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and Service of God

People Of Color Get Used To Discrimination In Stores

THECONVERSATION—People from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups tend to rate poor customer service less negatively than white people do, according to new peer-reviewed research we co-authored.

Many companies in the service sector, such as banks and airlines, use customer satisfaction surveys so they can figure out how to improve their operations. There's an implicit assumption that the feedback given will accurately reflect the actual quality of the service provided.

Companies may also assume that customers, regardless of their socioeconomic background, will give similar evaluations for good service – and that people will recognize poor or discriminatory service when they experience it.

Our research team wanted to see if that's really the case. In our first study, we recruited nine male small-business owners in Los Angeles to act as "mystery shoppers" to help us compare the treatment of different racial groups. They had similar ages,

heights, builds and education; three were Black, three were Hispanic and three were white. We then sent the men, who wore identical shirts and pants, to a total of 69 banks to ask for a loan based on identical customer profiles. They also secretly recorded the meetings using a camera embedded in their shirt – a method approved by the state's attorney general's office. After each meeting ended, participants filled out a questionnaire describing the experience, including their level of satisfaction.

Overall, we found that participants, regardless of race or ethnicity, reported similar levels of satisfaction during the bank encounters. Since past research has found that Black and Hispanic customers experience objectively worse treatment, we wanted to dig deeper to understand why satisfaction levels were similar.

We analyzed 26 of the videos to see if there were objective disparities in how our mystery shoppers were treated. We found that Black and Hispanic participants were given significantly less time than white participants, waited longer to see a bank employee, and experienced other subtle forms of discrimination.

We wanted to see how pervasive these differing perceptions of good and bad customer service were for people from underrepresented groups. In two additional studies, we recruited over 300 people from a variety of backgrounds to watch clips from these videos that show positive and negative interactions and evaluate the encounters. We found that while all groups rated positive scenarios similarly, Black and Hispanic viewers tended to perceive negative experiences in a better light than white viewers.

Research has shown that discrimination in customer-worker interactions in the service sector is often difficult to detect and fix. This is particularly challenging

when the biases are subtle and less obvious in slights often referred to as microaggressions.

Unfortunately, customers from underrepresented ethnic or racial groups may become indifferent, desensitized or even accepting of repeated discriminatory service over time. In one-on-one exchanges in places like bank branches, customers may be less aware of discriminatory service because they are unable to directly compare the service they receive with that of other customers. So relying on customer feedback to detect service failures may be a poor way to fix discriminatory behavior.

Research has shown that discrimination in financial services has far-reaching implications

for underrepresented consumers. These include the inability to get a loan or mortgage, accumulate savings and build wealth. Financial service institutions' reputation for discrimination also makes it difficult for these companies to attract employees and customers.

To avoid these problems, we believe managers should find more objective ways to evaluate the discriminatory treatment of underrepresented customers and find ways to improve.

We believe more research is needed on the underlying assumptions managers make in tracking, evaluating and eliminating discriminatory behavior – which, in our view, is the ultimate service failure.



St. Augustine's University makes history during 2023 graduation ceremony. See page 12

US Prices Stay High, Inflation Persists

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices in the United States rose again in April, and measures of underlying inflation stayed high, a sign that further declines in inflation are likely to be slow and bumpy.

Prices increased 0.4% from March to April, the government said Wednesday, up sharply from a 0.1% rise from February to March. Compared with a year earlier, prices climbed 4.9%, down slightly from March's year-over-year increase. It was the smallest annual increase in two years.

Even with price pressures rising in April, the latest data did provide some evidence of cooling inflation. Grocery prices fell for a second straight month. And the cost of many services, including airline fares and hotel rooms, plunged. Though apartment rents rose in April, they did so more slowly than in previous months.

The Federal Reserve's policymakers have been closely watching services prices, and April's figures could lead them to do what they had signaled after their meeting last week: Pause their rate hikes, after 10 straight increases, while they assess the economic impact the higher bor-



rowing costs have had. Measured year over year, last month's decline in inflation was much less than in previous months, underscoring that consumer price increases might not fall back to the Fed's 2% target until at least well into next year.

Excluding volatile energy and food costs, so-called core prices rose 0.4% from March to April, the same as from February to March. It was the fifth straight month that they have risen at least 0.4%. Core prices are regarded as a reliable gauge of longer-term inflation trends. Compared with a year ago, core

inflation rose 5.5%, just below a year-over-year increase of 5.6% in March.

"This is a story of still-sticky core inflation at an elevated level," said Blerina Uruci, chief U.S. economist for fixed income at T. Rowe Price. "This report puts the Fed on track to keep rates high this year."

For everyday consumer items, Wednesday's inflation report was mixed. Gasoline prices jumped 3% just in April. By contrast, grocery prices dropped for a second straight month. Used car prices surged 4.4% after nine months of declines.

Airline fares, though, dropped 2.6% in April, and hotel prices plunged 3% after four straight monthly increases.

The Fed is paying particular attention to a measure of services inflation that covers such items as dining out, hotel stays and entertainment and that has remained chronically high for much of the past year. This measure, which excludes energy services and housing, rose just 0.1% from March to April, the smallest increase since last July.

Consumers and businesses continue to struggle with higher costs, and there are signs that some are responding by reining in their spending.

Donald Minerva, who owns the Scottadito Osteria Toscana, an Italian restaurant in Brooklyn, says he has had to raise his prices several times since the pandemic struck to keep pace with rising costs for raw ingredients, all kinds of insurance and higher wages.

Minerva has tried to find ways to save on costs. He has stopped serving lunch during the week and is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays. Even with the reduction in hours, though, his labor costs are about 10% higher than before the pandemic.



Update: Shaw Univ. Rezoning Proposal

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

On Tuesday night, with standing room only, Shaw University students, alumni, and Raleigh residents attended Raleigh city council's meeting to hear the fate of Shaw University's rezoning proposal. Council members expressed their appreciation for the high level of community engagement, acknowledging more than 600 emails received regarding The Shaw U District.

Based on input from the community and other stakeholders, three areas were highlighted to help shape the conversation moving forward. First, written commitment related to outreach, engagement, and community meetings. Secondly, monitoring new development projects that occur near historic structures on the campus. Lastly, provision of additional terms related to the proposed long-term leasing development model and underlying ownership. This agenda will be presented at the next city council meeting on June 2nd.

To further explain why this rezoning is in question, Shaw University wants to rezone its 26.5 acre campus to allow up to 30-story buildings on parts of the campus and to remove historic overlays that limit what can be built. President Paulette Dillard shared her thoughts.

"This rezoning plan is the first step in that initiative to leverage our one great asset, and that is the real estate that Shaw has and so to begin to address that long term sustainability," said university President Paulette Dillard said during the meeting. Furthermore, the university wants to preserve several historic buildings including Estey Hall, Tupper Memorial Hall, Leonard Hall and Tyler Hall, according to the zoning conditions. Vibration-sensitive equipment will be installed inside the halls when new development occurs within 100 feet. Those buildings could only be fully removed if more than 50% of the buildings are destroyed or damaged.

On the contrary, many Shaw alumni are against the rezoning. They say they don't trust the university after what they say is years of mismanagement. Some neighbors are concerned about the redevelopment spurring greater gentrification in the nearby downtown neighborhoods and others worry about the campus losing its historic buildings.

One group that is against rezoning is worried about the future of the King Khalid Mosque. Some community members have argued that the university has not reopened the mosque to the public "as a stalling measure while it seeks (the) rezoning." Many of the people who attended the last meeting were area Muslims looking for the mosque to reopen after Shaw restricted access during the COVID-19 pandemic. The next city council meeting will be held at 7pm on June 2nd at the Raleigh Municipal Building.

Army Sergeant Who Fatally Shot BLM Protester Sentenced To 25 Yrs In Prison

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Army sergeant plans to appeal his 25-year prison sentence for fatally shooting an armed man during a Black Lives Matter protest in Texas, and will cooperate with efforts by the state's Republican governor to issue a pardon, his attorney said Wednesday.

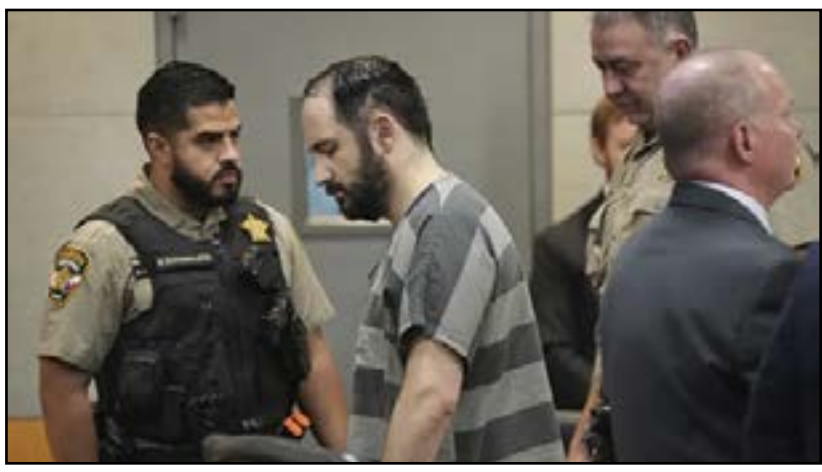
Daniel Perry, 36, was convicted of murder in April for killing 28-year-old Garrett Foster during the downtown Austin protest in July 2020.

"After three long years we're finally getting justice for Garrett," the victim's mother, Sheila Foster, told the court after sentencing Wednesday.

"Mr. Perry, I pray to God that one day, he will get rid of all this hate that is in your heart," she said.

Perry attorney Clinton Broden said in a statement that his client would appeal. He called Perry's conviction the product of "political prosecution" and said the defense team would "fully cooperate in the pardon process."

Perry's conviction prompted outrage from prominent conservatives, and Gov. Greg Abbott, citing Texas' Stand Your Ground laws, has said he would sign a pardon once a recommendation



from the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles hits his desk

The board — which is stacked with Abbott appointees — is reviewing Perry's case on the governor's orders, but it is unclear when it will reach a decision.

District Judge Clifford Brown delivered a statement during sentencing that didn't address the potential pardon directly. But he insisted that Perry had a "fair and impartial trial" and that the jury's decision "deserves our honor and it deserves to be respected."

Travis County District Attorney Jose Garza said it was

Abbott "who decided to insert politics in this case."

Garza said he's been in touch with the board and has been assured that prosecutors will be allowed to present a case against a pardon, and that it will include a presentation from Foster's family.

The pardon process is a valuable check on the court system, Broden said.

"Those who claim that Governor Abbott's expressed intent is based on politics simply choose to ignore the fact that it was only the political machinations of a rogue district attorney which led to Sgt. Perry's prosecution in the

first instance," he said.

Perry was stationed at Fort Hood, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of Austin, when the shooting happened. He had just dropped off a ride-share customer and turned onto a street filled with protesters.

Perry said he was trying to get past the crowd and fired his pistol when Foster pointed a rifle at him. Witnesses testified that they did not see Foster raise his weapon, and prosecutors argued that Perry could have driven away without shooting.

Perry said he acted in self-defense. His lawyers asked the judge to consider his more than a decade-long military career and hand down a sentence of no more than 10 years. Army spokesman Bryce Dubea has said Perry is classified as in "civilian confinement" pending separation from the military.

On Tuesday, prosecutors submitted into evidence dozens of texts and social media posts Perry wrote, shared or liked, including some shockingly racist images. They had been excluded from Perry's trial, but were publicly released after his conviction and allowed into the sentencing phase by Brown.



Mathias Bishop Photos



NCCU AWARDS NEARLY 1,000 DEGREES TO SPRING 2023 GRADUATES

By Quiana Shepard

NCCU.edu

Renowned civil rights attorney Benjamin Crump told North Carolina Central University (NCCU) graduates on May 6 that their degrees come with expectations, including fighting against injustice and racial oppression, and speaking for the voiceless. Crump, a Lumberton native who has become a household name while representing the families of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Trayvon Martin and other Af-

frican Americans in high profile cases, delivered fiery, inspiring speeches at the university's 141st Commencement Exercises. During the baccalaureate ceremony, which began at 8 a.m. in McDougald-McLendon Arena, more than 500 undergraduate students were awarded degrees. The graduate and professional ceremony began at 2 p.m., also inside the arena, and more than 400 students were awarded master's, juris doctor and Ph.D. degrees. Crump charged the graduates to speak truth to power, saying

his grandmother taught him the importance of doing so when he was a young boy. "You all don't realize how powerful you are," he said. "You all don't realize how powerful you're going to be. With this great education from North Carolina Central University, you're going to be able to do amazing things in the world, important things in the world, necessary things in the world. You all are the best and the brightest, the most articulate, the most intelligent." (See **NCCU GRADUATION**, P. 8)

AA History Commission Releases "Black Coal Miners of Appalachia"

WASHINGTON -- The 400 Years of African American History Commission (400YAAHC), a 15-member federally appointed commission established to coordinate the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans in the English colonies on August 20, 1619, announced today the release of "Black Coal Miners of Appalachia," the latest episode of its 400 HOUR television program representing Black Excellence and promoting contributions African Americans have made, and continue to make, to this country. 400YAAHC's newest installment will air at 7 p.m. EST on Monday, May 15, 2023 on www.400yaahc.gov and on Facebook @400YAAHC.

"Mining disasters get monuments; black lung deaths get tombstones," said 400YAAHC Commissioner Ron Carson, founder of the Black Lung Disease program at the Stone Mountain Health Clinics and crusader for coal miners' rights to treatment and benefits. "I've seen many a tombstone in the last 28 years from black lung and we're seeing more now."

The special 400 HOUR program will look at the history of African Americans who worked the coal mines and will feature former coal miners diagnosed with coal workers' pneumoconiosis (CWP), commonly known as "black lung disease," or progressive massive fibrosis (PMF), a late-stage chronic form of CWP. Experts on the program include Dr. David Blackely, an epidemiologist with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); Dr. William Turner, author of "The Harlan Renaissance: Stories of Black Life in Appalachian Coal Towns; and Howard Berkes, NPR reporter and co-producer of Coal's Deadly Dust.

"When coal mining became a growing industry after the



Civil War, companies recruited African Americans to mine coal so the country could have electricity," added Carson. "While coal mining has always been dangerous for all who endeavor in this occupation, it is important nevertheless to highlight that the electricity we sustain even today was built on the hard work and health sacrifices of so many African Americans."

"Our programming is specifically designed to uncover the past so that it can help illuminate a time many would like to forget, and we are grateful for all the experts who have contributed to this important 400 HOUR episode," said Addie L. Richburg, 400YAAHC executive director. A new hour-long television episode of 400 HOUR will premiere on May 15, 2023, at 7 p.m. EST

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Ag-Grow-Culture

Black-Owned Seafood Companies Recognition In New Project

A historic project conceived by NC Catch to build understanding of the vital role people of color play in the state's seafood industry is underway. North Carolina's Black seafood business community has partnered with researchers for "Recognizing African American Participation in the North Carolina Seafood Industry." The project will compile narratives, video and oral histories featuring Black fishers, wholesalers, chefs and others working in seafood to increase recognition of African American participation in the N.C. seafood industry. NC Catch in 2021 conceived

the plans to spotlight the contributions people of color have made to North Carolina's valuable seafood industry. The upcoming project has received a 2023 Community Collaborative Research Grant supported in part by N.C. Sea Grant. "Low public awareness of how African Americans shape our seafood industry deprives Black-owned seafood businesses of full recognition as key contributors to our state's culinary history, coastal economy, and cultural diversity," project managers John Mallette, Southern Breeze Seafood, Jacksonville, and cultural anthropologist Barbara Garrity-

Blake, Duke University Marine Lab fisheries policy instructor and NC Catch president, wrote in the "Recognizing African American Participation in the North Carolina Seafood Industry" project description. "We aim to increase public awareness of Black participation by examining the state's seafood industry through the lens of African American history, culture, and entrepreneurship. We will explore unique barriers faced by Black seafood purveyors and strategies employed to adapt to and overcome challenges. Our aim is to raise public awareness of the African American experience in the North Carolina seafood industry as a way to grow support for Black-owned businesses, foster empathy, and help build more inclusive communities." Mallette and Garrity-Blake will work with NC Catch Chef Ambassadors Ricky Moore, James Beard Award winner at Saltbox Seafood Joint in Durham; Jamie Davis of Eater-recognized The Hackney restaurant in Washington, N.C.; and James Beard Award semi-finalist Keith Rhodes of Catch Restaurant in Wilmington. NC Catch's network of regional Catch groups, from the Outer

Banks to Brunswick County, as well as NC Catch board and project team member Tyrone Hightower of Apex Seafood & Market in Apex, N.C., will provide the project unparalleled opportunities to identify Black commercial fishers, market owners, restaurateurs, chefs, boat builders and others working in seafood. Narratives, video and oral histories gathered by "Recognizing African American Participation in the North Carolina Seafood Industry" will be shared at nccatch.org and on NC Catch social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram. Core Sound Waterfowl Museum in Harkers Island, N.C., will house the project's research and plans an in-house and traveling exhibit to share its findings. Phase I of the "Recognizing African American Participation in the North Carolina Seafood Industry" project was awarded a \$25,000 Community Collaborative Research Grant. The grant program is supported by N.C. Sea Grant and the North Carolina's Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI), in partnership with the William R. Kenan Jr. Institute for Engineering, Technology and Science (KIETS), at N.C. State University. Phase I of the "Recognizing

African American Participation in the North Carolina Seafood Industry" is just the beginning of NC Catch's ongoing efforts to recognize people of color working in seafood. NC Catch plans development of a N.C. Black Seafood Trail and a series of seafood events. Article provided by NC Catch

Capt. John Mallette is a commercial fisherman and seafood market owner based in Jacksonville, N.C.



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The 2nd Annual Yam Jam Was Packed!

On Wednesday, the Downtown Raleigh business community was back in action at the second annual "Yam Jam" volunteer event, organized by Duke Energy in partnership with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina and the Downtown Raleigh Alliance (DRA). City Plaza on Fayetteville Street was closed to allow volunteers from downtown

businesses to sort and pack over 40,000 pounds of locally sourced sweet potatoes, equal to around 34,000 meals. More than 175 volunteers were expected from 10 downtown businesses. The potatoes were distributed to the Food Bank's six branches and approximately 800 partner agencies, feeding communities across central North Carolina.

Representatives from the Duke Energy Foundation and the Food Bank were on-hand at the event to talk about the impact of bringing local businesses together to address food insecurity in our state. Over 175 people from 10 Ra-

leigh businesses, including Duke Energy, Wells Fargo, Bank of America, First National Bank, Blue Cross Blue Shield NC, Investors Management Corporation, Downtown Raleigh Alliance, Highwoods Properties, City Club Raleigh and SAS.



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Business & Finance

Understanding The Impact Of Automation On Workers, Jobs, & Wages

By Harry J. Holzer

Georgetown University

Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, workers like the Luddites in 19th century Britain have feared that they will be replaced by machines and left permanently jobless. To date, these fears have been mostly wrong—but not entirely.

On one hand, automation often creates as many jobs as it destroys over time. Workers who can work with machines are more productive than those without them; this reduces both the costs and prices of goods and services, and makes consumers feel richer. As a result, consumers spend more, which leads to the creation of new jobs.

On the other hand, there are workers who lose out, particularly those directly displaced by the machines and those who must now compete with them. Indeed, digital automation since the 1980s has added to labor market inequality, as many production and clerical workers saw their jobs disappear or their wages decline. New jobs have been created—including some



that pay well for highly educated analytical workers. Others pay much lower wages, such as those in the personal services sector.

More broadly, workers who can complement the new automation, and perform tasks beyond the abilities of machines, often enjoy rising compensation. However, workers performing similar tasks, for whom the machines can substitute, are left worse off. In general, automation also shifts compensation from workers

to business owners, who enjoy higher profits with less need for labor.

Very importantly, workers who can gain more education and training, either on the job or elsewhere, can learn new tasks and become more complementary with machines. For instance, while robots have displaced unskilled workers on assembly lines, they have also created new jobs for machinists, advanced welders, and other technicians

who maintain the machines or use them to perform new tasks. In general, workers with at least some postsecondary credentials are often made better off, while those without them often suffer losses.

The “new automation” of the next few decades—with much more advanced robotics and artificial intelligence (AI)—will widen the range of tasks and jobs that machines can perform, and have the potential to cause much more worker displacement and inequality than older generations of automation. This can poten-

tially affect college graduates and professionals much more than in the past. Indeed, the new automation will eliminate millions of jobs for vehicle drivers and retail workers, as well as those for health care workers, lawyers, accountants, finance specialists, and many other professionals.

So we must ask: Is this time really different? Will the ability of workers to adapt to automation by gaining new education and skills be swamped by the frequency and breadth of tasks that machines with AI will perform?

AI will increase the challenges many workers will face from automation, while still contributing to higher standards of living due to higher worker productivity. At the same time, we will need a much more robust set of policy responses to make sure that the benefits of automation are broadly shared.

New and better policies should be adopted in the following areas: education and training, “good job” creation by employers, and wage supplements for workers.

New Housing Coming Soon To Raleigh



By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

Local Leaders, community stakeholders, developers, and members of the Raleigh community, gathered Tuesday morning at the future home site of a 154 unit apartment complex named Summit at Sawyer. What makes this so special is that there will also be another 200 units at Toulon Place which will commence construction within 2 months. Located in Southeast Raleigh, these new affordable houses will make one of the largest afford-

able housing initiatives in the state.

Phillip Walker, senior pastor of Mt. Pleasant Worship & Outreach Center in Raleigh, helped put this initiative together.

“Sawyer Road was once considered once the most dangerous street in Raleigh. It was once a haven for gun violence, drug dealings, and illegal sale of alcohol. Members of our church would hear gun fire doing our worship service. But by God’s amazing grace, we are making a difference in the world. So today marks a new beginning as

we break ground to celebrate the construction of Summit at Sawyer as a solution to Raleigh’s housing insecurity crisis,” said Walker.

The project owner, The Summit at Sawyer LLC, expects units to be available for families to move in by October 2024. This development was made possible through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program, land sold by the City of Raleigh for just one dollar, \$3 million in gap financing from the City, and over \$26 million in federal loans and equity.

Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness

The U.S. has approved more than \$42 billion in federal student loan debt forgiveness for more than 615,000 borrowers in the past 18 months as part of a program aimed at getting more people to work in public service jobs, the U.S. Department of Education said this week.

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program is open to teachers, librarians, nurses, public interest lawyers, military members and other public workers. It cancels a borrower’s remaining student debt after 10 years of public interest work, or 120 monthly payments.

The program is separate from President Joe Biden’s student debt relief plan, which would wipe away or reduce loans for millions of borrowers regardless of what field they work in. The

U.S. Supreme Court is currently considering whether that plan can go ahead.

The Public Service Loan Forgiveness program, known as PSLF, was launched in 2007, but stringent rules meant that more than 90% of applicants were rejected, the Department of Education said in 2019.

In October 2021, the government temporarily relaxed the requirements, making it easier for people to apply and be approved. Those relaxed requirements ended in October 2022. However, borrowers who want to increase their payment count have another opportunity to do so. They can apply for the one-time account adjustment until the end of the year.

Through the one-time account adjustment, borrowers with direct loans will have similar ben-

efits to those that were available under the limited PSLF waiver. Borrowers who do not have direct loans can consolidate and receive PSLF credit for prior payments as part of this adjustment, as long as they submit a consolidation application by the end of 2023.

One of the people who benefited from the PSLF waiver was Beth Bourdon, an assistant public defender in Orlando, Florida.

Bourdon had about \$57,000 of student loans forgiven in February 2022. Previously, because her loans had been acquired through the Family Federal Education Loan Program, Bourdon didn’t qualify for relief. But when the waiver took effect in October 2021, she successfully applied.

(See **FORGIVENESS**, P. 4)

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Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"I kept checking and re-checking the site, and one day I went and the balance was zero," Bourdon said. "Two days later I got the official letter."

With the exception of one two-year period, Bourdon has worked in public interest law since 2005. She said she made payments of about \$417 every month from June 2008 to October 2021, when she consolidated her loans and applied for PSLF.

"Public defenders, we don't get paid a lot," she said. "When people's student loans hit, they're faced with a really hard decision. Can I remain doing this job I love or will I have to go to a civil firm

to try to make money? The PSLF helps try to retain talented people who would otherwise go somewhere else."

Bourdon said the cancellation gives her "breathing room."

She added that she personally talked about 10 people she knows through the process of applying for forgiveness via the waiver, and that several have already received cancellation.

"It's so great — knowing how relieved I was, for my friends to have that kind of relief too," she said.

Starting July 1 of this year, the Education Department will implement changes designed to make

the PSLF application process easier. Some of the changes were previously included in the waiver.

Here's what you need to know if you want to apply:

If you are or were previously employed at least 30 hours per week with the following types of organizations, you qualify:

— Government organizations at any level (U.S. federal, state, local, or tribal). This includes the U.S. military, all work in public education, and full-time volunteer work with AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps.

— Any not-for-profit organization that is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal

Revenue Code.

— If you work for a not-for-profit organization that is not tax-exempt, you may still qualify for PSLF if the organization provides certain types of qualifying public services such as emergency management, legal aid and legal services, early childhood education, service to individuals with disabilities or the elderly, public health, including nurses and nurse practitioners, public library and school library services, and public safety such as crime prevention and law enforcement.

To demonstrate that your job in public service qualifies you for forgiveness, you'll file an employ-

er certification form with your servicer, listing jobs you've held.

You must have direct loans or consolidate other federal student loans into a direct loan. You must also make 120 qualifying payments or 10 years of payments.

Any federal student loan received under the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan program is eligible.

If you have either a Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) or a Federal Perkins Loan, you'll need to consolidate those into direct loans with your servicer. Payments made on these loans before you consolidated them do not count as qualifying PSLF

payments.

Private student loans are not eligible.

You can apply to the program using the PSLF help tool. If you want to do it manually, you can print and mail a PSLF form.

First, visit studentaid.gov to see if you have loans made under the Federal Family Education Loan or Perkins Loan Program. Those are the loans you'll consolidate.

Next, apply online or by mail. The process is free and takes about six weeks to complete, but you can submit the Public Service Loan Forgiveness form after consolidation is complete.

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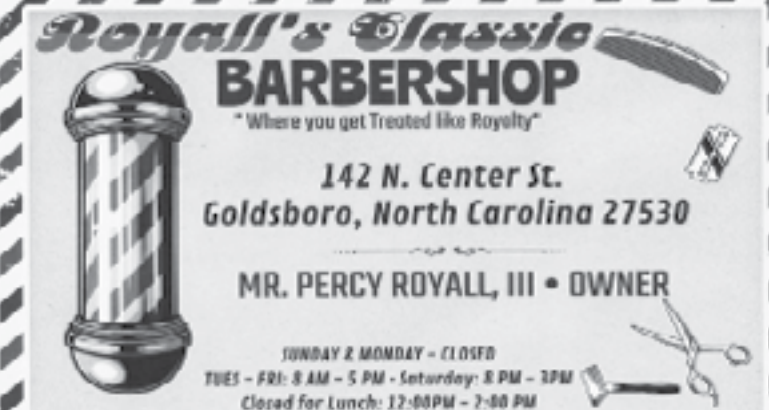


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Health & Wellness

Task Force Recommends Earlier Breast Cancer Screening

By Stacy M. Brown

NNPA

According to a new draft recommendation statement, the US Preventive Services Task Force proposes that women with an average risk for breast cancer begin screening at age 40 to reduce their risk of death.

It is a change from the 2016 recommendation, in which the task force recommended that biennial mammograms (breast x-rays) begin at age 50 and that the decision for women to screen in their 40s “should be an individual one.”

Some organizations, including the American Cancer Society, have recommended that women begin mammograms in their forties.

USPSTF Vice Chair Dr. Wanda Nicholson, senior associate dean, and professor at George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health, told CNN,

“Our new task force recommendation recommends that women begin breast cancer screening with mammography at age 40 and continue screening every other year until age 74.”

The USPSTF, a group of independent medical experts whose recommendations help steer doctors’ decisions and influence insurance plans, proposed an update to its breast cancer screening recommendations on Tuesday, May 9.

The task force announced it would share a draft evidence review and draft modeling report along with the non-final recommendation on their website for public comments until June 5.

The proposed recommendation is for all individuals assigned female at birth, including cisgender women, trans men, and nonbinary individuals, to be at ordinary risk for breast cancer.

According to Nicholson, women with dense breasts and a family history of cancer typically fall into this category, but not women whose family history contains breast cancer or genetic mutations, such as mutations on the BRCA gene, as they are regarded as being at high risk.

The revisions would not apply to those with an increased risk of breast cancer who may have already been advised to undergo screening at age 40 or earlier.

However, they should adhere to the monitoring procedures recommended by their physicians.

Black women reportedly have the highest incidence of breast cancer-related deaths in America.

Nicholson stated that the revised recommendation “will save more lives among all women.”

This is especially significant for Black women, who have a 40% higher risk of breast cancer-related death.

According to the JAMA Network Open, the breast cancer death rate among women in their 40s was 27 per 100,000 person-years for Black women, compared to 15 per 100,000 for white women and 11 per 100,000 for American Indian, Alaska Native, Hispanic, and Asian or Pacific Islander women.

As a result, researchers recommended that Black women begin screening at an earlier age, 42, as opposed to 50.



Mathias Bishop Photos



Black, Queer Students Feel Excluded By Both Black And LGBTQ student groups



By Michael P. Jeffries

Wellesley College

The Black LGBTQ students I interviewed understood that college is an opportunity to explore their identity. But many still struggled to move past the bigotry and difficult experiences they had growing up as young queer people.

Deron, a senior at a historically Black university who grew up in the suburbs of a large Southern city, explained, “When I was a teenager, [my mother] kind of kept me sheltered from the gay community. So it kind of made me develop a negative mindset toward the LGBT lifestyle. I mean, as far as participating in the community, she just shunned me away from it for a long time, and I had really negative thoughts about it up until this semester.”

Other major challenges were tied to the broader political environment. Students believed racist, homophobic and transphobic sentiments were being expressed with increased frequency, which made them angry, disappointed and fearful about the future of the United States. Several interviewees talked about the rising threat of white supremacy and the feeling that white supremacists on and around their campuses were emboldened during the Trump era.

Cat, a 19-year-old student at a large, predominantly white school, lamented that “seeing someone get up on a podium and spew hate and misinformation on a regular basis ... and just the people making our decisions right now, it’s like, how did y’all get there? It’s like, you know how they got there, but then you’re losing faith in humanity by acknowledging that.”

Finally, students told me they didn’t feel a sense of belonging in either Black student organizations – which seemed to have little regard for queer Black folks – or LGBTQ spaces and student organizations, which were primarily white.

Candace, who attends a large, prestigious public university, told me that one of the problems that Black LGBTQ students face in white LGBTQ spaces is tokenism. She felt that queer Black folk are “there for the entertainment of white queers, and to be able to feel like they’re woke, or like they’re part of this group that really accepts people.” Albert, who also attends a large public university, described a serious blind spot within the primarily white LGBTQ organization on his campus, and the exclusion he experienced there.

“They would talk about like ... dating in the gay community, or something like that. And I’m just like, they don’t really date Black people, so there’s that.”

One of the most common and powerful ways that students said they overcome these challenges is by building community with one another.

“I know in meeting each other, [my queer friend and I] were both kind of like, ‘Wow, another one!’ And we’re always like, so excited,” said Parker, one of the few trans students I spoke with. “It’s like whenever Black queer people get around each other, I feel like we get strong in our personalities. ... I know that there’s support around me. And it’s like these networks keep growing and growing.”

Abraham, a leader of the queer Black student organization at his historically Black university, explained the importance of his group as a collective that cultivated a sense of connection and safety.

“We started hanging out to where we spent all our time together,” he said. “Our organization became like a family. If we felt like someone in this family was being attacked by someone on this campus, we jumped in and said, ‘Yo, that’s not going to happen on our watch.’”

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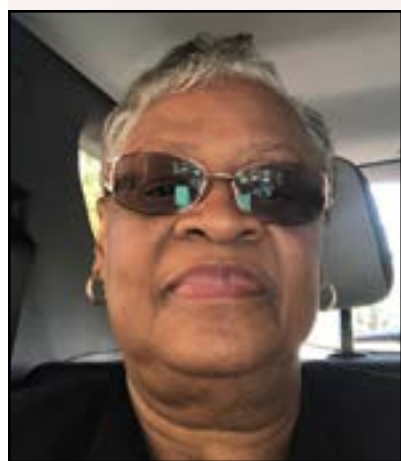
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**MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE TO AN EARTHLY ANGEL
THE LATE EUNICE LOIS POPE**
BY ACLICIA ADCOCK

Special To The Carolinian

Eunice Lois Pope was fondly called "Mama Eunice" or Miss Eunice by her family and friends. Born on February 17, 1901 to the late Reverend William Calvin Pope and the late Cora Powell Pope, Eunice took pride in being in a large family with seven sisters and one brother. When her parents passed, her siblings looked to her for sound advice and guidance. After one of her sisters passed, she promised her that she would take care of her two boys, John Adcock, Jr. and Charles Adcock, Sr. not anticipating or having a clue that she would have them for the duration of their lives and raise their children; Gilda Adcock, Alicia Adcock, and Charles Adcock, Jr. Once our Mothers and Fathers were not together, our Great Aunt became our "Mama Eunice", and dedicated and devoted her life to raising us as well-rounded, respectful, versatile individuals.

She was as Good as Gold and set the bar for Earthly Angels. Even though we grew up on Chavis Heights, she made sure we had The Best of Everything we needed.

Education was a top priority, and we attended St. Monica's Catholic School and became Catholic.

"Mama Eunice" wanted us to Feel Good, Be Good, and Look Good. Our school uniforms were always neat, clean, pressed, and Very Starched, and she made us Feel Proud and Special walking to school each and everyday from Chavis Heights to Tarboro Road.

Being beyond her years, Resilient, and Open-Minded, "Mama Eunice" took Instructions from the Catholic Church, in order to raise us as Catholic, and even though she grew up in a Baptist family and her Father, Reverend William Calvin Pope was an author, poet, writer, Baptist Minister, and one of the first Pastors at Tupper Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. Her Faith, Beliefs, and Convictions were always Powerful as she Trusted God and was not afraid to walk in "The Light."

During our early years and throughout our school days, we were always encouraged to work hard, participate in sports and activities, and Multiply Our God given Seeds and Talents.

"Mama Eunice" was so very proud to attend and support the activities and programs that Gilda, Alicia, and Charles Jr. participated in, as they became Champions and/or were Recognized and Rewarded for; Tennis, Ping-Pong, Yo-Yo, Football, Basketball, Dance, Art, Majorette, and Cheerleader.

"Mama Eunice" continued to instill in us the importance of Education, and after attending J.W. Ligon High School, we all attended college, and we will always be Grateful and thankful for the Knowledge, Opportunities, Encouragement, and Wonderful Wisdom she gave us.

Eunice Lois Pope was short in stature with a Tall, Huge, Sweet, Caring, and Loving Heart. She was our Mother, Grand-Mother, Aunt, and Great-Aunt, and Most of all our "Mama Eunice."

As the saying goes; "Actions Speak Louder Than Words" her character and disposition was Warm, Gentle, Nice, Kind, Firm, Strong, and Nurturing.

The lessons she taught us, and the lessons we learned will remain with us for a Lifetime.

These are a few of the lessons we will always abide by: Love One Another, and Take Care of Each Other, Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You, Love Your Neighbor As Yourself, and Love God with All your Heart, All Your Mind, All Your Soul, and All Your Strength!

Miss Eunice never married or had children of her own; we were her children, the late John Adcock, Jr., the late Charles Adcock, Sr., Gilda Adcock, Alicia Adcock, and the late Charles Adcock, Jr.

There was nothing she wouldn't do for us to make sure that we were Loved, Take Care Of, Blessed, and Safe.

"Mama Eunice" kept up with us and our accomplishments throughout her Life, and when God called her "Home" on September 25, 1976, I can Imagine "Him" saying you have "Gone Beyond The Call Of Duty" Kept The Faith, Believed, Trusted Me, and "Followed God's Law." "It is now time for you to give up your Earthly Wings, and Receive Your Heavenly Wings, Halo, and Ring."

We are so very Grateful and Thankful to God for giving us our own "Guardian Angel" to Love and Cherish Forever and Ever.
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- Jenny Bobbitt



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DIANE HILL BECTON
You are a wonderful Mother, Grandmother, Mother-In-Law & Wife
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DONNA HAYWOOD
Happy Mother's Day
- Orrin Ray Haywood

A Letter From A Loving Son On Mother's Day

By Nicholas Curry

Special To The Carolinian

Happy Mother's Day, Mom! I love you and I am so thankful for you. I wanted to write a letter for you and about you. The letter is written for you, but I hope it inspires others who are working to strengthen their relationship with their mom.

My mother, Melvina Lee, is an amazing person. She's so sweet, kind, and loyal, but you have to get to know her. From the outside looking in, you may think she's rough and unfriendly. She can be those things also, but there is a reason why.

See, my mother had a very rough childhood. She witnessed several things, such as abuse and suffered from negligence as a child. She wouldn't mind me sharing these things because she's always been an "open book" about the story of her life when asked.

Unlike my mother, I did not have a rough childhood. But, I can assume that going through numerous traumatic events as a child can make one really cold.

And hard. And hurt. I would assume these experiences would make one very protective of their heart and feelings; that is my mother.

My mother has had a job since she was 13 years old. She has always been independent and had to grow up at a very young age. In fact, she was so responsible, my grandmother would trust her with the responsibility to go pay the rent and utility bills at just nine years old. Mom would collect the bill money from grandma and take public transportation to go to numerous bill offices to pay the bills; what a huge responsibility for such a young girl.

When you grow up fast, you learn to not take much stuff from anyone. As joyful and loving as my mother is, she is also no-nonsense. She doesn't believe in having her time wasted. This goes for her parenting also.

As I was growing up, I thought my mother was mean. She was always loving, but very quick-tempered. But as I got older, I realized that my mother has suffered a great deal of hurt in

her lifetime and has a lot of pain inside of her. Even now, she is in the process of healing from things she has endured and things she has seen. Her heart is genuine and she wants the best for all of her loved ones, especially her children. At 31 years of age, I now realize that my mother was just a broken adult trying her best to raise her children to be better than her.

As adults, my mother and I are as close as ever, we've always

been close. I've always had the spirit of forgiveness in my heart, so I did not allow my mother's pain to tarnish our relationship. I love you so much, mom.

I want to encourage every person that has a complex relationship with their mother to consider forgiving her to start anew. Everyone deserves a second chance, and we've all made mistakes. Don't live lives with regrets, reach out to your mother, and begin the process of healing. Life is short.



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Community

Music Exec Announces New School of Music At Livingstone

SALISBURY – Music executive and industry veteran Adrian Miller is “recording” his legacy on the campus of Livingstone College along with Alexander Warren, aka Lex Lucazi.

After receiving his honorary doctorate degree in humane letters at Livingstone’s 141st Commencement on May 6, the music mogul announced he was creating a recording studio at Livingstone College, named the Adrian M. Miller Conservatory in Frequency and Harmony” for his contributions to and support of the arts, and the scholarship of the next generation of musical artists and industry changemakers. The school is named after his son.

“Personally, this meant a lot to me to visit you all from LA (Los Angeles) and to be here today. While my family is not celebrating as much (due to a death), it bears my heart and soul and spirit to be here to say Livingstone will be announcing its



music program: The Conservatory Adrian M. Miller School of Harmony and Frequency,” Miller said. “I could not have done this without my good brother, Dr. Lex, the multimedia expert Synphony (Keith Anderson of Livingstone) and Dr. Davis (president). We look forward to giving you all the platform you

deserve in the entertainment industry.”

The school of music will serve as a catalyst for the creation of a communications major and certification program among the college’s current degree program offerings.

There is a heightened interest among students in the college’s

on-campus radio station, WLJZ 107.1 FM, particularly in music, audio production and engineering. In order to cultivate and sustain that growing interest, Livingstone is partnering with Miller to develop a music engineering degree/certification program in a newly-designed and equipped studio.

Miller, in partnership with Alexander Warren, aka Lex Lucazi, will assist in providing the capital to design, build and equip the music studio.

This will be “one of the first of its kind on an HBCU college campus,” said Livingstone President Dr. Anthony J. Davis.

Miller is an industry veteran who today manages Anderson .Paak and Flo-Rida, and was musical supervisor on the movie, “Friday,” and the third season of “Wu-Tang Clan: An American Saga.”

From radio disc jockey, A&R, breaking new talent, artist management, label founder/co-owner,

masterminding successful digital and real-world marketing campaigns and executive producing, to film and television music supervision, he has been immersed in nearly every facet of the business and understands what it takes to elevate artists to the next level.

Over the course of his career, which included being at Warner Music Group under the tutelage

of industry powerhouses Benny Medina and Quincy Jones, Miller has worked with artists that include Cypress Hill, House of Pain, Ice Cube, Giorgio Moroder, Prince, RZA, Rage Against The Machine, OutKast, The Pharcyde, Korn, Warren G, Incubus, Coolio, Method Man, Redman, Funkdoobiest, DJ Muggs/Soul Assassins, Erick Sermon, Keith Murray and Volume 10.



KNIGHTDALE – The Town of Knightdale hosted its second annual Latin American Festival on Sunday, May 7, from noon until 7 pm to a record setting crowd. The event was co-sponsored by La Grande NC Radio.

An estimated 6,000 people attended the festival at Knightdale Station Park throughout the day. Musical guests included Grupo Mojado, Kadencia, Los Rumberos, Ricardo Diques, and more. Festival attendees were treated to local Latin vendors, food trucks, and activities for kids.

“Co-hosting the Latin American Festival in Knightdale was an opportunity to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Latin America and celebrate diversity,” said Angel Colon, owner of La Grande NC Radio. “We are grateful to the city of Knightdale for co-hosting this event with us, and for their commitment to promoting cultural understanding and community engagement. We hope to continue hosting events that showcase the beauty and diversity of Knightdale.”

The Latin American Festival was created as a part of Knightdale’s Strategic Plan to offer diverse quality community events in the town. This objective is a direct reflection of the “Connected & Inclusive” focus area of the Plan and directly reflects the Town’s commitment to providing inclusive programming and community events for its residents.

“We couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful day or crowd for this event,” said Jessica Day, Mayor of Knightdale. “This amazing attendance proves that cultural celebrations are wanted and appreciated, and we will continue to celebrate the vibrance of our Latin American and all other communities.”

Wilson Organization Teaches Digital Literacy

By Tyria McCray

Staff Writer

In a concerted effort to bring adequate technology to people, the Wilson Community Improvement Association and Gig East Exchange, a technological hub of Eastern N.C., have partnered to create Navigation East, a digital literacy educational program. The initiative will not only teach aspects of digital literacy, but provide 50 Chromebooks to participants by the end of the program.

Community Coordinator for Gig East Exchange, Ashley Harris, shared that this initiative idea began three years ago, with high hopes for 2020. “It was 2020 and it was supposed to be the year of vision,” she said. Even though that year went differently than planned, Harris began to see matters in a different perspective. In fact, she witnessed

the impact that technology can have on day-to-day life.

For instance, her family lives in rural eastern North Carolina and there is no broadband service there; which makes access to technology more difficult to attain. Being aware of that, Harris’s passion grew to ensure digital literacy was available to her community; so when the idea of Navigation East opportunity was presented, she jumped at it.

Classes began in January, continuing through May of 2023 and discusses topics such as; digital safety, telehealth, work-from-home opportunities, shopping, paying bills, transit schedule access, and more. Thankfully, classes are being held in areas of Wilson that are convenient to most participants; such as Beacon Point Apartments and Gee Corbett Village Senior Center.

Furthermore, Barbara Blackston, executive director of

the Wilson Community Improvement Association, helped secure the grant funding that made the program possible. As WCIA’s mission is to help create equitable housing options, Blackston was instrumental in providing key contacts for participation in areas where it could have the most impact.

In order to keep participants engaged, chromebooks are assigned and turned in at the end of every class. However, to keep the chromebook at the end of the program, participants are expected to come to the majority of classes.

“We didn’t want it to be a giveaway, here’s a device, be safe, go have fun! We really wanted to give people some ‘meat and potatoes.’ Here’s a device that can bring value to your life. Here are some ways you can utilize it and it actually is more than a computer that you pull out to check

your social media,” said Harris.

“We wanted something that could meet qualifications for work-from-home as well as something that they could use for e-health. A lot of doctors’ appointments can be done virtually. That’s something that can instantaneously impact someone’s life” she said.

Harris’s vision for the future is that the entry-level education provided by Navigation East, paired with the device, will open the door to curiosity and confidence. Gig East already has a ton of material to help people take charge of their careers, and she hopes to point graduates of the program in that direction.

But whether they continue programming at Gig East, taking Microsoft training through the library or taking classes at Wilson Community College, Harris wants people to continue on their path of discovery.

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Editorials

Editorial Policy

Unsigned editorials in this space are the opinion of the newspaper. All other opinion pieces, including those from regular columnists, are the opinion of the writers themselves. The Carolinian strives to provide provocative commentary that is likely to spur thoughtful debate, regardless of whether we agree with it.

The Obesity Crisis Is Not a Hopeless Fight For Black America

By Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis Jr.



Whether we accept it or not, obesity continues to be a complex, chronic disease that kills thousands of Black Americans every year. Indeed, nearly half of Black Americans live with obesity, so we cannot afford to ignore this national emergency any longer.

The public discourse around weight loss that has taken over recent headlines has entirely missed the mark. Our mainstream media, social media, and content providers are all either dissecting whether a movie star used weight loss medication or analyzing whether these medications are safe to take, even though they're FDA approved.

The fact of the matter is that we are squandering a critical moment to focus on the deadly disease of obesity, and missing the opportunity to save thousands of lives, particularly Black lives. Within the next seven years, researchers anticipate that half of American adults will live with obesity. This is a personal health burden and a public health crisis, and we should talk about it as such.

Turning the narrative around on this disease, and on Black wellness overall, is critical to stemming obesity's growth. The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), a trade association of more than 250 Black-owned community newspapers and media companies from across the United States, has consistently been the voice of the Black community since its founding 83 years ago.

I serve as the organization's President and CEO and right now, we're calling on our members to elevate the conversation on the obesity crisis to one that clarifies the facts, shares reliable resources, and advocates for impactful changes for the benefit of our community's health and longevity. We can address obesity in a way that gives hope, because this is not a hopeless fight.

To start, it's vital that we correct the misinformation. Too often, people don't know that obesity is a chronic disease and a long-term illness, with multiple contributing factors outside of a person's control: environmental circumstances, inherently racist healthcare programs, poverty, and genetics. In cities across the country, like Washington, D.C., where nearly half the population is Black, food deserts and food swamps have become the norm in Black communities. This makes it nearly impossible for many Black residents to eat well even if they wanted to. That is to say, many people cannot access one of the key tools for combating obesity — a healthy diet — because of factors outside of their control.

It's also important to note that obesity is a complex disease that may require more than diet and exercise. Our understanding of the disease has changed drastically over the years thanks to scientific research and advances. Where diet and exercise are not enough, some people may need the extra support of anti-obesity medications to fight the disease. Just as many of us take medications to manage hypertension, diabetes, or cholesterol — conditions you may have inherited — medications for chronic weight management may be needed as well.

Further, combating severe obesity may even require bariatric surgery. Chronic diseases are treated with a range of treatment options, and obesity is no different.

To be clear, the perception that people who live with obesity just need to take better care of themselves is false and dangerous, as it prevents thousands from receiving or seeking the care they need. Societal weight biases strain the mental health of people living with obesity, prevent people from living their healthiest lives, and contribute to our country's stagnant healthcare policies that exacerbate obesity's disproportionate impact on Black communities.

From less access to quality healthcare, to the exclusion of anti-obesity medications from Medicare, and most Medicaid and general insurance coverage, our healthcare systems under-prioritize the well-being of Black Americans. And we've learned from history that until we make our voices heard, this crisis will continue to be brushed aside.

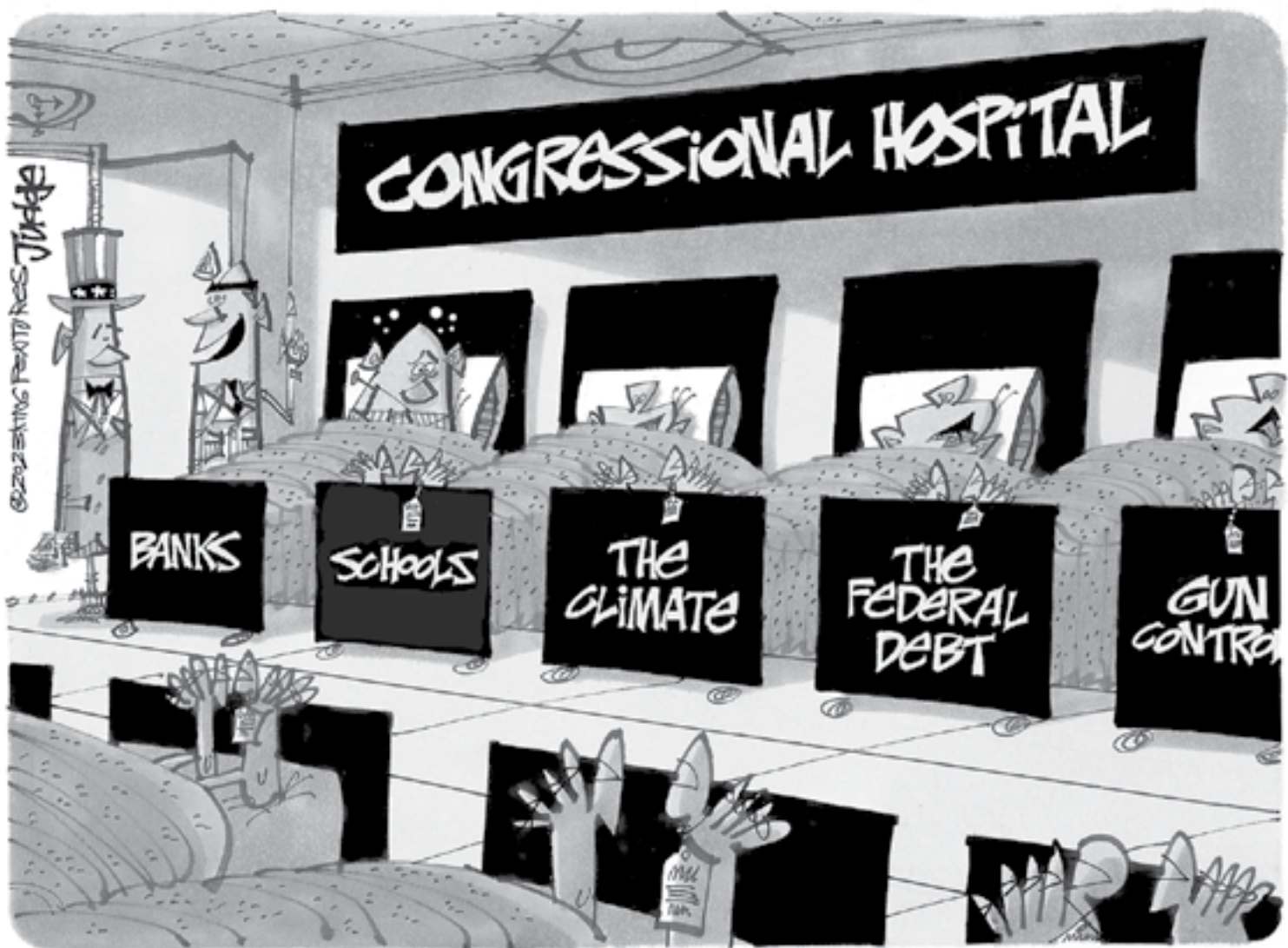
Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford, an expert on obesity, noted that we have been living through three pandemics: COVID-19, racism, and obesity. We must prioritize combating the obesity pandemic with the same energy we use to combat COVID-19 and racial injustice. Our lives depend on it.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr is President and CEO of the NNPA, Executive Producer/Host of The Chavis Chronicles on PBS TV stations throughout the United States, entrepreneur, global business and civil rights, and can be reached at dr.bchavis@nnpa.org

Talk To Us

Stimulating a lively discussion of issues that concern the community is one of our main tasks at The Carolinian. We want to know what you think. This issue's topic:

Former President Trump was found liable for sexual abuse this week in a civil trial against him. Though there were no criminal charges, will this legal action hurt his bid for re-election?



"AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO CURE THE BANKING SYSTEM."

A Different Voice

By Dorothy Shaw Thompson



She Wore Four Rings

Yesterday I watched the interview of Michelle Obama by Oprah Winfrey. Michelle, our former 'first lady' has written a new book titled, *The Light We Carry*. A friend has been encouraging me to watch this on Netflix for about a week and finally I did. I was not disappointed. Michelle Obama is the definition of a phenomenal woman. Not at all because she is a lawyer, or certainly not because she is Barack Obama's wife. None of those descriptions define her. None of those resume additives make her who she is, although those things do give her a voice that others are blessed to be motivated to listen to. I think she is not even more special than many of the people I call friends. I think she draws us in because she knows who she is and doesn't stoop to hiding that and she gives voice to herself and her character.

In the interview she encourages people to like themselves. Though some might think that to do that is to be conceited, of course I disagree. I believe that when we like ourselves we honor God. I believe that each of us is uniquely created to be on this planet and take our rightful place to make this world what it should be. I believe that anyone who is here and lives in shame or fear of allowing the world to meet the real them is a misdirected shooting star, who has listened to a world that doesn't deserve to be listened to.

One of my son's was just a toddler when, as his brother got out of the car to go into school, said to me, "Mommy, I don't ever want to do that." I said, "Do what," and he answered, "Go to school." I said, "what do you know about school?" He said, "they want to change you and I'm no supposed to let anybody change me." I agree with him and yet I knew he was not going to have it easy because this is a world that values conformity. Michelle talks about her days in the White House with the eyes of the world watching her, ready to attack any little slips of the tongue, or dress, or whatever the watchers would critique. She didn't let them touch her core. Her books, speeches and interviews are proofs of that.

I think Michelle is popular because of her totally open honesty and ability to be vulnerable. She shares her relationship with her husband and her daughters as easily as she discusses the weather. At one point she says she was mad with her husband for ten years of their marriage but adds 20 good years compared to 10 not so good years is (my words) a reason for staying. I frankly love that. Too many people walk around on clouds as though theirs is the perfect life...marriage...whatever... I've seen some people get angry as to whose pound cake was better. Whose house was bigger, whose family of origin was the best in the neighborhood. Whose church is the best and whose child walked first. I imagine God shaking his head at these discussions and wondering, is this my creation? I'm convinced that our determined competition is one of life's deadly sins made so because no matter how...whatever you think you're best at... your universe is too small and there's always going to be someone who out distances you.

I've had this idea for a long time that there should be a television show where women and maybe men just sit and talk (hopefully not argue). I think that when every people come together, they are a microcosm of the entire world.

The reason I entitled these musing as "She wore four rings" is because once a friend who was interviewing a person as a caretaker asks me why do you black women wear more than one ring on your fingers? She meant hands. One of my answers was the question, "Why do we wear rings at all?" After that I began to notice that some of us do wear more than two rings on each hand and Michelle Obama did on the occasion. I sure wish someone would have asked her. She would have given good answers.



Glen Mollette Speaks

By Glen Mollette

MOTHER'S DAY AND YOUR TIME

You may have lost your mother early in life or never really knew your mother. My two sons were only 17 and 20 when their mother passed at the age of 49 from multiple sclerosis. Mother's Day is a tough day for them and many others around the world. This day may be very difficult for you.

My mother has also passed on but I remember her as one of the hardest working persons I've ever known. On Sunday and often during the week she loved getting dressed up and going to church. One of the greatest enjoyments of her life was singing in a gospel quartet with my dad and another lovely couple.

Eula Hinkle Mollette was just the best mom ever. Yes, I'm prejudiced of course.

Mom helped me with my homework. She washed and ironed my clothes. She put breakfast on the table for me every morning. She had something for me to eat every day when I came

home from school. She read to me when I was a child and took care of me when I was sick. During the summer we would carry water from our nearby creek to wash clothes. Typically, we caught rain water in large tubs to wash our clothes but summer months often brought dry weather. We had lunch together every day during the summer break. Usually, it was a homemade sandwich and sometimes a candy bar from Grandpa Hinkle's grocery store. I once wanted root beer and she said, "You won't like it." I debated that I would but I didn't. I was stuck with the root beer.

She never hesitated to set me straight with a peach tree limb across my back side.

If she were alive today, I would try to make up for all the things I didn't do or didn't consider doing. I always had good intentions for all the things I might try to do for mom and dad but they slipped from this life before I had the opportunity.

Missed opportunities happen often to most of us. We have good intentions but often we don't have the ability to act on those intentions. I'm envious of those who are able to do a lot for their moms and dads and wish that I could have done more.

However, so often what we can do are the simplest things that mean so much. Today, I don't want my family to do anything for me but call me or visit me occasionally. A hug and some shared times are the most meaningful to me. Some good quality time is actually the best gift we can give to mom, dad or anyone.

Our time is fleeting for us all. To be generous with a visit, conversation and sharing of life is probably the most precious gift we can give.

Mother's Day is coming. Set aside your best gift - your time.

Child Watch

By Marian Wright Edelman



REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE

"Daddy," the boy said, "I don't want to disobey you, but I have made my pledge. If you try to keep me home, I will sneak off. If you think I deserve to be punished for that, I'll just have to take the punishment. For, you see, I'm not doing this only because I want to be free. I'm doing it also because I want freedom for you and Mama, and I want it to come before you die."

This teenage boy overheard talking to his father by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of hundreds of children and youths in Birmingham, Alabama who decided sixty years ago this week that they were determined to do whatever it took to stand up for freedom for their parents, elders, and themselves. They were assaulted by fire hoses and police dogs, went to jail by the hundreds, and finally broke the back of Jim Crow in the city known as "Bombingham." On this 60th anniversary of the Birmingham Children's Crusade it is again time to remember, honor, and follow the example of the children who were frontline soldiers and transforming catalysts in the movement for civil rights and equal justice.

The Children's Crusade happened at a critical time in the civil rights struggle in Birmingham. In April 1963 the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), together with the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and its fearless leader Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, had started a desegregation campaign in the city. There were mass meetings, lunch counter sit-ins, nonviolent marches, and boycotts of Birmingham's segregated stores during the busy Easter shopping season. Dr. King was one of several hundred people arrested in the first weeks of the campaign when he was jailed for violating an anti-protest injunction on Good Friday, April 12, and four days later wrote his famous "Letter from Birmingham Jail." But as the days went on with little response from city leaders, a new tactic was raised: including more children and youths.

Young people didn't face some of the risks adults might, including losing breadwinning jobs, and college students had already proven to be extremely effective activists in cities across the South. But once it became clear that many of the children volunteering for meetings and training sessions in Birmingham were high school students or even younger, concerns were raised about whether allowing them to protest was too dangerous. Dr. King later described the decision this way: "Even though we realized that involving teenagers and high school students would bring down upon us a heavy fire of criticism, we felt that we needed this dramatic new dimension. Our people were demonstrating daily and going to jail in numbers, but we were still beating our heads against the brick wall of the city officials' stubborn resolve to maintain the status quo. Our fight, if won, would benefit people of all ages. But most of all we were inspired with a desire to give to our young a true sense of their own stake in freedom and justice. We believed they would have the courage to respond to our call." Their response, he said, "exceeded our fondest dreams."

For the children May 2 was "D-Day." Black disc jockeys were key allies in encouraging and deploying their listeners, and class presidents, star athletes, and prom queens from local schools led the way as hundreds of children skipped class, gathered at the 16th Street Baptist Church, and marched into downtown Birmingham in groups of fifty, organized into lines two by two and singing freedom songs. More than a thousand students marched the first day, and hundreds were arrested. Segregationist police commissioner Bull Connor's overwhelmed force started using school buses to take the children to jail. But that first wave of children was only the beginning.

Classifieds

persons having claims against said estate to file an itemized, verified statement thereof with the undersigned on or before the 9th day of August 2023 (90 days from this date of publication) or this notice will be pleaded in bar of any recovery thereon. All persons indebted to said estate are requested to make prompt payment.

This the 11th day of May 2023.
 Leslie Satre
 3159 390th Street
 Sory City, IA 50248
 Attorney for the Estate:
 Danielle Feller
 Daly Mills Family Law
 131 Plantation Ridge Drive, Ste 400
 Mooresville, NC 28117
 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, and 6/1/2023
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 COUNTY OF DURHAM

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 File Number 23-E-489
 THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 8th day of May, 2023, as Executor of the ESTATE OF BERT COLLINS, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, do hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 2023 or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This, the 11th day of May, 2023.
 E.J. WALKER, JR.
 EXECUTOR
 ESTATE OF BERT COLLINS
 Walker Lambe, PLLC
 Post Office Box 51549
 Durham, North Carolina 27717
 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, and 6/1/2023
 NORTH CAROLINA
 DURHAM COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 File Number 23-E-478
 All persons, and corporations having claims against the estate of AMANDA ZIMMERMAN, deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to present the same to the personal representative listed below on or before the 10th day of August, 2023, or this Notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All debtors of the said estate are asked to please make immediate payment.

This, the 11th day of May, 2023.
 Leanne Z. Ensslin
 Executrix
 112 Hilton Avenue
 Durham, NC 27707
 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, and 6/1/2023

WAKE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
 In The General Court of Justice
 District Court Division
 File No. 23CV007865-910
 To: FRANCISCO JAVIER CABRERA, Defendant.

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is for child custody. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than June 6, 2023 said date being at least forty (40) days from the first publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so, the Plaintiff, Dora Orellana Martinez, will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 27th day of April 2023.
 Yvonne Armendariz, Esq.
 Armendariz Law Office, PLLC
 6110 Lake Wheeler Road
 Raleigh, NC 27603
 Telephone: (919) 656-1524
 4/27, 5/4, and 5/11/2023
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
 In The General Court Of Justice
 Superior Court Division
 Before the Clerk
 File Number 23E002301-910
 The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of RUTH WILSON RICKMAN late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 7th day of August 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.
 This the 4th day of May, 2023.
 Randall Ward Rickman
 Administrator
 1134 Ivy Lane

Raleigh, NC 27609
 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, and 5/25/2023
 NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
 In The General Court Of Justice
 Superior Court Division
 Before the Clerk
 File No. 23CV006264-910
 Reginald Ivery, Plaintiff
 Vs.

Krystal Ivery, Defendant
 TO: Krystal Ivery
 Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above entitled action. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows: The Plaintiff has filed a Complaint for Judgment for Absolute Divorce. You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than forty (40) days from the first date of the publication of this Notice, and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 4th day of May 2023.
 Reginald Ivery
 Plaintiff
 2421 Fairway Dr. Apt G
 Raleigh, NC 27603
 5/4, 5/11, and 5/18/2023
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
 In The General Court Of Justice
 Superior Court Division
 Before the Clerk
 File Number 23E003030-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Dale Arnold Loftis, late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 14th day of August 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.
 This the 11th day of May, 2023.
 Michael Grayson Loftis
 Executor
 135 Gray Fox Point
 Fayetteville, GA 30214
 5/11, 5/18, 5/25 and 6/1/23
 STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 WAKE COUNTY

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION
 In The General Court Of Justice
 Superior Court Division
 Before the Clerk
 File Number 23E002631-910

The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of SANDRA RENEA SESSOMS late of Wake County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all persons having claims against the Estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned at the below listed address on or before the 14th day of August 2023, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned at the below listed address.
 This the 11th day of May, 2023.
 Sean Sessoms
 Executor
 25 Gregory Dr.
 Clayton, NC 27520
 5/11, 5/18, 5/25, and 6/1/2023

PERSON COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA
 PERSON COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 FILE NO. 23 E 152

The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of LARRY JAMES WHITTLE, SR., a/k/a LARRY JAMES WHITTLE, Deceased, late of Person County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to Exhibit them to the undersigned at the office of IDOL LAW, PLLC, PO Box 51759, Durham, North Carolina 27717, on or before the 30th day of July, 2023, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
 This is the 27th day of April, 2023.
 RYAN JAMES CRUZ-WHITTLE,
 Executor, Estate of Larry James Whittle, Sr., a/k/a Larry James Whittle, Deceased
 Robert A. Idol, Esquire
 IDOL LAW, PLLC, Attorney at Law
 PO Box 51759
 Durham, NC 27717
 (919)401.5151
 4/27, 5/4, 5/11, and 5/18/2023

FORECLOSURES DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
 DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE
 FILE NO. 22 SP 743

Under and by virtue of a Power of Sale contained in that certain Deed of Trust executed Belvalon C. Nicholson, which was dated June 28, 2012 and recorded on June 28, 2012 in Book 7008, Page 371, Durham County Registry, North Carolina.

Default having been made of the note thereby secured by the said Deed of Trust and the undersigned, Satterfield Law, PLLC, having been substituted as Trustee in said Deed of Trust, and the holder of the note evidencing said default having directed that the Deed of Trust be foreclosed, the undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at the courthouse door of the county courthouse where the property is located, or the usual and customary location at the county courthouse for conduction the sale on May 18, 2023 at 9:30 AM, and will sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described property situated in Durham County, North Carolina, to wit:

Being all of Lot No. 4 of the plat and survey of S.M. Credle, C.E., Entitled "Property of the Durham Hosiers Mills", dated March 19, 1937, on file in Plat Book 12 at Page 19, to which plat reference is made for a more particular description. This property is also referenced in the instrument by which the City of Durham received title, on file in Book 2139 at Page 684, Durham County Registry.

This property is commonly known as 108 N. Blacknall Street, also identified as parcel I.D. #111684

Third party purchasers must pay the excise tax, and the court costs of Forty-Five Cents (\$0.45) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) pursuant to NCGS 7A-308(a)(1). A cash deposit (no personal checks) of five percent (5%) of the purchase price, or Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$750.00), whichever is greater, will be required at the time of the sale. Following the expiration of the statutory upset bid period, all the remaining amounts are immediately due and owing.

Said property to be offered pursuant to this Notice of Sale is being offered for sale, transfer and conveyance "AS IS WHERE IS." There are no representations of warranty relating to the title or any physical, environmental, health or safety conditions existing in, on, at, or relating to the property being offered for sale. This sale is made subject to all prior liens, unpaid taxes, any unpaid land transfer taxes, special assessments, easements, rights of way, deeds of release, and any other encumbrances or exceptions of record. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the undersigned, the current owner(s) of the property is/are Monica R. Shelby.

An Order for possession of the property may be issued pursuant to G.S. 45-21.29 in favor of the purchaser and against the party or parties in possession by the clerk of superior court of the county in which the property is sold. Any person who occupies the property pursuant to a rental agreement entered into or renewed on or after October 1, 2007, may, after receiving the notice of sale, terminate the rental agreement upon 10 days' written notice to the landlord. The notice shall also state that upon termination of a rental agreement, the tenant is liable for rent due under the rental agreement prorated to the effective date of the termination.

If the trustee is unable to convey title to this property for any reason, the sole remedy of the purchaser is the return of the deposit. Reasons of such inability to convey include, but are not limited to, the filing of a bankruptcy petition prior to the confirmation of the sale and reinstatement of the loan without the knowledge of the Trustee. If the validity of the sale is challenged by any other party, the Trustee, in their sole discretion, if they believe the challenge to have merit, may request the court to declare the sale to be void and return the deposit. The purchaser will have no further remedy.
 Satterfield Law, PLLC
 Substitute Trustee
 Daron D. Satterfield, Attorney for Substitute Trustee
 Satterfield Law, PLLC
 307 Meadowlands Drive, Suite 101
 Hillsborough, NC 27278
 (984) 229-8584, phone (919) 287-2696 fax
 5/4 and 5/11/2023

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following jobs:
Wake County - Department of Agriculture
Farmers Market Site Rehabilitation - Phase I
 Project: SCO ID#21-23534-01A Wake Co.
Bid Date: June 7th
 This project may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwcorp.com
 Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,
 Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS

for the following jobs:
County of Wayne
Ivey Drive Extension
 Wayne Co. Bid Date: May 17th
 This project may involve some or all of the following aspects of construction: construction survey, clear and grub, trucking, drainage, milling, paving, incidental concrete, fence and guardrail, signs, structures, traffic control, utilities, signals, pavement marking, erosion control and seeding. Bids can be emailed to stw.quotes@stwcorp.com
 Please contact S. T. Wooten at 252-291-5165,
 Fax 252-243-0900 no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the bid date.

D/M/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED

T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE subcontractors and suppliers for the following projects that bid for NCDOT:
Bid Date: 05/16/2023 at 2:00 PM
Project: Replace Bridge #15 Over Calabash River (NC-179) in Brunswick County (Division 3)
 Plans and specifications are available for inspection at the following locations: TA Loving Company, NC DOT Division office.
 Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, demolition, clearing and grubbing, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, earthwork, erosion control, seeding, electrical, linework, concrete flatwork, and concrete rebar.
 Please contact Justin E. Hill at our office as soon as possible if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Quotes may be emailed to **Justin E. Hill** - jehill@taloving.com. All quotations will be accepted up to bid closing time of the bid date. Our address, phone number, and fax number is as follows.
 T. A. Loving Company PO Box 919 Goldsboro, NC 27533
 919-734-8400 (phone) 919-736-2148 (fax).
TA Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



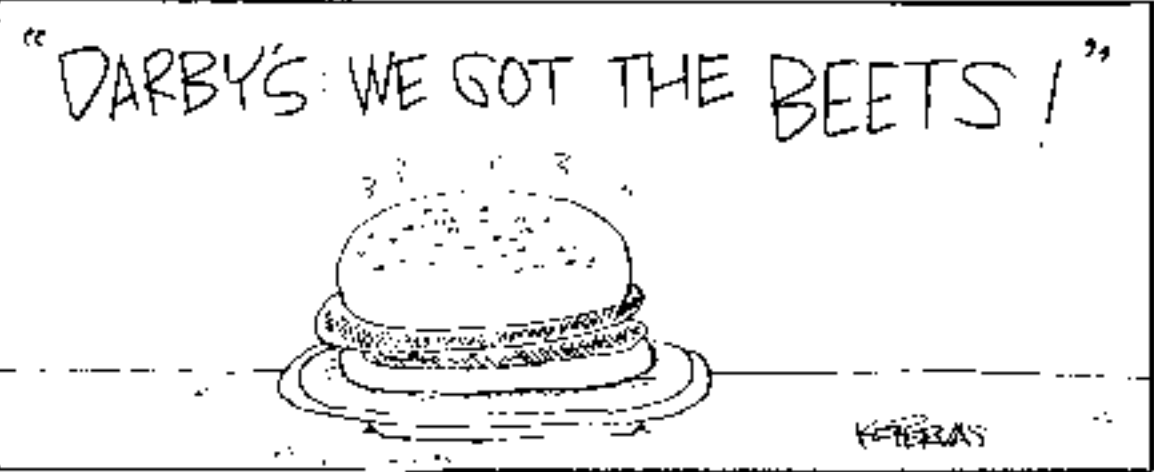
GRIM & BARDITT



Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas



St. Aug Makes History With 2023 Grads

Falcons Soar in Downtown Raleigh Commencement

Families and friends converged upon Downtown Raleigh to witness one-hundred and seven new graduates walk across the stage at the 2023 Commencement Exercises of Saint Augustine's University on May 6, 2023 in the Raleigh Convention Center. University President Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail welcomed everyone to the Exercises.

The keynote speaker for the Exercise was 1998 St. Augustine's Graduate, and current Senior Vice President of Human Resources and Chief People Officer, Dr. Jeronica Goodwin. Dr. Goodwin advised the graduates to take a leap of faith in their careers as she had done in hers.

History was made as Saint Augustine's graduated eight from their first Masters Degree Program in Public Administration. Also, honored at the Commencement was the Golden Class Graduates of 1973, 50th anniversary class, who walked across the stage to cheers from patrons.

Platinum Class Graduate from the Class of 1953, 70th Anniversary Class, Frances Cutchin Miller, who gave words of advice to the graduates in life and to not forget Saint Augustine's!
Steve Worthy Photos

