gold award for LEAD Website, www.jsums.edu. JSU also won silver awards in the LEAD website (People of JSU) and LEAD Marketing categories.

The LEAD Award levels were Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze.

HBCUgrow is dedicated to assisting HBCU's grow enrollment and alumni giving, and also tackle the changing landscape of marketing challenges.

For more information regarding the HBCUGrow LEAD Awards, visit www.hbcugrow.com.



JSU won HBCUGrow awards.

Hinds CC honors foundation scholarship recipients

The Mississippi Link Newswire

The Hinds Community College Foundation recognized its 2017-18 scholarship recipients, donors and honorees at a reception Oct. 27 at the Muse Center on the Rankin Campus.

Among those recognized were Jacobus Roby and Rev. Cliff Nelson, both of Raymond. Roby received

the Scott Nelson Scholarship.

The Hinds Community College Foundation awarded more than 600 scholarships in the 2017-18 academic year.

The deadline to apply for a scholarship is Feb. 15, 2018.

For more information,
visit www.hindscc.edu.



Jacoby Roby and Rev. Cliff Nelson

In Memoriam
**Remembering
Ozie Mae Taylor**

October 12, 1940 - November 22, 2017



Ozie Mae Taylor was born October 12, 1940, in Yazoo City, Miss. to Jesse and Mary Gross. She had one twin brother, Otis, who preceded her in death. She was united in marriage to Walter Lee Taylor in 1962. To this union, two children were born. On November 22, 2017, Ozie lost her battle with cancer and passed away at Hospice Ministries.

Taylor graduated from Jackson State College. After her graduation, she was employed by the Jackson Public School District as an English teacher and taught there for several years. She then took a leap of faith and left her teaching job to help and support her husband in his business, Taylor's Candy Company. Since that time, the company has grown to become a staple in the community, serving customers throughout the City of Jackson and beyond. Over their 50 years in business, Taylor became known as the face of Taylor's Candy Co.

She leaves behind her husband, Walter Lee Taylor; her two children, Tiffany and Walter Jr; and many loving relatives and friends.

Visitation will be Thursday, November 30, 2017 1-7pm at Jackson Memorial (601-969-9457). Services will be held Friday, December 1, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Central Community Church of God, 2305 St. Charles Street, Jackson, MS



AIDS

Continued from page 1

can Americans continue to experience the greatest burden of HIV compared to other races and ethnicities.” In 2015, data released earlier this year, the CDC noted that African Americans who represent around 12 percent of the U.S. population, but account for 40 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS and nearly 45 percent “of all persons with newly diagnosed infection.”

Latinos, who represent around

17 percent of the U.S. population, account for nearly 21 percent of people living with HIV and an estimated 24 percent of all persons with newly diagnosed infection.

The Catch-Up Plan for the West and Central Africa initiative can serve as the entry point for talking about HIV/AIDS and related health issues in Africa globally and in particular, as it concerns African-American and African Diaspora communities in the U.S.

Smith

Continued from page 1

plied, “It’s stock. I’m giving you an option to buy stock,” Smith remembered. He said, “You keep that and pretty soon it will be worth some money.”

Smith’s boss was right. On paper Smith learned he was \$2 million richer, later, when he was trying to buy a house on New York’s Long Island in 1964. “I’m struggling to get to work and back and was a millionaire and didn’t know it,” Smith said. “It was just a real Cinderella story.

In 1981, Smith took part of his new-found riches and made an investment in his future. He purchased full control of the newspaper. In 1983, the paper changed its name to *The New York Beacon*. “You have to say something to the readers,” he said.

Adhering to the advice of this civil rights partisan, *The New York Beacon* reflects the voices of many editorialists as well as Smith’s weekly views. It concentrates on providing general news to the African-American community of New York. In 2006 Smith acquired *The Philadelphia Observer*. Both newspapers are award-winning publications.

Outside of the news business, Smith was an avid golfer. He enjoyed swimming, fishing, yachting, traveling and spending time with his wife, Miatta, and their children and grandchildren. They have homes in Puerto Rico, Miami, North Carolina, Atlanta and New York. “You count your blessings as you go.”

Smith received many awards, citations and proclamations and died doing what he did best, being his own boss. Like many publishers, he has seen the business change through the years. He once said, “Once you own your own business, there’s no such thing as retirement. You work until you die.”

Some might consider the life of Walter Smith a rags to riches story. In some ways it is. But it is also a story of adhering to some thoughtful advice, seizing opportunity and persevering through hardship. That’s a wrap.

Chenault

Continued from page 1

Chenault, 66, joined American Express in September 1981 as director of Strategic Planning. In 1989, he was named president of the Consumer Card Group and 1993 he became president of Travel Related Services, which included all of Amex’s worldwide card and travel business in the United States. He was named president and chief operating office in February 1997.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



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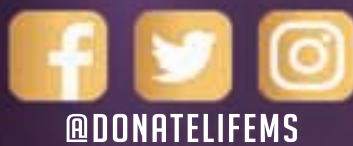


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In Memoriam

Remembering John Clay Robinson Jr.

May 8, 1942 - November 25, 2017

The life and legacy of John Clay Robinson Jr. (J.C.) is embedded in loyalty, perfection, love of life and family. He quietly passed away November 25 at Manhattan Rehabilitation Center in Jackson.

J.C. was the oldest of four children born to the late Mable and John Clay Robinson Sr. May 8, 1942 in Jackson, Miss. His sister Carolyn Robinson and grandson Kentric Warren Stubbs Robinson preceded him in death.

He surrounded himself with family and close friends. During his later years, the highlight of his life was picking up his grandson, the late Kentric Robinson, from North Jackson Elementary School and taking him out to eat and to buy toys.

He joined College Hill M.B. Church at an early age and was involved in various activities as a youth until he moved to Tennessee. He was a 1960 graduate of Jim Hill High School.

J.C. attended Tennessee State University where he was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. He was drafted into the United States Army and served in the medical division in Frankfurt, Germany.

Upon returning to the states he wanted to try something different so he moved to Las Vegas, Nev. When he returned to Jackson he worked in the medical division of MS Action for Progress.

J.C., always wanted to be his own boss and started Robinson Construction Company, building apartments and houses in Clinton and Jackson.



As an entrepreneur, he opened Night & Day Grocery and JC's Lounge located on Valley Street. He also sold African-American Art.

Memories will live in the hearts of his wife Carol; sister Evelyn Davis (Roos-evelt); brother Robert Robinson; children Carl Lipscomb, Maurice Ellis, John Robinson, Lemuel Robinson and Lauren Janee' Robinson; grandchildren Kirstin A. Campbell, Jacques Yates, Wesley McNutt, VaMario McGee, Lyntrell Rhodes, London Robinson and Liberty Robinson. He will be fondly remembered by a host of other friends and family to include Sonya Kennedy and Clifton Davis Jr.

Family hour is Thursday at Willis and Sons Memorial Funeral Home, 5235 Robinson Rd. Ext. at 6 p.m.

The homegoing service will be held Friday, Dec. 1, at College Hill M.B. Church, 1600 Florence Avenue, Jackson, MS at 11 a.m.

The burial will take place at Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Newton, Miss.

Shining more light on solar.



Entergy Mississippi is committed to providing affordable, reliable and clean power to Mississippians for generations to come. So we're making it easier for our customers to self-generate solar electricity and incorporate solar power into our power grid. Thanks to net metering, registered solar users earn credit for excess solar energy sent back to the grid.

The Mississippi Public Service Commission is making it easier to understand how solar can work for you. "A Consumer's Guide to Solar Power in Mississippi" provides information on how solar and net metering work, and the details you need to consider before purchasing or leasing hardware.

Get the working group's guide for free at entergybrightfuture.com.



WE POWER LIFE™

Hinds County School District Weekly Update

Hinds County School District Celebrates Unity Day

The HCSD participated in United Day Wednesday, October 25, 2017 to show support against bullying. All schools and local communities were encouraged to make ORANGE, our color on Unity Day. That's the day everyone came together – in schools, communities and online – to send one large ORANGE message of support, hope and unity to show that we are together against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion.



Students attend Unity Day



Special Guest, Demarco Fomby



New Anchor Megan Scott address GRI students about bullying on Unity Day



Central Office Staff participate in Unity Day

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RADIO PARTNER

Heart recipient meets donor family 18 years after lifesaving transplant

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Abram Jones and Lywanda White have shared a connection for 18 years but just met face to face for the first time Nov. 25.

In the 1990's, Jones was an active man working as a dispatcher for the Jackson Police Department and as a free-lance photographer. He was happy and healthy. But in 1997, his health began to change.

Ultimately Jones found out the left ventricle in his heart was functioning at 11 percent and in April of 1999, he was told he would need a heart transplant. "It never dawned on me that I would be dependent on someone else to stay alive," said the Jackson native.

While Jones was wondering what his future would hold, White's father, Thomas Griffin, was working in Gulfport as a car salesman. A Navy veteran, Griffin was also a single father to the 23 year old daughter that he had adopted when she was just 13. "He loved life. He was a real simple man," said Lywanda.

Griffin was at work in September of 1999 when he began to have headaches. He was taken to the hospital where eventually he suffered a brain hemorrhage and was pronounced brain dead. Lywanda knew what her father's wishes were because they had talked about it. He wanted to be an organ donor.

Ultimately, Griffin would be a



Lywanda White places a stethoscope to the chest of heart recipient Abram Jones to listen to the heart of her father, Thomas Griffin, who donated his heart in 1999.

multiple organ donor, donating his heart, liver and kidneys to save the lives of others. His heart ended up in Abram Jones.

White had always wondered about the lives her father had touched through donation but she really wondered about the person

that received his heart. "I always wanted to know who and what because that is the part of what keeps us alive. That means he is still ticking somewhere. I was wondering did it take, how they were doing," said White. After three or four years she gave up on

the chance of meeting her dad's heart recipient.

Jones wasn't sure how to go about the process of meeting his donor family in the early years following his transplant but wondered about them from time to time.

Ten years ago the desire to meet that family started to really take hold on him. "It was something that weighed heavy on my heart and as I got older I felt I needed to get in touch with the people that made this possible and to say thank you," said the 68 year old

Jones. "This year, for some reason, I decided that this was the year to do it. I didn't know how many more years I'd have to connect with this young lady."

Their meeting took place Saturday at the offices of the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency in Flowood.

With family and friends present, White and Jones shared a warm embrace and a few tears before White placed a stethoscope to Jones' chest to hear her father's heartbeat for the first time in 18 years.

"I didn't know what this moment was going to be like. I didn't know what I was going to feel but when I saw him, I saw my dad," said White who knew immediately afterward that her father's gifts were not in vain.

"I've just wanted to know that my father's legacy continued to live on and his spirit is living throughout the world. I feel so blessed today. I know the decision I made 18 years ago was definitely not the wrong decision and I would make it all over again."

For Jones, White is now part of his family. "It bonded us together. It is because of her and her dad, I'm still here. Because had I not gotten the transplant 18 years ago, who knows where I'd be now."

To register as an organ, eye and tissue donor, please go to www.donatelifems.org.



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TWO
MISSISSIPPI
MUSEUMS



Church groups come together to support JPS scholars



Participating in the November 17 Partnership Luncheon were (from left) Rev. CJ Rhodes, pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church; Thea Faulkner, director of Partners in Education; Jeanette Whisenton, JPS lead librarian; Fredrick Murray, JPS interim superintendent; and Samuel Bolen, youth and missions pastor at Broadmoor Baptist Church.

Mississippi Link Newswire

Dozens of area clergy attended a luncheon Nov. 15, to support Jackson Public Schools. The event was sponsored by New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson. Jerry Young, the pastor of New Hope, spearheaded this faith-based movement to help JPS schools. At the luncheon, he introduced the group’s first initiative, “Time, Talent and Treasures.”

The effort’s three areas of focus are:

- Time** – Ask members to serve as book buddies.
 - Talent** – Recruit retired librarians to mentor novice librarians.
 - Treasures** – Raise funds to buy library books for middle schools.
- A Mississippi Department of Education audit showed that many of the district’s libraries have outdated books. Additionally, new librarians would benefit from a mentor. Some of our third graders are still reading below proficiency on the 3rd Grade Reading Summative Assessment. Mississippi’s Literacy-Based Promotion Act requires a passing score for promotion to

fourth grade.

JPS lead librarian Jeanette Whisenton shared that updating library books will help us clear the state’s standard. It will also provide our scholars with up-to-date resources. The district has partnered with Macklin Books to purchase the needed books at an estimated cost of \$95,000. Macklin will catalog the books so that they will arrive at the schools ready to be placed on library shelves.

Samuel Bolen is the youth and missions pastor at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Madison, Miss. He shared his congregation’s experience volunteering as book buddies at Johnson Elementary School. He hopes to encourage other congregations to do the same. One hundred percent of the school’s third-graders who worked with books buddies from Broadmoor passed the Reading Summative Assessment.

“We all have to decide whether we’ll be a community or commuter church,” said Bolen. “We have an opportunity before us to truly impact the future of children.”

Many of the of area clergy in

attendance expressed an interest in beginning or expanding their partnership with JPS.

CJ Rhodes, pastor of Mt. Helm Baptist Church, officiated the luncheon.

“Working with Partners in Education has given us a clearer picture of how area churches can provide focused support of Jackson Public Schools,” said Rhodes. “We look forward to providing targeted, data-driven supports that will make lasting impacts.”

Getting started

Send donations for library books to Jackson Public Schools, Partners in Education, 662 S. President Street, Jackson MS 39201. Donors have the option to choose which school they’d like to support.

Anyone interested in volunteering as a book buddy may call Partners in Education at (601) 960-8905 or email Thea Faulkner at tfaulkner@jackson.k12.ms.us.

Retired librarians interested in volunteering as mentors may contact Jeanette Whisenton at (601) 960-8317 or email her at jwhisenton@jackson.k12.ms.us.

Mayor Lumumba speaks at Red Ribbon Week celebration

Mississippi Link Newswire

French Elementary students and staff participated in National Red Ribbon Week. The anti-drug campaign is celebrated annually during the last week of October. The school held a program October 23. Students took the Red Ribbon Pledge and were encouraged by Mayor Chokwe Lumumba to continue their education and not to do drugs.

“You must surround yourself with people who are just as interested in your success as you are,” said Lumumba. “When you think of drugs or anything that can interfere with your



Lumumba

success keep in mind what is important to you.”

At Whitten Middle School, Jackson Police Chief Lee Vance told scholars to make good decisions. “Everything in life comes

back to decision making,” said Vance. “No matter your background, there’s going to be a time in your life that you are going to have to make a decision that could impact your for the rest of your life.”

The National Family Partnership organized the first Nationwide Red Ribbon Campaign. In 1988, it sponsored the first National Red Ribbon celebration. Today, Red Ribbon Week mobilizes communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities.

Several JPS schools held Red Ribbon celebrations in October.

JPS graduates named to prestigious internship program

Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson Public Schools alumni Jada Bass and Kristopher Thigpen have been named members of the 2017-2018 Public Allies Mississippi cohort. They will serve their communities as Public Allies Mississippi interns. They will be matched with different state agencies and nonprofits who will host them in paid internships. Operating partner, Foundation for the Mid South, will provide leadership training throughout the process.

Bass is a 2017 graduate of Tougaloo College with a Bachelor of Arts in history. Thigpen attends Hinds Community College where he majors in creative writing. Both are Forest Hill High School graduates.

Public Allies Mississippi is in its second year of operation in Mississippi. It is hosted



Bass



Thigpen

by Foundation for the Mid South. Martha Clare Drysdale is the director of Community Development for Foundation for the Mid South.

“One of the big focuses of Public Allies Mississippi is creating an inclusive community,” said Drysdale. “We want there to be equity in opportunity, especially as it relates to nonprofits and state agencies. We’re trying to reach out to young people and get them into those positions

early. By getting them into those internships they get to see what work goes on in their communities.”

Founded in 1992, Public Allies has a strong reputation for successful, grassroots-focused community service. National leaders such as George W. Bush and Bill Clinton sing the organization’s praises and ensure its funding. Former first lady Michelle Obama founded Public Allies Chicago. Public Allies now has 6,000 alumni

Five JPS JROTC cadets attend selective youth leadership conference

Mississippi Link Newswire

Five outstanding JROTC cadets were selected to attend the 2017 Military Order of World Wars (MOWW) Youth Leadership Conference at the U.S. Space Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The selectees, all high school juniors, were:

- Cadet Shamia Thompson, Wingfield High, GPA 3.82 on 4 point scale. Ranks No. 1 in her class of 142 juniors.
- Cadet Jaydin Reeves, Murrah High, GPA 3.7 on 4 point scale.
- Cadet Brianna Gunn, Jim Hill High, GPA 4.0 on 5 point scale.*
- Cadet Osha’ Love Lowery, Jim Hill High, GPA 4.4 on 5 point scale.*
- Cadet Brandie Wigley, Provine High, GPA 3.2 on 4 point scale.

Their JROTC instructors nominated the JPS cadets. Board members from the Jackson Chapter of the MOWW reviewed resumes and interviewed students from across the metro area. Over 80 other high school students from five states attended the conference. The four-day conference was held November 1-4.

Cadet Thompson of Wingfield had this to say regarding her experience at the Youth Leadership Conference:

“I was very thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Youth Leadership Conference in Huntsville. I was able to meet amazing new people,



and my team managed to place first in every competition. Our leadership skills improved. We learned and grew as a result of this camp. We also gained more information on the Constitution, free enterprise and this outstanding country in which we live. I had an amazing time representing JPS and Jackson.”

Cadet Love Lowery of Jim Hill offered these comments:

“At YLC (MOWW) I had an amazing experience. I enjoyed not only learning how to become a more effective leader, but I also encountered different cadets from diverse backgrounds. The team building exercises and workshops informed me about survival skills. That is what I liked the most. There were opportunities to learn about career fields. I appreciated the panel of retired military speakers that talked to us about

their profession and answered any questions asked. The experience was very eye-opening. I plan to use the skills I learned there in my everyday life.”

MOWW serves America’s youth by hosting youth leadership conferences throughout the U.S. These students receive free training on leadership in a free society. They learn concepts of the free enterprise system, principles of democracy, and the Constitution and Bill of Rights. They also learn the civic responsibilities associated with preserving American rights and freedoms. Attendees also develop speaking, writing and leadership skills, which contribute to making them better citizens and future leaders.

* *International Baccalaureate students. Grades are weighted for IB students on a 5-point scale.*




The Mississippi Link™

Volume 24 • Number 6
November 30 - December 6, 2017
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Publisher.....Jackie Hampton
Editor.....Othor Cain
Copy Editor.....Minnie Garrett
Graphics.....Marcus Johnson
Photographers.....Kevin Robinson & Jay Johnson
Contributing Writers.....Janice K. Neal-Vincent
Ayesha K. Mustafa

Thigpen

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The Mississippi Link [USPS 017224] is published weekly by The Mississippi Link, Inc. Offices located at 2659 Livingston Road, Jackson, MS 39213. Mailing address is P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307 or e-mail us at: editor@mississippilink.com; Please visit our website at: www.mississippilink.com. Phone: (601) 896-0084, Fax 896-0091, out of state 1-800-748-9747. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Jackson, MS.

Deadline: The deadline for submitting items to be considered for publication is Tuesday at 10 a.m.

Subscriptions are \$32 per year; \$64 for two years or \$96 for three years.

Postmaster: Send all address changes to The Mississippi Link, P.O. Box 11307, Jackson, MS 39283-1307.

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Hinds CC legislative delegation learns about worthy college programs

The Mississippi Link Newswire

About a dozen legislators, mostly from Hinds County, were treated to stories about programs that get students trained and into the workforce at Hinds Community College’s annual legislative luncheon Nov. 8.

Afterward, four legislators toured two Hinds career-tech labs, the Fab Lab and the Mechatronics lab. The Fab Lab, under the direction of Phil Cockrell, is outfitted with 3-D printing machines, laser cutters and related equipment capable of etching designs or cutting flat sheet material such as acrylic and metal. The machines are programmed by a control panel or computer. Mechatronics, under David Creel, is a blend between electronics and mechanical and was specifically added to the curriculum because of the new Continental Tire plant going up in Hinds County.

Among the students who spoke was Shaqwon Roberts, 22, a culinary arts student at Jackson Campus-Academic/Technical Center who is in the M2M program that mentors and tutors minority males.

“These first 21 years as a young African-American man were not promising. Since losing my father, my family has struggled paying bills and barely made it through. I worked 12 hours a day to help – without sleeping or studying for tomorrow’s test. Let’s state the fact, I nearly failed all my classes that semester,” he told legislators. “I’ve gone from academic probation to being in good standing and my grades are an A and two Bs.”

Misti Lopez, 37, of Hazlehurst, is a MIBEST student studying welding on the Raymond Campus.

“It doesn’t matter how old you are or what you’ve been through – you can accomplish anything you put your mind to,” she said. “I plan on getting a welding certificate and going to work. To me, it’s a type of art. I love to draw and I’m good with my hands, so I’m doing both.”

Hinds President Clyde Muse also outlined the three major priorities of the 15 state community colleges: **1.** Fair and equitable funding, which includes restoration of \$37 million cut from community college budgets during the past two years and \$25



Hinds Community College students and legislators include, front from left, Sen. Albert Butler, Rep. Credell Calhoun, Rep. Christopher Bell, Rep. Kathy Sykes, Rep. Alyce Clark, Hinds student Shaqwon Roberts, Rep. Debra Gibbs and Rep. Jarvis Dortch; second row, Sen. Sollie Norwood, Sen. Hillman Frazier, Raymond Campus MIBEST Navigator Kenya Johnson and Sen. David Blount; back, Hinds students Alexis Sizer of Ridgeland and Sam Williams of Jackson; Audra Canoy of Terry, Navdeep Kaur of Clinton and Joanna Stevens of Terry.



Fab Lab Director Phil Cockrell demonstrates one of the machines to Jackson legislators Rep. Kathy Sykes, Sen. Hillman Frazier, Rep. Debra Gibbs and Sen. Albert Butler.



Hinds Community College's Fab Lab machines can be programmed to design and cut out a die for use as a mold.

million for teacher salaries; **2.** Workforce programs, which includes MI-BEST funding; and **3.** Capital improvement dollars.

Among the statistics he shared with legislators:

- One in five working age adults in Mississippi is a high school dropout.
- High school dropouts have a 29 percent unemployment rate.
- Our workforce participate rate is only 54 percent

“We need to put in new programs that meet the needs of business and industry,” he said. “We’re the bridge to a better life.”

Sen. Albert Butler, D-Jackson, agreed with Muse’s assessment.

“Workforce development is the key to Mississippi moving forward. All of us are aware that there is a need to move the lower class to the middle class. And the only way we can do that is to start training individuals so they will be able to earn the type of salaries that were presented to us by Continental Tire and other companies,” Butler said.

Muse referenced a story in *The Clarion-Ledger* that the University of Southern Mississippi has made \$8 million in

cuts because of financial difficulties.

“Hinds is in the same boat. As the state appropriation for community colleges goes down, the student part goes up. For the first year, our local contributions from tuition and our counties are more than the state’s contribution,” he said.

Sen. David Blount, D-Jackson, said the tax cuts made in 2016 have meant the Legislature doesn’t have the money to fund priorities like education. And, the tax cut in future years will snowball to \$33 million next year, \$92 million the year after

and so on.

“We’re in this position because of the decisions that have been made in the past two years by the majority in the legislature ... and bad decisions by the political leadership,” he said. “We’ve got to revisit some of those decisions so you can continue to do the outstanding work that you’re doing.”

Hinds Community College is celebrating its 100th year of Community Inspired Service in 2017. Hinds opened in September 1917 first as an agricultural high school and admitted college students for the first time

in 1922, with the first class graduating in 1927. In 1982 Hinds Junior College and Utica Junior College merged, creating the Hinds Community College District. Today, as Mississippi’s largest community college, Hinds Community College is a comprehensive institution with six locations. Hinds offers quality, affordable educational opportunities with academic programs of study leading to seamless university transfer and career and technical programs teaching job-ready skills. To learn more, visit www.hindscc.edu or call 1.800.HindsCC.

USM Vice Provost Miller pens essay on teaching and student success

The Mississippi Link Newswire

Amy C. Miller, professor and vice provost for Academic Affairs at The University of Southern Mississippi, is a featured essayist in the latest edition of *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning*.

Miller joined other higher education officials from across the country in sharing insight on the topic, “Teaching and Student Success: ACUE (Association of College and University Educators) makes the link.”

“We are honored to be featured in *Change: The Magazine of Higher Education* alongside other institutions making significant gains in faculty development and engagement,” said Miller. “I know that our faculty fellows have worked very hard as part of the ACUE community, and I am so excited to call attention to their efforts and ac-



Miller

complishments.”

In an excerpt from her essay, Miller writes:

“Success breeds success. Our faculty are now emboldened to try more things, which has led to even greater classroom impact. ACUE is helping to drive a culture of teaching excellence at Southern Miss and engender a sense of belonging among our faculty, advancing our dual commit-

ments to student success and retaining high-quality faculty.”

She stresses that USM’s partnership with ACUE has been absolutely integral to the success of the University’s Faculty Development Institute.

“Through working through the ACUE Course in Effective College Instruction, our faculty fellows have learned about best practices, experimented with their own teaching techniques, and observed different faculty from around the country in their own work (through video),” said Miller. “ACUE provides an evidence-based foundation to help our good faculty to become even better, and the community we are developing through our Faculty Development Institute has been an incredible source of support and inspiration to the participants.”



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“Touched by an Angel” star Della Reese dies at 86



Award-winning actress Della Reese died November 19, 2017. In this photo, Reese makes an appearance at a Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony for Mark Burnett in 2009. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Della Reese, the legendary actress and star of the classic movie “Harlem Nights” and the long-running CBS drama “Touched by an Angel,” died November 19. She was 86.

From Reese’s memorable appearances in movies like “A Thin Line between Love and Hate” and television shows like “Chico and the Man,” “Sanford & Son” and “227,” fans and friends celebrated her storied career on social media.

Born Deloreese Patricia Early in Michigan on July 6, 1931, Reese started her career recording and performing on television variety shows in the 1950s.

From 1969 to 1970, she hosted a TV talk show called, “Della,” and she went on to appear in many other series over the decades including “Sanford and Son” with her good friend, Redd Foxx.

Reese’s TV show, “Della,” made her the first African American woman to host a talk show.

She earned a gospel music Grammy nomination for best female soloist in 1987 and, in the 1990s, Reese landed the lead role in the hit TV drama, “Touched by an Angel.”

However, she never forgot where it all began for her: singing in the church at the age of six, according to *Biography.com*.

Reese’s talents eventually landed her an opportunity to work with gospel great Mahalia Jackson, when Reese was just 13.

Raised on gospel music, Reese transformed into a seductive secular music superstar with her No. 1 R&B and No. 2 pop hit “Don’t You Know” in 1959.

Following her memorable performance in “Harlem Nights” in 1989, Reese appeared in a number of TV shows and made-for-TV movies until she landed the role of “Tess” in the television series “Touched by an Angel” in 1994.

CBS cancelled the show after the first season, but fans swarmed the network with letters and calls, forcing them to renew the series.

Reese would go on to portray “Tess” on “Touched by an Angel” for nine seasons, earning seven NAACP Image Awards as best lead actress in a drama.

She also received two Emmys and a Golden Globe nomination.

Reese is survived by her husband, Franklin Lett, a film producer and concert promoter.

Report: HBCUs generate \$14.8 billion in economic impact

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) generate \$14.8 billion in economic impact annually, according to a stunning new report by the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

The landmark study titled, “HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities,” said that public HBCUs account for \$9.6 billion of that total economic impact, while private HBCUs account for \$5.2 billion.

“The estimate includes direct spending by HBCUs on faculty, employees, academic programs and operations, and by students attending the institutions, as well as the follow-on effects of that spending,” the report said.

The combined economic impact is equivalent to a top 200 ranking on the Fortune 500 list of America’s largest corporations.

“The presence of an HBCU means a boost to economic activity, on and off – and even well beyond – campus. Stronger growth, stronger communities, more jobs and a more talented workforce,” UNCF authors wrote in the report.

Fact sheets for the economic impact of individual HBCUs are available at <https://www.uncf.org/programs/hbcu-impact>.

According to the UNCF report, Howard University generates \$1.5 billion in total economic impact and 9,591 jobs for its local and regional economies.

“Every dollar spent by Howard University and its students produces positive economic benefits, generating \$1.58 in initial and subsequent spending for its local and regional economies.

The study, conducted by the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business Selig



According to the UNCF report, Howard University generates \$1.5 billion in total economic impact for its local and regional economies. In this 2013 photo, Howard graduates participate in commencement activities. FREDDIE ALLEN/AMG/NNPA

Center for Economic Growth, found that Hampton University generated \$270 million in total economic impact and 2,249 jobs for its local and regional economies.

“For each job created on campus, another 1.7 public- and private-sector jobs are created off campus because of Hampton University-related spending,” the study said. “Looked at in a different way: Each \$1 million initially spent by Hampton University and its students creates 11 jobs.”

While Morehouse College generated a total economic impact of \$188 Million and 1,580 jobs, Spelman College accounted for \$199 million in total economic impact and 1,625 jobs.

North Carolina A&T State University generated \$488 million in total economic impact and 4,325 jobs for its local and regional economies.

“It’s the first time that we’ve had a study conducted by such a professional institution to recognize the importance of HBCUs and particularly the impact on our community,” Miles College President George T. French Jr., told the NNPA Newswire. “We’ve talked in general terms, but to

quantify this is important so that our partners can understand the value of our institution. It’s a win-win for our region and for government partners who look to partner with us.”

The report revealed that the 1,634-student Alabama school generated \$67 million for its local region. Each \$1 million initially spent by Miles College and its students creates 16 jobs, according to the report.

“It’s eye-opening and, in addition to the 730 jobs created, there’s a 1-to-1 match for every full-time job at Miles, we create another job in our region,” French said. “So, we have about 377 employees on campus, but because of that, we’ve created 350 off-campus jobs.”

The benefits flow to Miles College’s graduates, who’ll enter the workforce with sharper skills and vastly enhanced earning prospects, according to the report.

As an example, the 196 Miles College graduates from 2014 can expect total earnings of \$497 million over their lifetimes – a stunning 77 percent more than they could expect to earn without their college credentials.

“What you’re looking at is, when you round it to 200 students, they already have over \$2 million more in earning potential in their careers which increases by \$1.1 million, because of having a degree from Miles College,” French said. “I think it’s important to have this conversation for young people, who must decide if college is worth it. At the end of the day, it’s a great economic decision.”

The figures also allow college officials to approach state and local government officials, when funding for recruitment and other programs are needed, French said.

French said, adding that because of the report he believes the city will be even more cooperative with Miles College.

“With this study, we can go to the government and say we need additional money for cutting-edge programs and recruitment,” he said. “We’ve requested and will have a meeting with the city to compare our master plan with what the city is doing. Here we are, this economic engine with a \$52 million annual budget and we can help this city with its master planning and their master plan may intersect with what we’re doing.”

Rev. Jesse Jackson announces Parkinson’s diagnosis

Friends, medical community weigh-in on Rev. Jesse Jackson’s Parkinson’s diagnosis

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Reverend Jesse Jackson’s Parkinson’s disease diagnosis caught many by surprise, but those who know him said they’re confident that he’ll overcome the life-threatening challenge before him.

“He’s in the rumble of his life, but he’s rumbled some big foes before,” said Vincent Hughes, a Democratic state senator from Pennsylvania who campaigned for Jackson in 1984 and again in 1988. Hughes said that Jackson’s campaigns were birthed in the black empowerment movement that followed the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. “I’m one of those African Americans, who took office and was a part of that issue of ‘protest to power’ and Rev. Jackson was, in many respects, our leader and he still is.”

More than anyone else, Jackson opened the door for the election of Barack Obama, the first African-American president of the United States, said Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., the president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

Chavis was one of Jackson’s contemporaries during the Civil Rights Movement. “Rev. Jesse L. Jackson Sr., is a living, global civil rights icon. As a colleague in the Civil Rights Movement



Civil rights icon Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., recently announced that he has Parkinson’s disease. This photo was taken during the recent 2017 Rainbow PUSH Coalition Global Automotive Summit. Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

dating back to the 1960s and under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I have personally witnessed the selfless sacrifice and dedication of Rev. Jackson.”

Chavis continued: “For all who have cried out for freedom justice and equality, the news of his Parkinson’s disease should only serve to re-dedicate a movement now for healthcare equality for all, not only as a civil right, but as a human right.”

On November 17, Jackson, 76, issued a statement informing the world of his illness.

In the statement, Jackson

recalled his foray into activism, being arrested on July 17, 1960 with seven other college students who advocated for the right to use a public library in his hometown of Greenville, S.C.

He said that he remembers the arrest as if it happened yesterday and it was a day that forever changed his life.

“From that experience, I lost my fear of being jailed for a righteous cause. I went on to meet Dr. King and dedicate my heart and soul to the fight for justice, equality and equal access,” said Jackson, whose multiracial National Rainbow Co-

alition grew out of his work in the 1984 presidential campaign.

He said he resisted interrupting his work to visit a doctor, but his daily physical struggles intensified and he could no longer ignore his symptoms.

“After a battery of tests, my physicians identified the issue as Parkinson’s disease, a disease that bested my father,” Jackson said.

Rev. Al Sharpton issued a statement saying that he spent time with Jackson and his family in New York, as Jackson made the announcement of his illness.

“As I watched him, I was reminded of the greatness of this man,” Sharpton said. “Reverend Jackson has changed the nation and served in ways in which he never got credit.”

Maynard Eaton, a journalist and national director of communications for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, called Jackson a legendary and fearless civil rights champion.

He said the disease may slow Jackson, but won’t stop him.

“Activism and civil rights are in his blood. As a journalist, Jesse Jackson has been a treat and joy to cover and write about,” said Eaton. “He has been a civil rights darling and media maverick...Jesse Jackson is a quint-

essential and preeminent civil rights activist of our time.”

Even though Parkinson’s disease is a chronic neurological condition, it is very treatable, said Dr. Nabila Dahodwala, an associate professor of neurology at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

“A diagnosis of Parkinson’s disease does not necessarily mean that you must make drastic changes, but every individual is different in how they are affected, how they respond to treatment and how they choose to spend their time,” Dahodwala said.

Ihtsham ul Haq, an expert in neurology at the Wake Forest School of Medicine, said he believes Jackson will do well.

“Though each patient’s journey with Parkinson’s disease is a little bit different, thankfully for many the symptoms are often well-managed with medication, said Haq. “The hallmark of the disease is the slow loss of dopamine in the brain, which unlocks our movement.”

Haq continued: “As patients begin to produce less of it they show the slowness, stiffness, and tremor that typify the disease. Replacing dopamine usually substantially alleviates these problems.”

Leslie A. Chambers, the presi-

dent and CEO of the American Parkinson Disease Association, said making appropriate lifestyle changes and focusing on physical therapy will go a very long way to helping Jackson live the best life possible, in spite of the disease.

“Since its a lifelong chronic illness, the American Parkinson Disease Association encourages people with Parkinson’s to seek out a top notch medical and healthcare team, which includes a movement disorders specialist physician and allied healthcare providers and protect and defend their overall health status with a nutritious diet, physical therapy and safe, effective daily exercise programs, as well as emotional and social support from family, and professional care partners-givers,” Chambers said, adding that the association extends heartfelt wishes to Jackson.

Dorothy Leavell, the chairman of the NNPA and the publisher of the Crusader Newspaper Group said that even though Jackson is in for the fight of his life, she warned that Parkinson’s disease had met its match.

“This is a major blow, but it’s not the death knell,” said Leavell. “We will keep working and encourage Jesse with all he’s done for us and continues to do.”

Bringing that most beloved of all Christmas Oratorios, Messiah, to Jackson



The Mississippi Link Newswire

Jackson, MS, November 29, 2017– The Mississippi Chorus brings rich meaning and glorious music as they present Messiah, the Christmas Oratorio by George Frideric Handel, Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM in the beautifully historic sanctuary of Woodland Hills Baptist Church. The concert, under the baton of The Mississippi Chorus Artistic Director Dr. Mark Nabholz, will be accompanied by members of The Mississippi Symphony Orchestra including concertmaster Marta Szlubowska. Guest soloists will be soprano Amy Pfrimmer, alto Viola Dacus, tenor Joe Milton, and bass Patton Rice.

“It is such a meaningful work, and to get to perform it again this year is a real tribute to our artistic staff and supportive board,” reported Christy Soloveichik, The Mississippi Chorus Board Chair, and singing member. “Following the success of the state-wide Alzheimer’s Stories

concert we did in October, The Chorus is excited to turn its vocal expertise to this wonderful work,” she concluded.

A musical offering of the holiday season, this work of George Frideric Handel still inspires listeners some 250 years after the composer’s death. Composed in 1742 when Handel was the pre-eminent composer in the United Kingdom, the work is now a choral staple in the repertoire of many choral organizations.

“I have enjoyed performing Messiah since the very first year of The Mississippi Chorus’s existence, nearly thirty years ago, and renew my admiration for this work with every performance. Each artistic director brings a fresh perspective to this enduring choral masterwork and this year is no exception. Accompanied by orchestra and guest soloists it is simply a most satisfying work to perform and to hear,” reported founding member Roger Clapp.

The two full performances of

the Christmas portion of Messiah will be on Saturday, December 16, 2017, at a 3:00 PM Matinee and 7:30 PM evening concert, followed by a reception. The concert will be held at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, 3327 Old Canton Road, in Fondren.

Tickets are \$25 for adults; \$5 for students; children to age 12 are admitted free. Group tickets of 10 or more can be purchased by calling 601-278-3351.

Tickets are available online at MSChorus.org, and at the door.

“We were completely sold out at both performances last year,” commented Executive Director Sherry Boyer. She continued, “It would be a good idea to purchase tickets online and arrive just a little early. Ample and secure parking will be available.”

THE MISSISSIPPI CHORUS MUSIC CHANGES EVERYTHING

The Mississippi Chorus is a 501 (c) 3 organization perform-

ing choral masterworks in Mississippi. Based in the Jackson metro area, The Mississippi Chorus has delivered outstanding choral performances in central Mississippi and beyond since 1989. The Chorus is composed of three ensembles: The Grande Chorus, The Master Chorale, and The Mississippi Youth Chorale. Collaborations with other fine musical and civic organizations in Mississippi help fulfill our mission: to enhance the cultural life of Central Mississippi. Collaborators include Mississippi Opera, Mississippi Symphony, Mississippi Boy Choir, Mississippi Girl Choir, Ballet Magnificat, Ballet Mississippi, and the Dementia Care Network. We are an equal singer opportunity organization welcoming dedicated vocalists from Jackson and surrounding communities who love to sing and enjoy the many benefits choral singing offers – MUSIC CHANGES EVERYTHING!

Capitol Street Resurfacing Project



The Mississippi Link Newswire

The City of Jackson plans to close Capitol Street from Lamar Street to State Street Thursday November 30, 2017 through

Friday December 1, 2017 from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. to resurface the street. Please inform the public to park in other locations in the downtown areas.

PBS’s Independent Lens presents “I Am Not Your Negro” and “The Force” in January

The Mississippi Link Newswire

This January, PBS’s Independent Lens presents two important documentaries:

I Am Not Your Negro by Raoul Peck, Monday, January 15, 9-10:30 p.m.

One of the most acclaimed films of the year and an Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary, I Am Not Your Negro envisions the book James Baldwin never finished, a revolutionary and personal account of the lives and successive assassinations of three of his close friends: Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King Jr.

The result is a radical, up-to-the-minute examination of race

in America, using Baldwin’s original words (read by Samuel L. Jackson).

The Force by Peter Nicks, Monday, January 22, 10-11:30 p.m.

The Force goes deep inside the long-troubled Oakland Police Department as it struggles to confront federal demands for reform, a popular uprising following events in Ferguson, Missouri, and an explosive scandal.

Filmed over the course of several years, The Force is the second film in Nicks’ Oakland trilogy; Nicks won the Best Director Award, US Documentary, for the film at this year’s Sundance Film Festival.

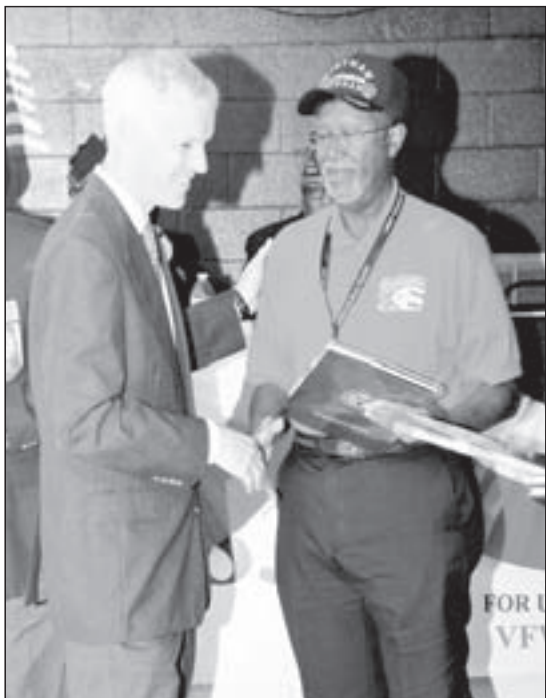
Senators Blount and Frazier participated in VFW Post 9832 Veterans Day activities



Senator David Blount, VFW Post 9832 Commander Sam Clay and Senator Hillman Frazier



Vietnam Combat Veterans were honored and presented a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin and the Mississippi Edition, 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemorative Book, titled “A Time To Honor,” by State of Mississippi State Senators Hillman Frazier and State Senator David Blount. From (L to R): Jesse Banks, Roney Charleston, Robert Wade, Amos Wilcher, Fred Gross, MS State Senator Hillman Frazier, MS State Senator David Blount, VFW Post 9832 Commander Sammie Clay, James Wiley, Willie Liddell, Jr., Lee Henderson and Harold Grant.



Senator David Blount and All American Service Person James Wiley



Surviving spouses of deceased Vietnam veterans were honored and presented the Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin and the Certificate of Honor by (far L) Mississippi State Senator Hillman Frazier and Mississippi State Senator David Blount. Surviving spouses from (L to R): Suzette Washington (Army 1SGT Arie Washington); Mable Wells (Army SGT Earnest Wells Jr.); Linda Cook (Army SPC James Cook); Ollie Carter (Army SSG Hilliard Carter); Ruby Rhodes-Gator (Army SFC Jimmie Rhodes) and Shirley Bell (Army SPC Woodroe Bell).

The age of accountability

By Pastor Simeon R. Green III
Special to The Mississippi Link



The Bible speaks much about submission in both the Old and New Testaments. I believe that submission is one of the biggest problems people have in serving God.

Submission is voluntarily cooperating with anyone out of love and respect for God first and secondly, out of love and respect for that individual.

Submitting to nonbelievers is difficult, but it is a vital part of leading them to Jesus Christ. We are not called to submit to nonbelievers to the point that we compromise our relationship with God, but we must look for every opportunity to humbly serve in the power of God's Spirit.

We read in Luke 14:27 these words: "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after me cannot be My disci-

ple." Jesus' audience was well aware of what it meant to carry one's own cross. When the Romans led a criminal to his execution site, he was forced to carry the cross on which he would die. This showed his submission to Rome and warned observers that they had better submit too.

We also read in John 2:4-5, Jesus said to her, woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever he says to you, do it."

Those who believe in Jesus but run into situations they cannot understand must continue to trust that He will work in the best way.

Mary submitted to Jesus' way of doing things. She recognized that Jesus was more than her human son – He was the Son of God. When we bring our problems to Christ, we may think we know how He should take care of them. But He may have a completely different plan. Like Mary,

we should submit and allow Him to deal with the problem. He knows best.

The meaning of submit is to yield to the will or the authority of or become resigned. Submission is the act of giving in or surrendering of person and power to the control of another

Submission starts as soon as children are born. God has given children parents to care for them, to protect them, and to help them grow up to be submissive. We learn at a very young age the necessity of submission. It is difficult for a young man to submit to his superiors if he was not made to submit in the home.

The Apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:13, "Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme." Peter was talking about submitting to the laws of the land. Christians, especially, ought to submit. Hebrews 13:7 reads, "Obey them that have the rule over you,

and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

James 4:7 says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." We need to stay humble before the Lord, submit to His chastisement, His correction, His rebuke, and His voice, just as young Samuel did in the temple when he said, "Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."

If we will submit, then we will have grace to resist the devil. Remember, we cannot resist the devil in our own strength. We must submit ourselves to God, and then we will be able to resist the devil.

Rev. Simeon R. Green III is pastor of Joynes Road Church of God, 31 Joynes Road, Hampton VA 23669. He is a member of the National Association of Evangelism Church of God, Anderson, Ind.

P R E S E R V E D

This or that kind of Christianity

By Shewanda Riley
Columnist



"Here we go again!" I cringed as I listened to the comments made by some white and black evangelicals regarding their steadfast support of accused child molester and U.S. Senatorial candidate Roy Moore.

After watching multiple interviews where these supporters stated that they would vote for Moore because of his support of "Christian values," I shook my head in disbelief and disgust. How could they turn a blind eye and deaf ear to the many young women (some as young as 14) who stated that Moore had aggressively pursued and, in some cases, physically assaulted them. In one interview, a middle aged woman even stated that if God had forgiven Moore, then she could also.

The fact that so many would boldly continue to support someone accused of such disgusting actions reminded me of the compassionless Christianity illustrated by former Republican presidential candidate Herman Cain regarding the Occupy Wall Street protestors a number of years ago. "Don't blame Wall Street, don't blame the big banks, if you don't have a job and you're not rich, blame yourself," Cain said. For someone who very proudly called himself a conservative Christian, those words seemed both cold and heartless.

Matthew 25:35 says that we should take care of those who are hungry, sick and poor. It says nothing about blaming those who are struggling for their own struggles. In fact, Matthew 25:40 reminds that the Lord will say, "whatever you did for one

of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."


For me, the much bigger issue relates to whether we Christians will sit idly by and not challenge this very obvious perversion of Christianity. Ephesians 4:15 says that we should "speak the truth in love." A little later in Ephesians, verse 32, gives us more specifics on how to not only speak truth but to treat others when it says, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Where is the public outcry from Christian leaders concerning the charges of sexual assault of a teenager? Even worse, Moore refuses to drop out of the race or even apologize for his past actions. When things like this happen, I cringe because of the backlash against Christians in general is so strong.

Those Christians who are supporting Moore are damaging their own Christian witness as well as those of other Christians. Some who are skeptical about Christians point to the hypocrisy of the entire situation including offering forgiveness to an unrepentant Christian.

Once I went to a bible study where the focus was on kindness. One thing I remember most from the lesson was the statement that "kindness patterned on the love of Christ aims to promote holiness." Yet, I wonder how we can promote holiness and wholeness if Christians remain silent when others distort our faith.

Shewanda Riley is a Dallas, Texas based author of "Love Hangover: Moving From Pain to Purpose After a Relationship Ends" and "Writing to the Beat of God's Heart: A Book of Prayers for Writers." Email her at preservedbypurpose@gmail.com or follow her on Twitter @shewanda.



Moving the Masses Toward the Mission of the Master


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Pastor, Dr. F. R. Lenoir



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“No success without a successor:” Urban league 25

By Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League



“You are where you are today because you stand on somebody’s shoulders. And wherever you are heading, you cannot get there by yourself. If you stand on the shoulders of others, you have a reciprocal responsibility to live your life so that others may stand on your shoulders. It’s the quid pro quo of life. We exist temporarily through what we take, but we live forever through what we give.” – *Vernon E. Jordan Jr.*

When I began my career in public service 25 years ago, I was fortunate to have outstanding mentors and role models, most notably my own parents. Ernest “Dutch” Morial and Sybil Morial were – and my mother continues to be – tireless activists and advocates for civil rights and social justice. I grew up in the movement, and was inspired by heroes such as Whitney M. Young, Roy Wilkins, Martin Luther King Jr. and Dorothy Height.

I first sought elected office in the era of Douglas Wilder, the first black governor of Virginia and Carol Mosely Braun, the first black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

The management guru Peter Drucker said, “there is no success without a successor,” and while I humbly pray that I may represent the success of my mentors and role models, I recognize that all of us are part of a continuum.

We launched Urban League 25 to recognize

and encourage the best and brightest leaders under 40 – the next generation of Mae Jemisons and Colin Powells and Barack Obamas.

When I was appointed president of the National Urban League, I remember well that one of my concerns when I joined was whether we would be able to replace the giants of the movement, the disciples of Whitney M. Young, with people who are not only qualified and committed, but who also recognized the needs and the potential of a rapidly-changing political, technological and social landscape.

We have succeeded beyond my wildest dreams. Young people are joining the movement at an unprecedented rate, and several of our affiliate CEOs have risen from the ranks of our young professionals.

Urban League 25 will recognize these young men and women, and their counterparts in business, science, government and the arts.

From corporate to government to media and technology, Urban League 25 honorees are those who are unwilling to accept the status quo. They are change agents who have reinvented business models for a new era. They believe unreachable summits do not exist. Their objective is simple yet ambitious: To redefine and power the digital revolution.

In the coming weeks, we will begin soliciting nominations for our first Urban League 25 honorees. It’s a project that is close to my heart, and I look forward to celebrating the excellence that fuels not only our movement but our national institutions and culture.

To win in Alabama, Jones must create a new coalition

By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder and President of
Rainbow PUSH Coalition



Can Doug Jones, a Democrat, win a Senate seat in Alabama when voters go to the polls in a special election Dec. 12?

The polls say the race is tight. Most press attention focuses on Republican Judge Roy Moore, an extreme and controversial figure even before he was hit with credible charges of sexual misconduct with teenage girls. Moore’s weakness is obvious. The big question is whether Jones can mobilize enough voters to take advantage. That may be less about Moore than about the new Alabama waiting to take political form.

The odds against Jones are forbidding. As Perry Bacon Jr. pointed out in FiveThirtyEight, the last Democratic presidential candidate to win the state was Jimmy Carter in 1976. A Democrat last won a Senate seat in 1992. Alabama is the “heart of Dixie.” Obama won only 16 percent of the white vote here (as opposed to 41 percent nationally). Hillary Clinton fared even worse, winning little more than a third of the total vote.

About 71 percent of the electorate is white; about 25 percent black. A stunning 35 percent of the vote comes from white evangelicals, an increasingly rabid Republican voting bloc. Forty-one percent comes from rural areas, which are trending Republican despite their relative poverty.

The formula for winning is obvious. According to Bacon, Jones has to capture about 35 percent of the white vote, 90 percent of the black vote and 70 percent of other people of color. He has to win the core Democratic vote, gain support among



Jones

Republican crossover voters turned off by Moore, and mobilize a massive turnout of the black vote. Turnout for a special election will be key. Republican turnout could be down, since the only reason to show up is to vote for Moore. Democratic turnout is usually down in off-year and special elections, but since Trump’s election, Democratic voters have been coming out in larger numbers.

Missing in this electoral calculus is the reality of a new Alabama that has been slowly developing in the wake of the civil rights movement. Last weekend, the state was riveted by the Iron Bowl football rivalry between the University of Alabama and Auburn. Black and white fans of each team cheered black and white players on each team. What mattered was the color of the uniform, not the color of their skin.

With the end of segregation, Alabama could attract new industries. Now it is the fifth leading car and light truck producer in the United States. Mercedes, Honda and Hyundai manufacture there. None of these companies would have been there under apartheid. Soldiers of all races and creeds work together on military bases. Alabama is a center of aeronautics. NASA built the rocket that took man

to the moon in Alabama. Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon have centers there. They couldn’t operate behind walls of racial separation.

Thirty-two percent of Alabama voters have a college degree. In the wake of the civil rights movement, women won the right to serve on juries and young people the right to vote. There is an emerging coalition of single women, young people and people of color waiting to be built.

Yet in politics the old divides and fears still fester. Republicans, of course, fan racial division for their benefit. Moore, newborn champion of Confederate monuments, is a master of that. Democrats have inherited the black vote but have tended to ignore it, spending little energy or resources on registering and turning out that vote.

Jones can’t win without a massive turnout of black votes. As a prosecutor, he showed courage in prosecuting and convicting the knaves that murdered the four little girls in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing. His campaign has erected billboards to remind voters of that, and he has the resources for radio and newspaper ads, targeted mail and mass volunteer door knocking.

But once more the Democrat-

ic Party is starting late and doing too little. Of 902,000 voting-age African Americans in Alabama, analyst Frank Watkins reports, 273,000 are unregistered. Another 15 percent – 143,900 – are disqualified due to felony convictions. The Democratic Party has spent little energy or resources in registering minority people of voting age. Many college students didn’t know that the deadline to register was Nov. 27, when most were away for Thanksgiving.

The savvyest African-American politician in the state, State Sen. Hank Sanders, warns, “Right now, many African Americans do not know there is an election Dec. 12.” The NAACP has begun calling “sometimes voters” to get out the vote.

Jones should be campaigning with Sanders and others, and introducing himself to black congregations. Real resources need to go into black newspapers and radio stations.

The appeal to black voters is one that speaks to white voters as well. In Alabama, millions go without health care because the conservative governor won’t accept expansion of Medicaid. Working people of all races need better wages and affordable care. Young people need investment in schools, affordable college or advanced training.

Moore’s extremism and personal flaws – he was a weak candidate even before the recent exposures – open the door for change. There is a new Alabama that has grown beyond old racial divides.

Against the odds, Jones might be able to bring together a new coalition. If he succeeds, it will open the door for other changes. If he fails, Democrats must learn to stop ignoring their core voters between campaigns and start appealing on kitchen table issues across race lines.

You better watch your mouth: Dental care in the black community

By Julianne Malveaux
NNPA News Wire Columnist



From the time I was a little girl, to just a day or so ago, someone has always told me to watch my mouth. Why? My mouth runs and sometimes it runs unplugged. I’ve been known to flim flam folks with flattery or eviscerate them with evil, sometimes moving from one to the other with just a shrug of my shoulders. But my “mouth-watching” is not the kind of mouth-watching I’m writing about in this column. I’m writing about the healthy mouth-watching that is critical to our health.

Nearly a hundred folks gathered at the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) headquarters at 633 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., to hear two dynamic women talk about dental health. Dr. Diane Earle, the managing dental director at Kool Smiles, in Lancaster, Texas, talked about dental health and its importance. Your mouth, she said, is the gateway to your body, so it is important for you to take care of it

by getting regular checkups, taking care of your mouth and, especially, ensuring that children have early dental care as soon as they have even a single tooth.

She was joined by healthy living expert Debra Peek Haynes, who is passionate about the way we eat and how what we eat can transform our lives.

These two women held an audience for an hour, focusing on the many ways we can improve our lives so that we can better resist these oppressive political times. There was talk of the ways we can eat better, exercise better and live better.

Earle, for example, said she had never had a cavity in her life. Haynes (whose husband, the Rev. Frederick Douglass Haynes, III, has expertly pastored Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas) shared the ways she used healthy eating to turn her health around after a diagnosis of infertility. I was thrilled to bring the women together and to moderate a discussion that had significant meaning for our community.

NCNW, under the transformative leadership of attorney Janice Mathis (who led Rain-

bow PUSH’s Atlanta office until she came to Washington), is the only space owned by black people on Pennsylvania Avenue. It is close enough to the “People’s House” at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue that one might walk there, which perhaps means that it is close to the devil. That proximity offers an opportunity for resistance, and while much of our resistance must be political, some of it hinges on our personal commitment to a physical excellence that prepares us to have resilience for the struggle.

Even as we met, the devil was busy. The House of Representatives passed the new “tax overhaul” package that they say will create jobs, but we know will create wealth for billionaires; to benefit the top one percent, the bottom 80 percent will be hit hard, but Congress doesn’t seem to care. The Senate has a version of the legislation, and the two houses will have to come up with compromise legislation, but both the House and the Senate agree that corporations should pay less tax.

At NCNW, we talked about Congresswoman Robin Kelly

(D-Ill.) and her Action for Dental Health Act (HR 2422). The bipartisan legislation, co-sponsored with Republican Indiana dentist and Congressman Mike Simpson, would make dental care more accessible, but with issues like these having low priority in this ideologically divided Congress, it is not likely to even make it to the floor for a vote. Instead, the new tax law would weaken, not strengthen, healthcare access.

Dental care and nutrition issues don’t get as much visibility as Russia, or sexual harassment, or jiving Jeff Sessions. But they are also important issues. So when we “watch our mouth” by watching what we eat and how we manage our dental care, we are strengthening ourselves for the inevitable struggle against the inequality that is part of the status quo.

Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author and founder of Economic Education. Her latest book “Are We Better Off: Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available via amazon.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries, or for more info, visit www.juliannealveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Sewer Projects
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the City Clerk’s Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for supplying all labor, equipment and materials (as specified) necessary for the “Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Sewer Projects”. Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The length of the contract from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed will be (365) calendar days. The contract will involve multiple on call contracting services solely for the purpose of providing labor, equipment, and materials to repair the City of Jackson’s sewer infrastructure system. The contractor will be given work orders to repair the sewer infrastructure system within an agreed time to complete. The Contractor will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the agreed time between the City of Jackson and the contractor is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) ordinance. Failure to comply with the City’s ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson’s Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi (“City of Jackson”) is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection on the 4th floor (Engineering Division/ Water/Sewer Division) of the Warren Hood Building located at 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at the Water/Sewer office on the 4th Floor of the Hood Building, upon payment of \$100.00 dollars for each set, which will not be refunded. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 14, at 10:00 A.M. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, sub-contractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.

Each bidder must submit with his bid a separate attachment stating his qualifications to perform the work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder’s qualifications. Failure to provide this information will cause the Contractor’s proposal to be rejected by the owner as non-responsive.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson’s City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities

Robert K. Miller
Director of Public Works

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE

ZONING CASE NO. 4001

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that The Quarters - Cornell Kitchens has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a 1.2 acre Variance from the 3 acre minimum requirement for an assisted living facility within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on the property located at 585 Beasley Rd. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

A parcel of land containing 1.7746 ACRES, 77,301.4 sq. ft., more or less, situated in a part of the Southwest One-Quarter (SW ¼) of the Southeast One-Quarter (SE ¼) of Section 1, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, the City of Jackson, the First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi and being more particularly described by metes and bounds as follows:

Commence at the Southwest Corner of the Southwest One-Quarter (SW ¼) of the Southeast One Quarter (SE ¼) of Section 1, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, the First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi, said point being located on the East line of Lot 1 “Homewood” Subdivision, a plat of record and recorded in Plat Book 4 at Page 83 of the Land Records of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, said point marking the POINT OF BEGINNING of the following described parcel of land.

From the POINT OF BEGINNING run thence North 89 degrees 46 minutes 16 seconds East along the South line of Section 1 for a distance of 400.00 feet to the Southwest corner of that certain parcel of land conveyed to W. W. Bailey as per Deed Book 4618 at Page 295 (Parcel “C”) of the Hinds County Land Records, run thence North 02 degrees 13 minutes 45 seconds East along the West line of the last referenced parcel of land and a projection thereof for a distance of 190.00 feet to a point on the South right-of-way line of a paved Public roadway known as Beasley Road, run thence North 89 degrees 14 minutes 28 seconds West along the South right-of-way line of the last referenced roadway for a distance of 399.69 feet to a point on the West line of the Southwest One Quarter (SW ¼) of the Southeast One-Quarter (SE ¼) of Section 1, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, the First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi said point also being the Northeast Corner of Lot 1, “Homewood” Subdivision, a plat of record and recorded in Plat Book 4 at

Page 83 of the Land Records of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence South 02 degrees 15 minutes 00 seconds West along the last referenced West line and leaving the right-of-way line of Beasley Road and along the East line of Lot 1 “Homewood” Subdivision for a distance of 196.00 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

The above description described that same parcel of land as per deed book 4290 at page 690 of the Hinds County Land Records to-wit:

The following described real property lying and being situated in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the SW corner of the SW ¼ of the SE ¼ Section 1, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, thence run East 400.00 feet; thence North 190.00 feet, more or less, thence West to quarter-quarter line to a point which is 196.9 feet North of point of beginning, thence South 196.90 feet to the point of beginning; being in SW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 1, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this the 21st day of November 2017.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

11/30/2017, 12/14/2017

LEGAL

ORDINANCE GRANTING BRAD REEVES A REZONING FROM SUD —SPECIAL USE DISTRICT TO R-1A (SINGLE-FAMILY) RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT WITH A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ALLOW FOR A PROFESSIONAL OFFICE FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 4909 RIDGEWOOD RD. & 1538 SHEFFIELD DR., CASE NO. 3970.

WHEREAS, Brad Reeves has filed a petition to rezone property located at 4909 Ridgewood Rd. & 1538 Sheffield Dr., in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, from. SUD —Special Use District to C-1A (Restricted) Commercial District to allow for a professional office; and

WHEREAS, the Jackson City Planning Board, after holding the required public hearing, has recommended approval of an alternate option to re-zone the property from SUD—Special Use District to R-1A (Single-family) Residential District with a Special Exception to allow for a professional office; and

WHEREAS, notice was duly and legally given to property owners and interested citizens that a meeting of the Council would be held at the City Hall at 2:30 p.m., Monday, October 16, 2017 to consider said change, based upon the record of the case as developed before the City Planning Board; and.

WHEREAS, it appeared to the satisfaction of the City Council that notice of said petition had been published in the Mississippi Link on September 7, 2017 and September 21, 2017 and that notice had been given that the said petition would be heard by the Planning Board on September 27, 2017, all as provided for by ordinances of the City of Jackson and the laws of the State of Mississippi, and that the Jackson City Planning Board had recommended approval of an alternate option to rezone the above described property to R.-1A (Single-family) Residential District with a Special Exception to allow for a professional office; and

WHEREAS, the Council after having considered the matter, is of the opinion that such changes would be in keeping with sound land use practice and to the best interest of the City and that there has been a substantial change in the land use character of the surrounding area that justifies rezoning the property and there is a public need for additional property in that area zoned in accordance with the alternative option since any previous City Council action; and

WHEREAS, it appears to the Council that the documents are in order, and that the recommendation of the Planning Board to approve a Special Exception to allow for a professional office within an area zoned. R-1 A (Single-family) Residential District does support the promotion of the public health, safety, morals, the general welfare of the community and the granting of such will not adversely affect adjacent property owners; and

WHEREAS, it appears to the Council that a Special Exception be approved based on the findings that the granting of the Special Exception does promote the public health, safety, morals, or the general welfare of the community and the granting of such will not adversely affect surrounding properties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI:

Section 1. That the property located in the City of Jackson, First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, more particular described as follows:

All that part of Lot 12, Block D, as shown on the map or plat of said Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3, designated “not a part of this Subdivision” which lies West of the East line of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East; the area conveyed herein being a part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi; said property conveyed herein being particularly described by metes and bounds as follows, to-wit:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East, First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi; run thence West for 129.86 feet to the Northeast corner of Lot 9, Block D of Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3, according to the plat on file in the office of the Chancery Clerk at Jackson, Hinds [sic] County, Mississippi, as now recorded. in Plat Book 15 at Page 9 thereof; run thence South and along the East line of said Lot 9, Block D, Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3, for a distance of 80.0 feet to the Northwest corner of Lot 10, Block D, Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3, run thence Southeasterly and along the north line of Lots 10 and 11, Block D, Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3 to the East line of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East; run thence Northerly and along the said East line of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township 6 North, Range 1 East to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

AND ALSO, all that part of said Lot 12, Block D as shown on the map or plat of Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3, designated “not a part of the Subdivision” which lies East of the West line of the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, First Judicial District, Hinds County, Mississippi, the area conveyed herein being a part of said Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 2 East, Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3, as found in Plat Book 15 at page 9, in the office of the Chancery Clerk. at Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi.

AND ALSO, Lot 11, Block “D” of the Parkdale Subdivision, Part 3, as recorded in Plat Book 15 at Page 9 in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County, Mississippi.

is hereby modified so as to approve the rezoning of the property on 4909 Ridgewood Rd. & 1538 Sheffield Dr. from SUD—Special Use District to R-1A (Single-family) Residential District with a Special Exception to allow for a professional office, however that before a permit is issued for any structure to be erected or use thereof on the said property, the applicant must meet the requirements established through the Site Plan Review process. The Zoning Administrator is ordered to note such change on the Official Zoning Map to the City of Jackson, Mississippi.

SECTION 2. That the cost of publication of this Ordinance shall be borne by the petitioner.

SECTION 3. That this Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days after its passage and after publication of same by the petitioner.

Council Member Banks moved adoption; Council Member Stamps seconded.

Yeas- Banks, Foote, Lindsay, Priester and Stamps.
Nays- None.
Absent- Stokes and Tillman.

ATTEST:
Kristi Moore, City Clerk

I, Kristi Moore, the duly appointed qualified City Clerk and lawful custodian of records of the Council and seal of said City of Jackson, Mississippi, certify that the foregoing is a true and exact copy of an Order passed by the City Council at its Zoning Council Meeting on October 16, 2017 and recorded in Minute Book “6M, Pgs. 34-36”.

WITNESS my signature and official seal of office, this the 3rd day of November, 2017.

Kristi Moore, City Clerk

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 77-3-16 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, requesting names to be added to a list of contractors and suppliers qualified to perform contracts within the scope of proposed utility projects concerning construction, extension, and/or repair of electric public utility facilities for or on behalf of Entergy Mississippi, Inc. Names of qualified contractors or suppliers desiring to be added to such list may be submitted to supplierqualification@entergy.com.

Please include contact information, type of contractor or supplier and a description of qualifications. Questions Call 1-844-387-9675.

3/9/2017 thru 12/28/2017

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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF BUILDING, GROUNDS AND
REAL PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received at the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management, 501 North West Street, Suite 1401 B, Jackson, Mississippi, 39201, until 2:00:00 p.m. on Thursday, 01/18/2018 , for:

RE: GS# 113-145 NWARC Roof Replacement ()
Mississippi State University - Division of Agriculture, Forestry & Vet Medicine

at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Contract documents may be obtained from:

Professional: PryorMorrow PC - Columbus
(Columbus, Mississippi, through the Office listed herein)
Address: Post Office Box 167
Columbus, Mississippi 39703
Phone: 662-327-8990
Email: mail@pryor-morrow.com

A deposit of \$100.00 is required. Bid preparation will be in accordance with Instructions to Bidders bound in the project manual. The Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any or all bids. NOTE: Telephones and desks will not be available for bidders use at the bid site.

Calvin R. Sibley, Bureau Director
Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017

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LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A VARIANCE

ZONING CASE NO. 4000

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Electric Guard Dog LLC has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a two (2) ft. Variance from the eight (8) ft. maximum height requirement to install a ten (10) ft. security fence which will be powered by a 12V battery independent of the power grid within a C80-I2 Heavy Industrial Sub-district on the property located at 1435 Allen St. in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Block “B”, Empire Planning Mill Subdivision as shown by a map or plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the Chancery Clerk of the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi and less that part to the street on the south side; all situated in the City of Jackson, County of Hinds, State of Mississippi.

A tract or parcel of land in the south half of the southwest quarter of Section 10, Township 5 North, Range 1 East and described as follows, to-wit:

Commencing at a point marking the intersection of the south right of way line of Beatty Street with the east right of way line of Allen Street, as said streets are now laid out and used; thence run southerly along the east line of said Allen Street, a distance of 111.0 feet to a point marking the north edge of the north wall, extended, of a masonry building for the point of beginning; thence continuing southerly along said East right of way of Allen Street for a distance of 31.25 feet to a point; thence run easterly, parallel with the south right of way line of said Beatty Street, for a distance of 150 feet to a point; thence run in a northerly direction, parallel with the aforesaid east right of way line of Allen Street, for a distance of 31.25 feet to a point; thence run in a westerly direction, parallel with the south right of way line of said Beatty Street for a distance of 150 feet to the point of beginning.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 21st day of November 2017.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

11/30/2017, 12/14/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A USE PERMIT

ZONING CASE NO. 3999

By virtue of and pursuant to the authority and direction of that Ordinance by the City Council of Jackson, Mississippi, appearing in Minute Book 3G at page 115 thereof, notice is hereby given to all persons interested in or in any way affected thereby, that Necco G. Nelson has filed with the Planning Board for the City of Jackson, an application requesting a Use Permit to operate a tattoo shop within a C-3 (General) Commercial District on property located at 500 E. Woodrow Wilson Ave. – Suite B, in the First Judicial District of Hinds County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as:

Beginning at a point on the north line of Woodrow Wilson Avenue a distance of 777.17 feet measured South 89°55' West and along the north line of Woodrow Wilson Avenue from a concrete Monument marking the intersection of the North line of Woodrow Wilson Avenue with the west of North State Street, as both are laid out and improved in the City of Jackson, Hinds Country, Mississippi; and from this point of beginning run N 0° 55' E for a point; thence S 0°16' West for a distance of 64.0 feet to a point; thence S 89° 55' W for a distance of 61.0 feet to the point of beginning;

and also

Beginning at a point N 0°16' E distance of 64.0 feet from a point on the north line of Woodrow Wilson Avenue a distance of 777.17 feet measured South 89°55' West and along the north line of Woodrow Wilson Avenue from a concrete monument marking the intersection of the North line of Woodrow Wilson Avenue with the west line of North State Street, as both are laid out and improved in the City of Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi and from this point of beginning run N 0°16' E for a distance of 64.0 feet to a point; thence N 89°55' E for a distance of 61.0 feet to a point; thence S 0°16' W for a distance of 64.0 feet to a point; thence 89° 55' W for a distance of a distance of 61.0 feet to the point of beginning.

The above described land and property is shown as Lots “A” and “B”, as shown on conveyance plat dated March 31, 1955 designated as University Plaza, 500 Woodrow Wilson Avenue, attached to Warranty Deed from Elmer J Harris, et al to Barney B. Kennedy dated March 31, 1955 recorded in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Hinds County at Jackson, Mississippi in book 894 at Page 362, reference to which is hereby made, in aid of and as a part of this description.

Said application will be heard at the City Planning Board Hearing in the Andrew Jackson Conference Room, First Floor, Warren A. Hood Building, 200 S. President Street in Jackson, Mississippi, at 1:30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 20, 2017, at which time all parties interested in or affected thereby will be heard both pro and con on said question, after which a record will be established upon which the City Planning Board can make its recommendation to the City Council of Jackson. Any objection thereto may be made by any person owning property within the area, and if made in writing must be filed with the City Zoning Administrator before said time if a hearing thereof or consideration thereof is desired, or by counsel on said date. If a request is made to the Zoning Administrator at least 72 hours in advance, the City will take steps to accommodate citizens need for interpreters or auxiliary aids for the visually/hearing impaired.

WITNESS my signature this 21st day of November 2017.

/s/Ester L. Ainsworth
Zoning Administrator
City of Jackson, Mississippi

11/30/2017, 12/14/2017

LEGAL

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
City of Jackson
Jackson, Mississippi

Sealed, signed bids are invited and will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. in the City Clerk’s Office of Jackson, the bid must be stamped in by 3:30 P.M. Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at which time said bids will be publicly opened at the City Hall located at 219 South President Street (City Council Chambers) in City Hall for the following:

55063-121917 18-Month Supply of Aluminum Sign Blanks

BIDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE AT WWW.JACKSONMS.GOV.

The above must comply with the City’s specifications. Copies of proposal forms can be obtained from the Purchasing Division, 200 South President Street, Room 604, Hood Building, Jackson, Mississippi 39201. Copies of bid specifications are filed with the City Clerk for public record in accordance with House Bill No 999, 1986 Regular Session of the Mississippi Legislature.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in Public Purchasing. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full and equal business opportunities for all persons doing business with the City. As a pre-condition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offer shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) Plan Application, with each bid submission, in accordance with the provisions set forth by authority of the City of Jackson’s EBO Ordinance. Failure to comply with the City’s EBO Ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offer, from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City’s EBO Program, please contact the Office of Economic Development at (601)960-1638. Copies of the EBO Ordinance, EBO Plan Application and a copy of the EBO Program are available with the Office of Economic Development at 218 South President Street, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids. The City also reserves the right to waive any and all informalities in respect to any bid submitted. Bid awards will be made to the lowest and best bidder quoting the lowest net price in accordance with specifications. The award could be according to the lowest cost per item; or to the lowest total cost for all items; or to accept all or part of any proposal. Delivery time may be considered when evaluating the bid proposal. In those cases where it is known prior to advertising that the City’s intention is to award according to the lowest total cost for all items, or in some variation thereof, statements to this affect will be included on the proposal form. Absence of such statement means the City will make that determination during the bid review.

Hellene Greer, CPPB, NPCA; Manager
Purchasing Division
(601) 960-1533 or 1025

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS – NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Water Projects
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Sealed bids will be received by the City of Jackson, Mississippi, until 3:30 P.M. CST, Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the City Clerk's Office located at 219 S. President St., for supplying all labor, materials and equipment as required under the plans and specifications for supplying all labor, equipment and materials (as specified) necessary for the "Labor & Equipment to Perform Various Public Works Water Projects". Please address envelope to City Clerk, P.O. Box 17, Jackson, MS 39205.

The length of the contract from the issuance of the Notice to Proceed will be (365) calendar days. The contract will involve multiple on call contracting services solely for the purpose of providing labor, equipment, and materials to repair the City of Jackson's water infrastructure system. The contractor will be given work orders to repair the water infrastructure system within an agreed time to complete. The Contractor will be subject to liquidated damages in the amount Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day for each consecutive calendar day in which the agreed time between the City of Jackson and the contractor is exceeded.

The City of Jackson is committed to the principle of non-discrimination in public contracting. It is the policy of the City of Jackson to promote full an equal business opportunity for all persons doing business with the City. As a precondition to selection, each contractor, bidder or offeror shall submit a completed and signed Equal Business Opportunity (EBO) ordinance. Failure to comply with the City's ordinance shall disqualify a contractor, bidder or offeror from being awarded an eligible contract. For more information on the City of Jackson's Equal Business Opportunity Program, please contact the office of Economic Development at (601) 960-1856. Copies of the ordinance, EBO Plan Applications and a copy of the Program are available at 200 South President Street, Warren Hood Building, Second Floor, Jackson, Mississippi.

The City of Jackson, Mississippi ("City of Jackson") is committed to cultivating and ensuring the quality of life of its citizens, through various programs, employment, initiatives, and assistance. The City encourages all persons, corporations, and/or entities doing business within the City, as well as those who seek to contract with the City on various projects and/or conduct business in the City to assist the City in achieving its goal by strongly considering City residents for employment opportunities.

The City of Jackson hereby notifies all bidders that in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 that all bidders will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability in consideration for an award.

Contract Drawings, Contract Specifications, and Proposals forms are on file and open to public inspection on the 4th floor (Engineering Division/Water/Sewer Division) of the Warren Hood Building located at 200 South President Street, Jackson, MS 39205. One (1) copy of the Plans, Specifications, and Contract Documents may be procured at the Water/Sewer office on the 4th Floor of the Hood Building, upon payment of \$100.00 dollars for each set, which will not be refunded. The Standard Specifications adopted by the City Council may be procured from the Department of Public Works, if desired upon payment of \$5.00 dollars for each specification.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on December 14, at 9:00 A.M. local time, in the 5th floor conference room of the Warren Hood Building, 200 South President Street, Jackson, Mississippi. All potential contractors, subcontractors, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Bidders must be qualified under Mississippi law and possess a certificate of responsibility issued by the Mississippi State Board of Contractors establishing its classification as to the value and type of construction on which it is authorized to bid. Each bidder must deposit with its proposal, a bid bond or certified check in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid for the work, payable to the City of Jackson, as the bid security.

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance Bond and Payment Bond each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount awarded. Attorneys-in-fact who sign Bid Bonds or Payment Bonds and Performance Bonds must file with each bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney.

Each bidder must submit with his bid a separate attachment stating his qualifications to perform the work. The Statement of Qualifications shall list projects of similar size and nature, a list of references with name and telephone number, a list of key personnel who will perform the work, and other information supporting the bidder's qualifications. Failure to provide this information will cause the Contractor's proposal to be rejected by the owner as non-responsive.

Proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, sealed and deposited with the City of Jackson's City Clerk prior to the hour and date designated above. Each bidder shall write its certificate of responsibility number on the outside of the sealed envelope containing its proposal.

The City of Jackson reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any and all informalities

Robert K. Miller
Director of Public Works

11/30/2017, 12/7/2017



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Week of November 26, 2017

MBB to face Maryland Eastern shore in Emerald Coast Classic

The Mississippi Link Newswire

After a three day layoff the Jackson State men’s basketball team returns to action Friday afternoon to face an opponent from the MEAC in the Maryland Eastern Shore Hawks in the Emerald Coast Classic. Tip-off is set for 1:30 p.m. (CST). The Tigers and Hawks enter Friday’s matchup with identical 1-3 records.

About J-State: The Tigers enter Friday’s game looking to break a three-game losing streak, after opening the season with a home win against Millsaps College. Since the season opener Nov. 10, JSU has been on the road and will remain on the road until Dec. 11 when the Tigers host Fisk at the Lee E. Williams Athletic and Assembly Center.

Jeremiah Jefferson is the Tigers leading scorer. He is averaging 13.3 points and 2.0 rebounds. Jefferson is shooting .333 percent from the field and .361 percent from three-point range, while leading the team in assists with 11. He is also a perfect 6-6 from the free throw line. Maurice Rivers is the team’s second leading scorer, averaging 12.3 points, as well as being the second leading rebounder (5.0 rpg). Rivers is shooting .445 percent from the floor and .400 percent from three-point range. His four blocked shots leads the team.

The Tigers have three other players hovering around the double-digit scoring mark. Darius Austin is averaging 9 points per game, while shooting .636 percent from the field. Paris Collins is averaging 8.3 points and a team high



5.3 rebounds per game. He is shooting .293 percent from the field and .235 percent in threes. He also leads the team in steals with 10. Julian Daughtry is averaging 7.5 points per game. He is shooting .393 percent from the field and .429 percent in threes.

As a team the Tigers average 61.2 points per game and allow 70.

Last Time Out
JSU 45, Maryland 76
Nov. 20, 2017 | Xfinity Center | College Park, Md. | Final Stats

The Jackson State men’s basketball team fell 76-45 to the Maryland Terrapins Monday night in College Park, Maryland. Jeremiah Jefferson led the Tigers with 11 points on 3-8 shooting from three-point range and Julian Daughtry added 10 on 4-8 shooting from the field, including going 2-3 from three-point range. Maurice Rivers came off the bench to add seven points and

eight rebounds.

Paris Collins came off the bench to score six points and pull down four rebounds.

“We told our guys we wanted to just view this as a practice game,” said head coach Wayne Brent. “We just wanted to execute in a half court stint because we don’t get a chance to execute against that kind of size. I wanted to see if we could rebound with them especially on the offensive end and then on the defense, I wanted to see if we could get back and change on defense from man to zone, man to zone. We kind of looked at it as a practice game because of their size we don’t get that in practice.”

Maryland led by 13 points at halftime (38-25). JSU was held to 20 second half points while the Terps scored 38. Bruno Fernando led the Terps with 18 points on 7-9 shooting from the field.

JSU shot 30 percent from the field

(18-60) and UMD completed 50 percent of its shot attempts (26-52) and went 11-27 (40.7 percent) from three-point range. UMD outrebounded JSU 44-27.

Key stat of the game: The Tigers attempted only four free throws for the game (all of which were in the first half), while Maryland went 13-19 at the line.

About the opponent: The Hawks also enter Friday’s game looking to halt a three game skid. After opening the season with a 95-69 win over Valley Forge the Hawks have dropped three straight. Eastern Shore has a pair of double-digit scorers in Miryne Thomas and Cameron Bacote. Thomas is averaging 14 points and 2.5 rebounds per game. He is shooting .458 percent from the field. Bacote is averaging 14.3 points and 1.5 rebounds per game. His 23 assists leads the team, all while shooting .489 percent from the field.

The Hawks are coached by Bobby Collins, who is entering his fourth season at Eastern Shore. In his first season (2014), the Hawks concluded their year with an 18-15 overall record, the most wins by a Shore men’s basketball team in 41 years. In his second season, he again won double-digit games and produced a First-Team All-MEAC player in Dominique Elliott who was named to two All-American lists. His recruit, Dontae Caldwell, earned All-Rookie honors from the conference as well.

During the 2016-17 season, the Hawks finished 14-27 including 9-7 in MEAC play and won a second game in the MEAC Tournament in Norfolk, Virginia for the first time since the 1973-74 season. Senior Bakari Copeland was named First-Team All-MEAC.

Collins spent the previous eight seasons as the head coach at Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, N.C. The Southern Pines, N.C., native accepted the job in 2006 and led the Rams to a 115-110 overall record.

Emerald Coast Classic

This year’s Emerald Coast Classic involves Jackson State, Maryland, Maryland Eastern Shore, New Mexico, Omaha, St. Bonaventure, TCU and Tennessee Tech. The event is in its fourth year. Past champions include Virginia (2016), Iowa State (2015) and Mississippi (2014).

Following JSU’s game against Maryland Eastern Shore, the Tigers will play either Tennessee Tech or Omaha Saturday.

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DVD REVIEW: “BRIGSBY BEAR”

SNL’S KYLE MOONEY STARS AS CLUELESS KIDNAP VICTIM IN POIGNANT CHARACTER PORTRAIT

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Brigsby Bear revolves around an age-old premise that’s tough to establish and maintain convincingly, namely, the plight of a sheltered protagonist blissfully unaware of reality. Four films come quickly to mind which succeeded at plausibly presenting just such a plotline.

In Room (2015), we witnessed a little boy being imprisoned with his mother in a shed by the rapist who’d fathered him. In Life Is Beautiful (1997), we found a concentration camp internee doing his best to shield his young son from the horrors of the Holocaust.

In Being There (1979), Peter Sellers played a gullible gardener who learned everything he knew about the outside world

from TV. And in The Truman Show (1998), Jim Carrey was an orphan who had no idea that he’d been adopted by a corporation that turned his life into a reality show.

Now we have Brigsby Bear, a worthy addition to the challenging genre. The movie marks the impressive directorial debut of Dave McCary, who’s been writing for Saturday Night Live since 2014. The picture stars SNL’s Kyle Mooney, who co-wrote the script with Kevin Costello.

As the film unfolds, we’re introduced to James (Mooney), a 25 year-old very content to be still living at “home.” The overgrown kid religiously tunes in to Brigsby Bear, a sci-fi series revolving around a crime-fighting superhero full of energy and op-

timism.

James has a good excuse for his stunted growth. Truth be told, his supposed parents, Ted (Mark Hamill) and April (Jane Adams), are actually kidnappers who abducted him in infancy. And they secretly produce Brigsby, the only program that ever comes on their TV.

They’ve managed to discourage James from venturing outside the house by filling his head with lies about the air being so toxic that he’d perish without a gas mask. So, he’s freely frittered away his future not only watching all 736 Brigsby Bear episodes, but visiting a fake chatroom devoted to the show.

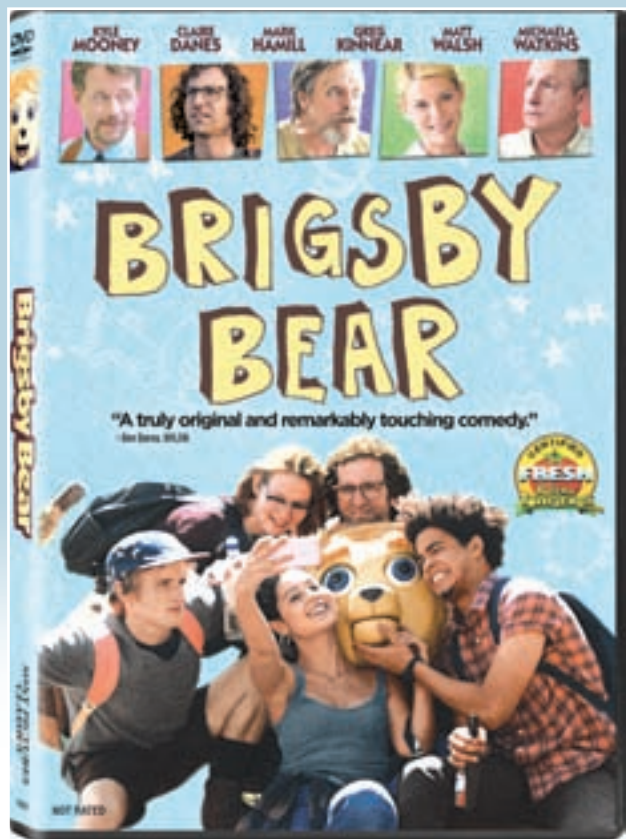
Everything changes the day James is rescued by the police and returned to his birth parents (Matt Walsh and Michaela

Watkins) in Cedar Hills, Utah. Understandably, the adjustment to real-life proves problematic, since he remains obsessed with Brigsby to the point that he talks about it incessantly to anyone who’ll listen.

He’s lucky to find a couple of sympathetic souls in an actor-turned-detective (Greg Kinnear) and Spencer (Jorge Lendeborg Jr.), one of his teenage sister’s (Ryan Simpkins) friends. They agree to help make a Brigsby Bear movie which just might enable James to find some closure on the sordid opening chapter of his life.

A poignant character portrait capable of catapulting Mooney from SNL support player to bona fide matinee idol.

Excellent (4 stars)
Rated PG-13 for drug use,



teen partying, mature themes and brief sexuality

Running time: 97 minutes

Production Studio: 3311 Productions / YL Pictures / The Lonely Island / Lord Miller

Distributor: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment

DVD Extras: Gag reel, commentary with Kyle Mooney & Dave McCary; Twin Speak:

Kyle & Dave; An Evening with Brigsby Bear Cast Q&A; and The Wisdom of Brigsby Bear.

To see a trailer for Brigsby Bear, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JEohOb38hhs>

To order a copy of Brigsby Bear on DVD, visit: <https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/B074GBGJH7/ref%3dnosim/thslfofire-20>

INTERVIEW: RAY FISHER

THE “JUSTICE LEAGUE” INTERVIEW

SUPERHERO CYBORG: BODY BY FISHER!

By Kam Williams
Columnist

Ray Fisher was born in Baltimore September 8, 1987, but raised in Lawnside, New Jersey, where he developed an interest in acting while still in high school. After graduating, he attended the American Musical and Dramatic Academy before launching his career.

Fisher received critical acclaim for his work on the stage for doing Shakespeare and for playing Tom Robinson in “To Kill a Mockingbird” and Muhammad Ali in an Off-Broadway production of “Fetch Clay, Make Man.” On TV, he’s played Captain Edward Dwight on the adaptation of the best-selling novel, “The Astronaut Wives Club,” into a dramatic series.

In 2016, he made his screen debut as Victor Stone, aka Cyborg in “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice.” Here, he talks about reprising the role in “Justice League” as well as in a planned 2020 spinoff for the DC Comics superhero tentatively entitled “Cyborg.”

Kam Williams: Hi Ray, I’m honored to have this opportunity

to speak with you.

Ray Fisher: Thank you, Kam. It’s my honor and privilege.

KW: Congrats on landing the role of Cyborg for your feature film debut on the strength of your stage and TV work.

RF: Thank you. I’ve been doing theater since I was 15, and I’ve been pursuing it professionally for about a dozen years now. There were a lot of days of trying to make something happen in New York City. I appreciate the opportunity to portray Cyborg in this way, and to have it be such an auspicious start, but it’s not something I could have predicted, at all. If it weren’t for [director] Zack Snyder and our crew on the creative side, I would not be here with you today.

KW: How did you prepare to play Cyborg and his alter ego, Victor Stone?

RF: When they told me about the role, they sent me just about every comic book that Cyborg was ever in, starting with his original iteration from in the Eighties by Marv Wolfman and George Perez in the New Teen Titans. Luckily, there was a lot of material to study about the char-

acter, so I didn’t feel like I needed to create him out of thin air. On the physical side, before we started shooting, they put me in the gym with Jason Momoa [Aquaman], Ezra Miller [Flash], the whole crew and an army of Amazon women who would be in our film. We worked out about two hours a day, five days a week, on top of five meals a day. It was a pretty intense experience.

KW: What’s it like being a part of such an accomplished cast and a film series with such iconic characters?

RF: It was fantastic. Everybody was really down to earth. And that’s a testament to Zack Snyder in terms of how he runs his set. I felt super welcome right from the outset. This is a team film, and everybody was there to play their part. There was very little ego involved. Luckily, I had two and a half years before we started shooting to get myself prepared. So, I managed to meet everyone before the cameras started rolling for Justice League. That enabled us to develop some chemistry ahead of time instead of having to generate it on the spot the first time the director



said, “Action!”

KW: What I find most impressive is the confidence the studio is showing in you by already planning for your character, Cyborg, to have his own stand alone film in a few years.

RF: Yeah, it’s great to be thought of in that way. Things are in development right now. Knock on wood, things go according to plan and that comes to fruition.

KW: Were you already a fan of Zack Snyder, who has made hit after hit, from his spectacular debut in 2004 with Dawn of the Dead clear through Wonder Woman, earlier this year?

RF: Definitely. In fact, Dawn of the Dead was the first DVD I ever bought. I remember that very distinctly, as well as watching it a lot. You’re talking about a man who is so passionate about these characters and his craft that being directed by him never felt like work. I felt like a big kid playing pretend with my friends.

KW: Are you a comic book fan? Who’s your favorite superhero?

RF: Growing up, I didn’t collect comic books, but I did watch every single superhero movie

that came out and every superhero series on TV during the nineties, which I consider the Golden Age of superhero animation. Batman and Blade resonated with me the most.

KW: Is there a message you want people to take away from Justice League?

RF: I think so, particularly from Cyborg, because each of these characters is going through their own healing process and becoming part of a team for the greater good in order to stop this threat. The message I’d love for people to take away from Cyborg is that no matter how difficult your circumstances may be, whether physically or mentally, there’s always a process by which you can heal. It might not happen all at once, but as long as you take those little steps forward, things can change for the better.

KW: The Morris Chestnut question: Was there any particular moment in your childhood that inspired you to become the person you are today?

RF: I don’t think there was any singular moment, but a bunch of little moments that came together

and created the mesh that is me. I’ve been blessed to work with some of the most talented theater people you’ve probably never heard of who aren’t very visible. And I’ve also been fortunate to have the most supportive friends and family that a person could ask for.

KW: Ling-Ju Yen asks: What is your earliest childhood memory?

RF: I remember my mother buying me a strawberry milkshake from Mister Softee after being stung by a bee.

KW: Finally, Samuel L. Jackson asks: What’s in your wallet?

RF: A little gold card with a couple of inspirational quotes. It’s been in my wallet since I was about 13. Let me read you one. “We’re not all designed to be straight-A students, celebrities, world-class athletes or the CEO of a major corporation. But we’re designed to make the most of the skills and abilities we do possess. Perhaps the most splendid achievement of all is the continuing quest to surpass ourselves.”

To see a trailer for “Justice League,” visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_6yBZKj-eo



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SHEENA C. HOWARD

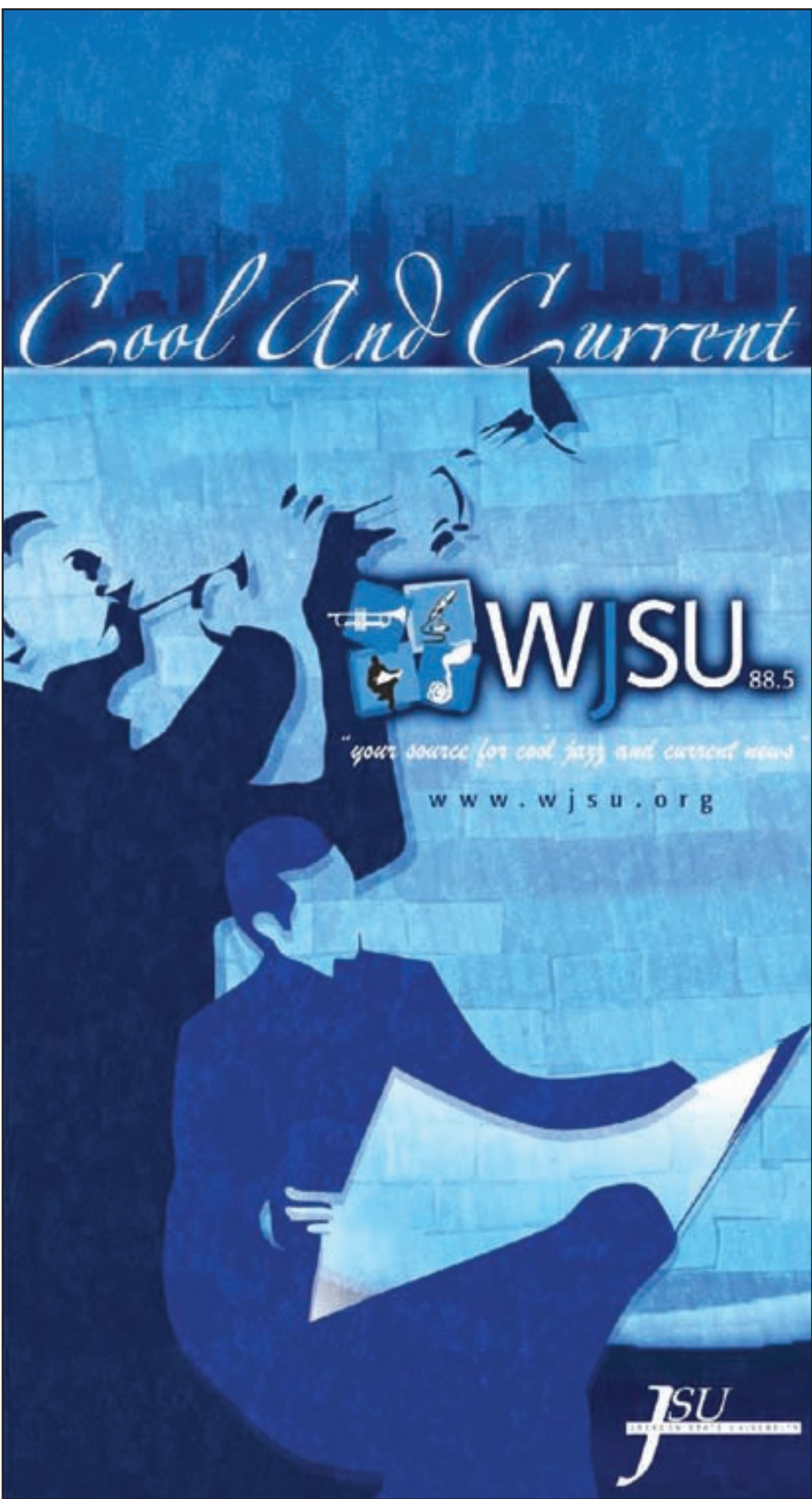
ENCYCLOPEDIA
of
BLACK
COMICS

FOREWORD BY
HENRY LOUIS GATES, JR.

AFTERWORD BY
CHRISTOPHER PRIEST

Quick-minded readers may note some absences inside here, but "Encyclopedia of Black Comics" is a good start for this genre. For those who love the funnies, cartoons, or pen-and-ink art, this book will be a big draw.

(For puzzle answer keys, see page 15)





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