

Dedicated to the Spirit
and Service of God

Straight Woman's 'Reverse' Discrimination Lawsuit

WASHINGTON, Feb 26 (Reuters) - The U.S. Supreme Court began hearing arguments on Wednesday in an Ohio woman's claim that she was denied a promotion and demoted because she is straight in a case that could make it easier for people from "majority backgrounds," such as white or heterosexual people, to pursue workplace discrimination claims.

The plaintiff, Marlean Ames, is asking the justices to revive her civil rights lawsuit against her employer, Ohio's Department of Youth Services, after lower courts threw it out. The arguments were ongoing.

Ames, 60, has argued that she was discriminated against because she is heterosexual in violation of a landmark federal anti-discrimination law. Ames said she had a gay supervisor in 2019 when she was passed over for a promotion in favor of a gay woman and demoted in favor of a gay man - both of whom, she asserted, were less qualified than her.

At issue is the requirement by some U.S. courts that plaintiffs from majority groups provide more evidence than minority plaintiffs to show they faced discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This law prohibits discrimination based on race, religion, national origin and sex - including sexual orientation.

These courts have said the higher bar is justified because discrimination against those workers is relatively uncommon.

The Cincinnati, Ohio-based 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concluded in 2023 that Ames had not shown the required "background

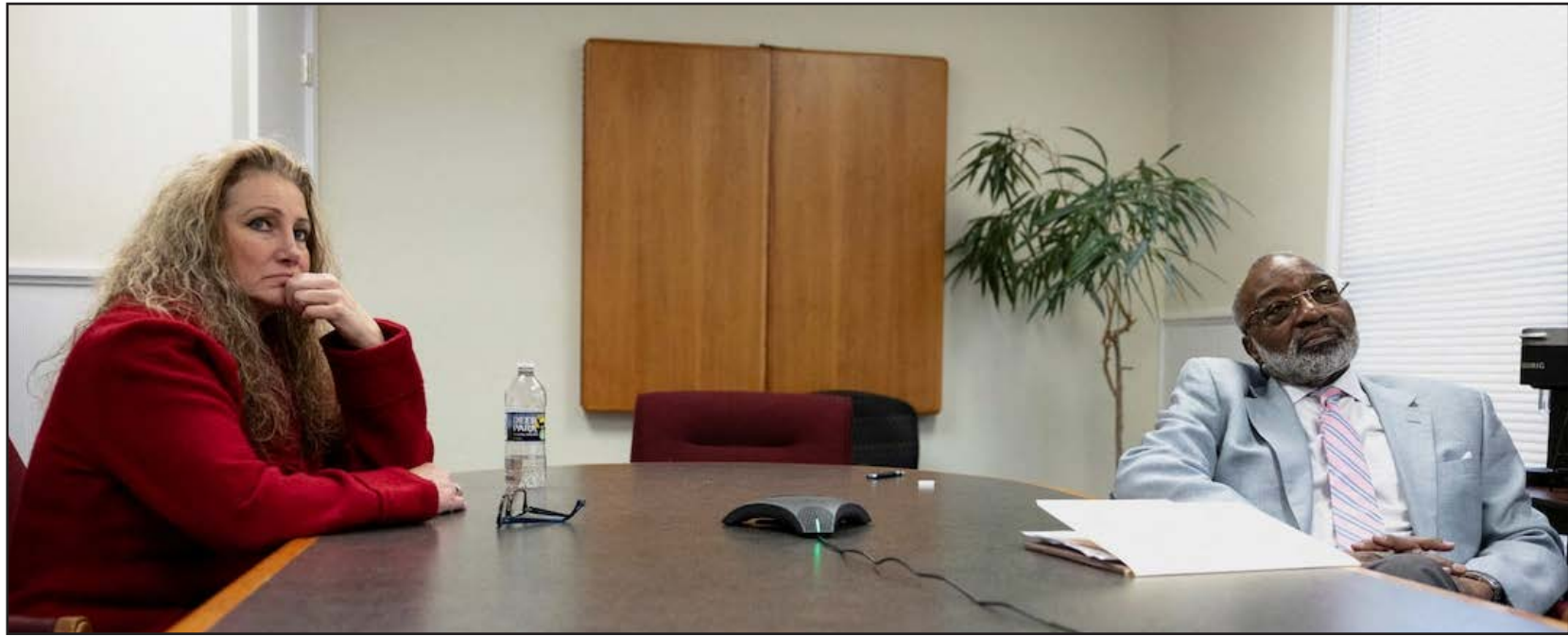
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Marlean Ames sits with Edward Gilbert, her lawyer, during a meeting in his law office in Akron, Ohio, U.S. (REUTERS/Megan Jelinger/File Photo)

circumstances" indicating that a defendant accused of workplace bias is "that unusual employer who discriminates against the majority."

Xiao Wang, the lawyer arguing for Ames, told the justices that the Supreme Court has said in prior rulings that "Title VII aims to eradicate all discrimination in the workplace."

"But the background circumstances rule doesn't do that, doesn't eradicate discrimination," Wang said. "It instructs courts to practice it by sorting individuals into majority and minority groups based on their race, their sex or their protected

characteristic" and applying an evidentiary presumption against plaintiffs "based solely on their being in a majority group, however you define it."

"But that's not consistent with the statute that tells us that we're supposed to protect all individuals from individual discrimination based on the individual case," Wang added.

Conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett asked Wang to address the concern expressed by Ohio that ruling in favor of Ames would "throw the door wide open to Title VII suits, because now everybody can say,

"Hey, this was discrimination on the basis of race, gender, et cetera."

The NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund and other civil rights groups told the Supreme Court in a legal filing that Ames is asking the justices "to interpret Title VII in a way that ignores the realities of this country's persisting legacy of discrimination in evaluating disparate-treatment claims."

They said the "background circumstances" inquiry lets courts account for the reality of historical and present-day discrimination "against certain minority groups like Black

and/or LGBTQ people, and the virtual absence of widespread discrimination targeting certain majority groups like white people and straight people."

A ruling in favor of Ames could bolster the growing number of lawsuits by white and straight workers claiming illegal bias - often called "reverse discrimination" - amid a backlash by conservatives and Republicans against initiatives promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in the workforce.

On his first day back in office last month, Republican President Don-

ald Trump ordered the dismantling of such policies in federal agencies and encouraged private companies to follow suit.

Ames started working in the Department of Youth Services, which oversees Ohio's juvenile corrections system, in 2004, and was promoted in 2014 to administrator of the department's program aimed at complying with federal standards for preventing sexual abuse in its facilities.

In 2019, Ames interviewed for a newly created "bureau chief" position, but was not offered the job. It was filled by a gay woman who had not applied for the post. Department leaders said Ames lacked the vision and leadership skills needed for the new position, according to court filings.

Around the same time, Ames learned she was being demoted to her previous secretarial role, resulting in an annual pay cut from about \$100,000 to \$60,000. A gay man was selected to take her place.

Ames sued in federal court in 2020 seeking monetary damages. The office of Republican Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost in court papers defended the employment actions concerning Ames as part of a department restructuring.

The 6th Circuit ruled against Ames, concluding that she could not show the required "background circumstances," including that a gay person made the employment decisions in favor of gay people. The two people who had authority in those personnel decisions, the 6th Circuit noted, were straight.

French Street Artist Shuck One Pays Tribute To Black History

PARIS (AP) — French street artist Shuck One is honoring Black figures who shaped France's recent history on the mainland and overseas, in an art installation being produced for an exhibition starting next month at the Pompidou Center in Paris.

Shuck One is a Black graffiti and visual artist native of the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, which is a French overseas department. He is participating in the "Black Paris" exhibition, which retraces the presence and influence of Black artists in France from the 1950s to 2000.

The Pompidou Center, one of the world's top modern art museums, said that it will celebrate 150 artists of African descent, from Africa to the Americas, whose works have often never been displayed in France before.

Shuck One is one of five artists chosen to provide contemporary insights.

"I wanted to invoke the memory of the Black figures who created the 'Black Paris' and who, in a way, were pioneers before us in artistic, intellectual and other fields," Shuck One



told The Associated Press. "It's a way for me to honor them."

Activist and artist

Describing himself as "an activist who became an artist," Shuck One grew up in the 1970s in Guadeloupe. After he arrived in Paris in the 1980s,

he was considered one of the pioneers of French street art and graffiti — inspired by figures of the Négritude movement that denounced colonialism, racism and Eurocentrism.

His installation, titled "Regeneration," is four meters (13 feet)

high and 10 meters (33 feet) long. It shows major moments of Black history through paintings and collages of maps of Paris, archives and photos.

The starting point of the installation is the "Tirailleurs Sénégalais,"

a corps of colonial infantry in the French army that fought in both World Wars.

One highlight is the May 1967 riots in Guadeloupe that led to the massacre of possibly dozens of people — figures are still being questioned by historians. Another feature is the BUMIDOM, a French state agency that between 1963 and 1981 organized the migration of 170,000 people from French overseas departments to the mainland for economic purposes, now considered by historians a symbol of post-colonial domination and discrimination.

Portraits of Black figures

It also shows portraits of Black figures, including politicians, writers, civil rights activists and other pioneers.

They include U.S.-born entertainer and civil rights activist Joséphine Baker; Aimé Césaire, poet and founder of the Négritude movement; and American political activist Angela Davis.

But there are also less known names like writer and activist Paulette Nardal; Eugénie Eboué, the first Black woman elected to France's National Assembly and Gerty Archimède, the second to be elected shortly after; and Maryse Condé, a novelist from Guadeloupe.

"The overall message of the exhibition is ... to revive these forgotten figures, but also a next-generation aspect, a way to pass their history on," Shuck One said as he carefully studied the elaborate collage of photos and archive documents on a big wall of the exhibition.

"It's also a way of making people understand what's activism is about — (it's) very well to talk about the community, but it's also important to know its history," he said.

The exhibition, which runs from March 19-June 30, is one of the last at the Pompidou Center before it shuts down later this year for renovations, which are due to last five years.

The Truth Behind '40 Acres and a Mule'

By: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

The Root

We've all heard the story of the "40 acres and a mule" promise to former slaves. It's a staple of black history lessons, and it's the name of Spike Lee's film company. The promise was the first systematic attempt to provide a form of reparations to newly freed slaves, and it was astonishingly radical for its time, proto-socialist in its implications. In fact, such a policy would be radical in any country today: the federal government's massive confiscation of private property — some 400,000 acres — formerly owned by Confederate land owners, and its methodical redistribution to former black slaves. What most of us haven't heard is that the idea really was generated by black leaders themselves.

It is difficult to stress adequately how revolutionary this idea was: As the historian Eric Foner puts it in his book, Reconstruction: America's Unfinished Revolution, 1863-1877, "Here in coastal South Carolina and Georgia, the prospect beckoned of a transformation of Southern society more radical even than the end of slavery." Try to imagine how profoundly different the history of race relations in the United States would have been had this policy been implemented and enforced; had the former slaves actually had access to the ownership of land, of property; if they had had a chance to be self-sufficient economically, to build, accrue and pass on wealth. After all, one of the principal promises of America was the possibility of average people being able to own land, and all that such ownership entailed. As we know all too well, this promise was not to be realized for the over-



whelming majority of the nation's former slaves, who numbered about 3.9 million.

What Exactly Was Promised?

We have been taught in school that the source of the policy of "40 acres and a mule" was Union General William T. Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15, issued on Jan. 16, 1865. (That account is half-right: Sherman prescribed the 40 acres in that Order, but not the mule. The mule would come later.) But what many accounts leave out is that this idea for massive land redistribution actually was the result of a discussion that Sherman and Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton held four days before Sherman issued the Order, with 20 leaders of the black community in Savannah, Ga., where Sherman was

headquartered following his famous March to the Sea. The meeting was unprecedented in American history.

Today, we commonly use the phrase "40 acres and a mule," but few of us have read the Order itself. Three of its parts are relevant here. Section one bears repeating in full: "The islands from Charleston, south, the abandoned rice fields along the rivers for thirty miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. Johns river, Florida, are reserved and set apart for the settlement of the negroes [sic] now made free by the acts of war and the proclamation of the President of the United States."

Section two specifies that these new communities, moreover, would be governed entirely by black people

themselves: " ... on the islands, and in the settlements hereafter to be established, no white person whatever, unless military officers and soldiers detailed for duty, will be permitted to reside; and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves ... By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the negro [sic] is free and must be dealt with as such."

Finally, section three specifies the allocation of land: " ... each family shall have a plot of not more than (40) acres of tillable ground, and when it borders on some water channel, with not more than 800 feet water front, in the possession of which

(See 40 ACRES, P. 2)



LEGAL BATTLE CONTINUES IN NC SUPREME COURT ELECTION

By Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

The North Carolina Supreme Court election remains embroiled in a legal dispute as Republican candidate Jefferson Griffin challenges the validity of more than 65,000 ballots cast in the November 5 election. Griffin, who currently serves on the North Carolina Court of Appeals, is seeking to have these ballots thrown out, a move that could potentially flip the results of his race against the incumbent Democrat, Justice Allison Riggs.

As it stands, Riggs holds a lead of 734 votes, a margin that was confirmed after two recounts. However, Griffin's legal battle has kept the certification in limbo, as a stay granted by the NC Supreme Court on January 7 blocked the North Carolina State Board of Elections from officially certifying Riggs as the winner.

Griffin is challenging the inclusion of three sets of ballots in the final tally. First, he claims that over 60,000 votes were cast by individuals whose voter registration records appeared to lack required information such as a driver's license number or the last four digits of a Social Security number. Secondly, more than 5,500 overseas voters cast ballots without providing proof of photo identification. Lastly, Griffin challenges the legitimacy of 267 votes cast by individuals who, according to his claims, have never lived in North Carolina.

The state Supreme Court, which holds a 5-2 Republican majority, has so far seen mixed opinions on the case. Justice Riggs has recused herself, leaving a 5-1 Republican majority in her absence. However, Republican Justice Richard Dietz has previously split from the majority in two key decisions related to the election dispute, where votes were split 4-2.

Griffin is due to submit a final written brief by March 3, though the North Carolina Court of Appeals has not yet scheduled oral arguments.

On February 7, Wake County Superior Court Judge William Pittman rejected all three of Griffin's ballot challenges, ruling in favor of the votes being counted as legitimate. Undeterred, Griffin appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals, prompting the state elections board to seek a bypass petition to bring the matter before the Supreme Court.

In a rare move, the state's high court rejected the bypass petition on a 4-2 vote, with Justice Dietz joining Democratic Justice Anita Earls in dissent. As the case progresses, Riggs continues to serve on the state Supreme Court, while Griffin maintains his position on the Appeals Court, with both sides awaiting a final resolution that could alter the composition of the state's highest court.

President Trump Hosts A Black History Month Reception

By April Ryan
NNPA

“One of the reasons why I am president today is because of the Black vote,” Trump told African Americans celebrating Black History Month at the White House. There was a resounding response of “We love you” and “Thank you” from the exuberant crowd.

In November 2024, presidential candidate Donald John Trump won 20 percent of the Black vote. He won 13 percent of the vote in 2020 and 8 percent in 2016.

Flanked alongside the president was iconic pro golfer Tiger Woods whose late father was a Black man. Senator Tim Scott, the longest-serving Black US Senator in History was also in attendance. The 47th president also recognized that “we now have more Black Republicans serving in the US House than any time in history.”

Shermichael Singleton, a Republican strategist and TV host, attended the standing-room-only

event and said, “I am glad President Trump acknowledged the incredible contribution of Black Americans, regardless of people’s differences with him. It is important that every president recognizes the contributions of Black Americans since the inception of this country.”

Trump saluted the valiant efforts of a slave named Prince Estabrook who fought alongside minutemen in the Revolutionary War. Estabrook is reported to be the first Black soldier injured in the American Revolution. Upon Estabrooks’ return to Massachusetts after the war, he was a free man.

He commented about the nation’s 250th anniversary where he said I “look forward to honoring the contributions of countless black Americans who fought to win, protect and expand American freedom from the very beginning.”

However, the president took a swipe at the 1619 project saying, “The last administration tried to reduce all of African Ameri-



can History to a single year, 1619.” Another round of boos were heard when he made the mention. Trump followed with “Under our administration, we honor the indispensable role Black Americans have always played in the immortal cause of another date, 1776.”

In support of the Black History Month event, Trump also announced plans for statue gardens in multiple states “of all of our heroes” of people like Jackie Robinson, Frederick Douglass, Aretha Franklin, and Coretta Scott King, Muhammad Ali, Kobe Bryant, and Harriet Tubman.

Throughout the presidential speech, several guests were spotted standing on White House chairs they used for a lunch of lamb chops and shrimp and grits. At one point a White House official was seen walking through the crowd telling people to get off the chairs. This reporter has never seen in 28 years anyone standing on the chairs in the East Room of the White House.

The event had a few sour notes.

The head of the pharmaceutical company, Pfizer received an overwhelming round of boos.

A woman with her husband and her baby son explained the boos were because “the crowd didn’t like vaccines, mostly the COVID vaccines.”

Before the president entered the room with Woods, spotted in the crowd was a life-size cutout of Black Georgia, Pastor Jamal Bryant bobbing up and down in the crowd occasionally before the president entered the room. Black Press USA spoke with Dr. Bryant. The New Birth Missionary Baptist Church pastor questioned “How do you get something like that in the White House?”

The sign was a life-size replica of his head on a stick that at points was bouncing in the air at the event. The hand sign is believed to be an effort to target and intimidate the Georgia Pastor for his sharp criticism of the Trump administration and his boycott of stores that are dropping DEI.

Connecticut High School Graduate Can’t Read Or Write!

HARTFORD, Conn. (WTNH) — A Hartford Public Schools graduate is taking legal action against the city, the Board of Education, and one of her special education teachers. Aleysha Ortiz claims she asked for educational resources and support for years, but that help never came.

Instead, she said she graduated without being able to read or write.

“My time in Hartford Public Schools was a time that I don’t wish upon anyone,” said Aleysha Ortiz, a graduate of Hartford Public Schools.

Ortiz moved from Puerto Rico to Connecticut, becoming a Hartford Public Schools student in the first grade. She struggled with a speech impediment, dyslexia, ADHD, and, initially, a language barrier.

“Every first day of school, I would tell the teacher I cannot read and write so please be patient for me, so everyone knew,” Ortiz told News 8.

Sitting down with News 8, Ortiz said she was bullied, harassed, and neglected by district employees.

“I would cry knowing the people

who had big titles knew this was happening, and no one stepped up to do something about it,” Ortiz said.

She has filed a lawsuit against the Hartford Board of Education, City of Hartford, and one of her special education teachers, claiming her “learning disabilities were not properly addressed by the Board, and as a result, she continued to struggle academically.”

This specific complaint names Tilda Santiago, a special education case manager and teacher, who would al-

legedly “yell at, belittle, and humiliate [Ortiz] in front of other students and teachers.”

The lawsuit also stated, “Ortiz would frequently run to other teachers and/or administrators in tears and emotional distress.”

We contacted Santiago for a comment, who directed our request to the Board of Education’s staff attorney. We’re waiting to hear back.

Frustrated, Ortiz said she single-handedly put in the work — dedicating most of her free time to school,

listening back to audio recordings of her classes, and using technology (such as Talk-to-Text applications) to complete assignments.

“The first time getting an ‘A’ was very emotional,” Ortiz shared through tears. “Sometimes, I would fake an ‘A’; it was very emotional to know I earned that ‘A.’”

Ortiz was able to raise her grades, meet her credit requirements, and walk the stage with her fellow graduates. It was a moment filled with mixed emotions.

“It’s the treatment that she had to go through at the hands of several people, who were the adults in the room, who were supposed to be helping her,” said Anthony Spinella, the attorney representing Ortiz in this matter. “They really, really hurt her.”

We contacted the city and Board of Education, who told News 8 they

can’t comment on ongoing litigation. The superintendent’s office also declined to comment.

Carol Gale, Hartford Federation of Teachers President, said she can’t speak on this specific lawsuit but thinks there needs to be a review of policy.

“It does give educators in Hartford pause to reflect on the sometimes conflicting goals to increase graduation rates while also maintaining high expectations consistent with what a high school diploma should mean.”

Ortiz wants to see change happen so that no other student will have to experience what she did.

“Education is so important and I believe we’ve forgotten the meaning of it,” Ortiz said. “I’m willing and determined to support students in need.”

‘40 Acres and a Mule’ —CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

land the military authorities will afford them protection, until such time as they can protect themselves, or until Congress shall regulate their title.”

With this Order, 400,000 acres of land — “a strip of coastline stretching from Charleston, South Carolina, to the St. John’s River in Florida, including Georgia’s Sea Islands and the mainland thirty miles in from the coast,” as Barton Myers reports — would be redistributed to the newly freed slaves. The extent of this Order and its larger implications are mind-boggling, actually.

Who Came Up With the Idea?

Here’s how this radical proposal — which must have completely blown the minds of the rebel Confederates — actually came about. The abolitionists Charles Sumner and Thaddeus Stevens and other Radical Republicans had been actively advocating land redistribution “to break the back of Southern slaveholders’ power,” as Myers observed. But Sherman’s plan only took shape after the meeting that he and Stanton held with those black ministers, at 8:00 p.m., Jan. 12, on the second floor of Charles Green’s mansion on Savannah’s Macon Street. In its broadest strokes, “40 acres and a mule” was their idea.

Stanton, aware of the great historical significance of the meeting, presented Henry Ward Beecher (Harriet Beecher Stowe’s famous brother) a verbatim transcript of the discussion, which Beecher read to his congregation at New York’s Plymouth Church and which the New York Daily Tribune printed in full in its Feb. 13, 1865, edition. Stanton told Beecher that “for the first time in the history of this nation, the representatives of the government had gone to these poor debased people to ask them what they wanted for themselves.” Stanton had suggested to Sherman that they gather “the leaders of the local Negro community” and ask them something no one else had apparently thought to ask: “What do you want for your own people” following the war? And what they wanted astonishes us even today.

Who were these 20 thoughtful leaders who exhibited such foresight? They were all ministers, mostly Baptist and Methodist. Most curious of all to me is that 11 of the 20 had been born free in slave states, of which 10 had lived as free men in the Confederacy during the course of the Civil War. (The other one, a man named James Lynch, was born free in Maryland, a slave state, and had

only moved to the South two years before.) The other nine ministers had been slaves in the South who became “contraband,” and hence free, only because of the Emancipation Proclamation, when Union forces liberated them.

Their chosen leader and spokesman was a Baptist minister named Garrison Frazier, aged 67, who had been born in Granville, N.C., and was a slave until 1857, “when he purchased freedom for himself and wife for \$1000 in gold and silver,” as the New York Daily Tribune reported. Rev. Frazier had been “in the ministry for thirty-five years,” and it was he who bore the responsibility of answering the 12 questions that Sherman and Stanton put to the group. The stakes for the future of the Negro people were high.

And Frazier and his brothers did not disappoint. What did they tell Sherman and Stanton that the Negro most wanted? Land! “The way we can best take care of ourselves,” Rev. Frazier began his answer to the crucial third question, “is to have land, and turn it and till it by our own labor ... and we can soon maintain ourselves and have something to spare ... We want to be placed on land until we are able to buy it and make it our own.” And when asked next where the freed slaves “would rather live — whether scattered among the whites or in colonies by themselves,” without missing a beat, Brother Frazier (as the transcript calls him) replied that “I would prefer to live by ourselves, for there is a prejudice against us in the South that will take years to get over ...” When polled individually around the table, all but one — James Lynch, 26, the man who had moved south from Baltimore — said that they agreed

with Frazier. Four days later, Sherman issued Special Field Order No. 15, after President Lincoln approved it.

What Became of the Land That Was Promised?

The response to the Order was immediate. When the transcript of the meeting was reprinted in the black publication Christian Recorder, an editorial note intoned that “From this it will be seen that the colored people down South are not so dumb as many suppose them to be,” reflecting North-South, slave-free black class tensions that continued well into the modern civil rights movement. The effect throughout the South was electric: As Eric Foner explains, “the freedmen hastened to take advantage of the Order.” Baptist minister Ulysses L. Houston, one of the group that had met with Sherman, led 1,000 blacks to Skidaway Island, Ga., where they established a self-governing community with Houston as the “black governor.” And by June, “40,000 freedmen had been settled on 400,000 acres of ‘Sherman Land.’” By the way, Sherman later ordered that the army could lend the new settlers mules; hence the phrase, “40 acres and a mule.”

And what happened to this astonishingly visionary program, which would have fundamentally altered the course of American race relations? Andrew Johnson, Lincoln’s successor and a sympathizer with the South, overturned the Order in the fall of 1865, and, as Barton Myers sadly concludes, “returned the land along the South Carolina, Georgia and Florida coasts to the planters who had originally owned it” — to the very people who had declared war on the United States of America.



THE GOLDEN YEARS
By Judykay Jefferson

HEADED OUT

Right before I moved to North Carolina from Mississippi in 2013, my thirty-something year old niece died after a seven-year battle with Sarcoidosis. Her journey began just as Mississippi and Louisiana were dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In the final two or three years, each major holiday was spent in the hospital. Her mother and father were not only familiar to the nursing staff but periodically hired them to provide home-healthcare. This was a time of prosperity for the family business, and they used what they had to treat her and enhance her quality of life. She loved Louis Vuitton purses and Chanel sunglasses although her only travels away from home were to some type of medical facility; infusion clinics, doctors’ offices, pharmacies. She was always the best dressed patient in the waiting and treatment rooms.

Sometimes during her final year, one of her many doctors told her she was dying. That did not go over well. She asked me if she was indeed dying. I told her yes, she was dying however, her death was no more certain than any of us, including her doctors. It took her a minute, but she got it.

Fact: we are all dying. We come into this world headed out. For some, that is frightening. For my niece, it was comforting. On her last hospital confinement, the doctor made sure she understood that she was dying. Her response was, “And so are you. We are all going to die. Quit telling people that like they have failed at life.”

In 2012, she died. I watched her mother grieve herself into the hospital. Her intense grieving lasted for years. Not only was her grief palatable it manifested itself physically, leaving her immune and respiratory system irreparably vulnerable.

I began to think how as African American Christians dealing with sorrow and loss do we overlay what we’re feeling and what we say we believe. Spiritual beliefs differ from culture to culture and religion to religion. Foundational to Christian beliefs is eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. According to the New Testament, those who believe in Jesus and accept him as their savior will be granted eternal life in heaven. Christian teachings often emphasize that believers should not fear death, as it is seen as a transition to a better existence with God. Hindus and Buddhists believe in the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth. The soul is eternal and is reborn in a new body based on karma from previous lives. Muslims believe in an afterlife where individuals are judged by Allah based on their deeds. Those who have lived righteous lives are rewarded with paradise (Jannah), while those who have sinned may be punished in hell (Jahannam). Jewish beliefs about the afterlife vary, but many believe in an afterlife or some form of spiritual continuation. Some Jews believe in a world to come (Olam Ha-Ba), where souls are rewarded or punished based on their earthly lives. Many Native American cultures believe in a spirit journey after death, where the soul transitions to the spirit world. Ancestors play a significant role, and the deceased are often believed to join the ancestors and continue to influence the living. Many African traditional religions believe in the continued presence and influence of ancestral spirits. Beliefs about the afterlife vary, but often involve a spiritual realm where the soul goes after death.

Elisabeth Kubler-Ross gave us The Five Stages of Grief:

1. Denial: The initial shock and disbelief that the loss has occurred. This stage serves as a defense mechanism to help cushion the immediate impact.
2. Anger: Feelings of frustration, helplessness, and anger. This stage may involve questioning why the loss happened and seeking someone to blame.
3. Bargaining: Attempts to make deals or promises to reverse or lessen the loss. This stage often involves unreasonable regret.
4. Depression: Deep sadness and despair. This stage involves confronting the reality of the loss and its impact on daily life.
5. Acceptance: Coming to terms with the loss and finding a way to move forward. This stage doesn’t imply forgetting but rather learning to live with the loss.

J. William Worden broke it down into the Tasks of Mourning

1. Accept the Reality of the Loss
2. Process the Pain of Grief
3. Adjust to a World Without the Deceased
4. Find an Enduring Connection with the Deceased

Complicated Grief has been described as Prolonged Grief Disorder. When grief persists and interferes significantly with daily functioning for an extended period. Coping mechanisms such as seeking support by talking with friends, family, or support groups can help. Engage in activities that promote physical and emotional well-being. And perhaps seek counseling or therapy to process the grief.

Understanding grief is important in providing support to those who are mourning. It’s a deeply personal process, and there’s no “right” way to grieve. Everyone’s journey through grief is unique. The reality is all living things die, and before it’s over for you, each of us will experience the grief of loss.

GoTriangle’s New Addition to the Exec. Leadership Team



In an effort to transform the agency’s Information Technology department, a new Chief Information Officer (CIO) position was added to the Executive Leadership Team.

Joy Malone joined GoTriangle as the agency’s first CIO in October 2024, bringing over 20 years of expertise in digital transformation and technology innovation. In this role, she architects and leads the Agency’s technology strategy to optimize the efficiency and effectiveness of transit operations, advancing GoTriangle’s vision of exceptional public transportation as a pillar of community, economic growth, and regional mobility.

Before joining GoTriangle, Joy held strategic leadership positions in diverse private sectors, including Agriculture, Automotive, and Renewable Energy, with a career that spans the U.S., Mexico, and Brazil. Her commitment to public service is reflected in her work within the public sector, where she applied her technical and leadership skills to support a local public school system.

Now a dedicated transit advocate, Joy regularly commutes on GoTriangle Route 700, experiencing firsthand the impact of the services she is committed to advancing for the communities GoTriangle serves.

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Business & Finance

Glass Ceiling-Breaking Executive: Rosalind Brewer

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Rosalind Brewer, a Detroit native, has had a career filled with groundbreaking achievements, becoming one of the most influential business leaders in the world.

Born in 1962, Brewer was the youngest of five children in a working-class family and the first generation in her family to attend college. With an inclination toward math and science, Brewer initially aspired to become a physician. After graduating from Cass Technical High School in Detroit in 1980, Brewer attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry.

Upon graduation in 1984, Brewer joined Kimberly-Clark as a research technician, where she would go on to spend 22 years in various leadership roles, including Vice President of the Nonwovens division. Her tenure at Kimberly-Clark provided Brewer with a strong foundation in leadership and business strategy, but it was in 2006 that her career truly began to take off.



Brewer joined Walmart, where she held several roles, culminating in her position as the President of Walmart East. And in 2012, she made history as the first Black person to lead a

Walmart division when she became the President and CEO of Sam's Club. There, Brewer focused on health and wellness, notably increasing the availability of organic products, while also

spearheading major operational transformations.

"How do you get that team to move like an orchestra, and that's what I always say is that I feel like I'm the con-

ductor of the orchestra and I wanted to have its best performance," Brewer said.

In 2017, she made another historic move when she was appointed COO and Group President of Starbucks. Brewer became the first woman and first Black person to hold this position, overseeing operations in the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

During her time at Starbucks, Brewer was instrumental in implementing policies and racial bias training across the company following a controversial incident in one of its stores. She used her position to advocate for social change, like racial bias training for thousands of employees.

"Every person walks in the room with a bias ... with something happening in their lives that day that makes them unique. We have to be sensitive to that, and we have to call it out when we see it," Brewer said.

Brewer reached another milestone in 2021 when she was appointed CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance, becoming the only Black woman leading a Fortune 500 company at that time. Under

her leadership, she worked to steer the company through turbulent times post-COVID.

Brewer has also been consistently ranked among the most powerful women in the world, with Fortune placing her 27th on its list in 2020. Brewer's accomplishments have also earned her numerous accolades, including being named to Forbes' 50 Over 50 list in 2021 and the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame the same year.

"You have to speak up and speak out. And I try to use my platform for that. I try to set an example," Brewer described a specific incident when she was meeting with a supplier, and she recollected, "the entire other side of the table was all Caucasian male. That was interesting."

Whether speaking out against racial bias or leading initiatives to promote greater equity, Brewer has made a profound impact on the companies she's worked for and the industry at large. She continues to use her platform to inspire future generations of leaders, particularly women and people of color.

HBCU Commissioners Reach Out To Congress For Help As Legislation Threatens Their Programs

(AP)—Just a few years after sports at historically Black schools were thriving, many now are merely surviving.

HBCUs are seeking help before things get worse. The commissioners of four major historically Black conferences have sent a letter to the Congressional Black Caucus requesting a meeting and voicing concerns that the growing push to make athletes school employees could potentially destroy their athletic programs if it continues.

Anthony Holloman, commissioner of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) said Yvette Clark, chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, has responded with an offer to meet with the commissioners later this month. The SIAC, Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA), Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), and Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) cover 48 Division I and

Division II HBCU programs and roughly 15,000 athletes.

The commissioners worry their schools will need to make massive cuts if forced to put athletes on their payrolls. Athletes would have to pay taxes on their incomes and scholarships and the schools would be taxed for employing them. That would make college less affordable for students and come at significant cost to a group of schools that do not generate significant athletic revenue.

The letter also says a growing patchwork of state laws also are creating disparities among the states their programs are in, leading to confusion for prospective students.

"To ensure that college sports broadly — and HBCU sports especially — can continue to thrive, it's essential that Congress allow for consistent and nimble national governance and affirm that student-athletes are not designated as employees of their universities," the letter said.



ANTHONY HOLLAMAN

The conferences say their institutions rely heavily on school appropriated funds and donations. Some of those are drying up — Holloman said another issue for HBCUs is that corporations are eliminating divisions

that have focused on diversity, equity and inclusion, taking away the valuable donations that come with them.

Holloman said some schools have diversified revenue streams to try and compete. For example, the SIAC, the CIAA and the SWAC have deals with the Allen Media Group that allows them to make money from streaming their events on HBCU Go. The SIAC made its deal with Allen in January 2024.

Still, he said there is a large disparity between the HBCUs and Power Four programs' income from broadcast rights. Changes in name, image and likeness (NIL) rules have created a greater disparity between the Power Four programs and the HBCUs. Holloman said both issues and the length of time the transfer portal is open makes retention difficult for HBCU programs.

Just a few years ago, HBCU athletics were on the rise. Deion Sanders' success coaching Jackson State drew national interest, and the rise in social awareness that followed George Floyd's murder fueled a spike in donations that helped several programs.

In 2023, The Associated Press contacted 46 Division I and D-II HBCUs and five conference offices about the trend of schools adding sports over the previous decade. Twenty schools responded, saying they had added at least 42 NCAA championship or emerging sports since 2016, including at least 32 since 2020. Morgan State's addition of men's wrestling, with Olympic gold medalist Kenny Monday as coach, was one of the bigger moves.

Now, those additional programs could create a larger issue for the schools if more states consider the athletes employees.

"While there have been historic changes recently in collegiate sports to support student-athletes overall, opportunities for our predominantly Black students at our institutions are at risk," the letter said. "Pending regulatory decisions and litigation threaten to change the face of college sports devoid of our input and, more importantly, without the voices of our student athletes."



N.C. A&T Agribusiness Graduate Appointed To Greensboro City Council

"Never lose your voice."

That's what North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University alumna Jamilla Pinder, an agribusiness and food industry management program graduate, hopes for the younger generation as she fills the at-large Greensboro City Council seat previously held by Yvonne Johnson.

"Definitely one of my priorities is to find out how to bring the same opportunities that I've been afforded (to others). This is not about 'me,' this is about 'we,'" Pinder said.

Pinder, who graduated in 2019 with a B.S. in agribusiness and food industry management, was sworn in earlier this month to fill the unexpired term of fellow N.C. A&T alumna Johnson, who died Dec. 4.

Pinder was selected from a final pool of 19 candidates — narrowed from more than 40 contenders — and will serve the remainder of Johnson's term, which ends late this year. With her mother, Vickie Flippen, holding the Bible, Pinder was sworn in at the Feb. 4 city council meeting.

Pinder said people often mistakenly assume her academic background is in health care. "Ag is everyday life — from what you eat, to what you wear, to the house you're living in, to the car you're driving," she said. "That schooling — looking at systems and how everything is connected — has definitely played a role in how I've approached a lot of my work."

Kenrett Jefferson-Moore, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Agribusiness, Applied Economics and Agriscience Education in A&T's College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, said she admires Pinder's passion for the community. "People look up to her advocacy," Jefferson-Moore said.

She recalled Pinder's words in a recent conversation they had. "She says 'you have to be active — lean out and lean in,'" said Jefferson-Moore.

Pinder, a Greensboro native, is director of community engagement and impact at Cone Health Foundation, which advocates for and invests in community-driven solutions to eliminate health inequities.

Pinder's persistence is evident in her journey inside and outside of academia. She enrolled at A&T in 1996. A single mother with an infant son, she hoped to work part time and go to school full time. Eventually, however, she stopped taking classes.

But Pinder took advantage of the opportunities in the workplace at Moses Cone Hospital, which started with her third-shift job checking in patients there when she was a freshman. After more than 20 years of working for the Cone Health system and its partners, she returned to take classes part time at A&T to complete her bachelor's degree.

Audits And Layoffs At The IRS

By: Ms. Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

On February 20th, The Washington Post reported the Internal Revenue Service "Starts mass layoffs, with 7,000 expected to lose their jobs," among all the announced layoffs of the Trump administration and the DOGE team this struck me the most. After all, the IRS has long since been a source of frustration and fear for many, especially in the Black community and amongst many conservative groups.

After all, in October 2017, the Justice Department entered settlements for two cases related to IRS scrutiny of groups seeking tax-exempt status. The Justice Department led by Attorney General Jeff Sessions went on to say in their public statement, "Department of Justice has entered into settlements, pending approval by the district courts, in two cases brought by groups whose tax-exempt status was significantly delayed by the Internal Revenue Service based on inappropriate criteria. The IRS's use of these criteria as a basis for heightened scrutiny was wrong and should never have occurred. It is improper for the IRS to single out groups for different treatment based on their names or ideological positions. Any entitlement to tax exemption should be based on the activities of the organization and whether they fulfill requirements of the law, not the policy positions adopted by members or the name chosen to reflect those views."

NBC News reported in May 2023, that Dorothy Brown's book "The Whiteness of Wealth" laid the groundwork for the IRS' recent admission that Black people are disproportionately audited. Brown's book explores how U.S. tax policy contributes to racial wealth disparity by disproportionately impoverishing Black Americans. The author highlights various mechanisms where this occurs, including unequal access to tax breaks and exclusion from certain benefits. The NBC News article goes on to share, "The Internal Revenue Service is increasingly acknowledging the presence of racial bias in the nation's tax system along with the years of work by pioneering researchers who've spent years highlighting the issue. The agency said Black taxpayers are far more likely to be audited than non-Black ones, exposing them to tax penalties and hefty tax bills with little money left over."

IRS commissioner Daniel Werfel wrote in a letter to Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "We are deeply concerned by these findings and committed to doing the work to understand and address any disparate impact of the actions we take." After researching the demographics of the IRS workforce, according to publicly available data and information, the IRS Black or African American employee data follows: in 2015 25%, in 2018 26.8%, in 2020 28.2%, 2022 28.5%.

These statistics underscore a com-

plex relationship between the IRS and the Black community. While the agency acknowledges and aims to rectify past disparities, the numbers also illustrate the presence of Black representation within the IRS workforce. The recent layoffs, therefore, raise questions about the potential impact of these efforts and the future of equitable tax administration.

For many, the IRS represents not just a bureaucratic necessity, but a symbol of systemic inequities. The agency's historical practices, as highlighted by the Justice Department settlements and Dorothy Brown's research, have contributed to a perception of unfair targeting and disproportionate burdens. The announced layoffs, amid these ongoing concerns, may be viewed by some as a moment of reckoning, a chance to dismantle a system perceived as fundamentally flawed. However, what will come next?

It is important to acknowledge that the IRS serves a critical function in funding essential government services. However, the agency's history of discriminatory practices has created a deep-seated distrust within certain communities. Whether the layoffs will lead to meaningful reform or exacerbate existing inequalities remains to be seen. What is clear is that the IRS's actions will continue to be closely scrutinized, particularly by those who have long felt the weight of its perceived injustices.



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Transferring To A UNC System University Is Now Quicker

A college history, math, or science course should be challenging for students. But transferring to a public university should be easy. That's why the University of North Carolina System has enacted rules to make those transfers easier for undergraduates.


A new regulation from the UNC System will help to shorten a transfer student's wait period for transcript review. After a student is accepted by a university for transfer consideration, that institution must review academic transcripts to see how many credits count toward a desired degree. Historically, the process has been time consuming due to reviews that require input from several departments.

The UNC System's new rule draws on best practices from its own institutions, ensuring that any student who submits three or fewer transcripts to a System institution can expect a credit transfer evaluation within 15 business days. Those who submit four or more transcripts, including international transcripts, will receive an evaluation in 30 business



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days.

The regulation also ensures that the UNC System's 1,400 transfer guides, available on College for North Carolina's website, continue to be maintained and updated annually by North Carolina's 16 public universities.

"Transfer students bring extraordinary talent to our universities and to our state," said UNC System President Peter Hans. "We should never allow bureaucratic hurdles to stand between ambitious students and the opportunities they've earned."

Last year, a national study showed that 80% of community college students aspire to earn a bachelor's degree, but only a third succeed in transferring to a four-year institution.

In fall of 2024, 17,349 students transferred into UNC System institutions. Of those, more than 57% transferred from North Carolina Community Colleges. Nearly 40% were underrepresented minorities and just over 30% were adult learners.

Transfer solutions will continue to be a priority for the UNC System — helping institutions improve access for students, said Eric Fotheringham, assistant vice president for transfer student success and partnerships.

"Transfer students are often adults with careers, families, or military backgrounds, people with busy lives," said Fotheringham. "A complicated transfer experience is understandably frustrating and can even cause some students to give up on their dream of completing their bachelor's degree."

The new policy — which will be fully implemented by spring of 2026 — is designed to give those individuals the correct information to make college-going decisions. If certain credits don't transfer, a student deserves to know that before they begin classes so that they do not waste time, money, and momentum. And the goal of the System is to improve every student's timely degree completion, minimizing student debt after graduation, Fotheringham said.

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The Upbuilding Of The Hayti District & Black Wall St.

This article is adapted from *Race and Place: The Upbuilding of Hayti and Black Wall Street*.
By Andre D. Vann

“Go to Durham....You need the inspiration. Go to Durham and see Negro business with an aggregate capital of millions. Go to Durham and see twenty-two Negro men making modern history. Among your New Year’s resolves, resolve to go to Durham!” - Excerpted from a 1928 article written by the editor of the St. Luke Herald, a Black weekly newspaper in Richmond, Virginia.

The Legacy of Durham’s Black Wall Street

The study of African Americans on Parrish Street, famously dubbed “The Black Wall Street,” unveils the story of a determined people who thrived under the oppressive Jim Crow laws to forge a legacy of leadership and service. Durham, North Carolina has been a beacon of progress in the “New South” from the 1880s and throughout the early 1900s. Both Black and White leaders in Durham represented a progressive ethos, striving against the status quo to establish a model for the rest of the South.

This exploration delves into the ways public and private memory shape our interpretations of past events. More than just a recounting of events, it enriches our understanding of Durham’s history by tracking the intricate business, social, political, and cultural connections during critical periods of societal change.

Tracing the growth and development of African American citizens in Durham from the Reconstruction era, through Jim Crow, and into the post-desegregation years reveals the impact that collective economics and politics have had. In the early 20th century, many African Americans in the South pooled their resources and formed representative organizations that endure to this day.

Over time, Durham earned the moniker “Chicago of the South,” becoming a pivotal center for African American economic, social, and political advancement. By 1900, segregated communities were the norm, and most African Americans lived in the southern and southeastern sections, known as “Hayti.” Hayti was a self-sustained world with churches, stores, funeral homes, hospitals, libraries, colleges, civic clubs, and fraternal lodges—a testament to African American resilience and ingenuity.

By the early 20th century, Hayti’s business community had grown significantly. It became a major economic center, boasting over 120 businesses including professional offices, real estate companies, florists, grocery stores, and more.

In an article for the Independent Magazine in 1911, Dr. Booker T. Washington praised Durham for offering African Americans a unique opportunity for economic success. He observed an unusual and positive relationship between the African American and White communities, describing it as the “sanest

attitude” toward Blacks he had seen in any Southern city.

Dr. W. E. B. DuBois echoed this sentiment in World’s Work magazine in 1912, calling Hayti the “Negro business mecca of the South.”

Durham’s progress in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was driven by influential African American pioneers such as John Merrick, Dr. Aaron M. Moore, and Charles C. Spaulding. These individuals came together to create the North Carolina Mutual and Provident Association in 1898, which provided a wide array of services previously inaccessible to African Americans.

Founded in 1898, the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company embodied the principles of self-help and community uplift, epitomized by their motto, “merciful to all.” This company channeled income derived from insurance sales back into the community, fostering an environment of mutual benefit, economic strength, and societal support.

While Hayti was the residential heart, Parrish Street in Durham’s business district became the hub of Black commerce. Merrick and his colleagues established a complex of African American businesses that included various stores, a bank, a newspaper office, and more on Parrish Street, cementing its nickname, “Black Wall Street.”

The rise of more African American businesses followed with institutions like the Mechanics and Farmers Bank, People’s Building and Loan Association, Banker’s Fire Insurance Company, Fraternal Bank and Trust Company, Mutual Building and Loan Association, and National Negro Finance Corporation.

Durham, North Carolina, once hailed as the “capital of the Black business class” and “The Magic City,” became a beacon of Black economic prowess in the early 20th century. As early as 1905, Black-owned North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company (Mutual) set the foundation for what would become known as “Black Wall Street.”

Mutual’s initial investment on Parrish Street marked the beginning of an impressive expansion. As the company bought adjoining lots, the area bounded by Parrish, Orange, and Chapel Hill Streets, Rigsbee Avenue, and Mangum Street turned into a bustling hub for Black businesses. While part of West Parrish Street was home to Mutual and its peers, it is important to note White businesses also occupied the rest of the street.

The once modest office building of Mutual was demolished in 1920, making way for a grander structure designed by Rose and Rose, and constructed by H.L. Smith. Completed in October 1921, this new Neoclassical Revival style building at 114-116 West Parrish Street became a centerpiece of Black economic activity. The headquarters were officially dedicated in December 1921, and the Mechanics and Farmers Bank moved in 1922.

Described in detail by The Durham Sun in a December 31, 1921 issue, the building’s first floor hosted Mechanics and Farmers Bank and Mutual Building and Loan Association.

The second floor housed Bankers Fire Insurance Company and North Carolina Mutual, with an assembly room and cafeteria on the sixth floor. The growing business demanded further expansion by 1948 into the adjoining properties.

Mechanics and Farmers Bank purchased the building in 1965, and Mutual moved to West Chapel Hill Street in 1966. The building, later named the Mechanics and Farmers Bank Building, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1975. The structure continues as a testament to Black ingenuity and success, now owned by the North Carolina Institute of Minority Economic Development.

The impact of Durham’s Black businesses stretched far beyond economics. African American culture and strong community bonds grew through institutions like the church. Established in 1866 and 1869 respectively, White Rock Baptist Church and St. Joseph’s African Methodist Episcopal Church became pillars of spiritual and social uplift.

Education also played a significant role. Dr. James Edward Shepard founded the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua for the Colored Race in 1910, which evolved into North Carolina Central University. This institution produced leaders who contributed significantly to the community and maintained the ethos of Black Wall Street.

Durham’s Black businesses thrived due to a combination of self-initiative and segregation, which funneled Black consumerism into Black-owned businesses. This segregation forced African Americans to develop their own economic systems, creating a self-sustaining community.

In addition to Black Wall Street, other Black neighborhoods like Hayti, the West End, East End, Hicktown, and Pearisontown also flourished. The varied professional landscape included executives, educators, morticians, physicians, and countless small business owners. Four key institutions—Black families, barbershops and beauty salons, churches, and funeral homes—survived and thrived during both segregation and post-segregation.

Despite the vibrant economic and cultural life within their communities, African Americans in Durham could not escape the broader realities of segregation. They faced systemic oppression outside their enclaves but continued to uplift their communities from within. The establishment of the citywide Civic League in 1909 and the Durham Committee on Negro Affairs in 1935 were pivotal in addressing civic needs and improving public health and sanitation for Black residents.

Durham’s Black Wall Street emerged not only as a symbol of Black economic achievement but also as a testament to resilience, ingenuity, and community spirit, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to inspire.

Pioneers of Social and Economic Equity
The members of the Mechanics and Farmers Bank Board of Directors—John H. Wheeler, Louis Austin, Rencher N. Harris, James T. Taylor, Richard L. McDougald, and W. D. Hill—have played significant roles in the fight for social and economic equity for African Americans. This organization was closely aligned with the objectives of the Durham Committee on the Affairs of Black People, whose strategies of civic engagement, voter registration, and legal battles helped to lay the groundwork for the non-violent civil and human rights movements.

Criticism and Progressive Movements

During the mid-1950s and 1960s, some members of the African American community in Durham criticized the Durham Committee for being too conservative. As a result, many turned to more progressive organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). Nevertheless, the Durham Committee maintained its focus on promoting interracial communication and social progress.

Durham Business and Professional Chain

Established in 1938, the Durham Business and Professional Chain (DBPC), also known as “the Chain,” became a crucial entity in promoting the growth and development of Black business leaders and professionals. As a member of the National Business League, its mission was to foster cooperation and unselfish service within the African American community, exemplified by their slogan, “In union there is strength.” The Chain sponsored courses, workshops, and Trade Week, emphasizing the prominence of minority-owned firms throughout the region.

Challenges and Urban Renewal

The late 1950s and 1960s presented challenges with the decline of the business district following the Brown v. Board of Education decision in 1954, which began to dismantle segregation laws. The proposed construction of the Durham Freeway by the Durham Redevelopment Commission necessitated the demolition of nearly 80 acres in the Hayti community, devastating over 120 Black businesses and displacing more than 500 families.

Despite facing numerous obstacles, DBPC remained a key advocate for minority businesses. It played a crucial role in the creation of Minority Development Centers, significantly boosting the number of loans, contracts, and opportunities available to minority-controlled firms.

The Influence of Mechanics and Farmers Bank

Mechanics and Farmers Bank, a financial stronghold in the African American community, has historically been led by influential figures such as lawyers John Hervey Wheeler and James Joseph “J.J.” Sansom, Jr. Both Wheeler and Sansom, alumni of Morehouse College, significantly contributed to the survival and success of African American professionals.



The NCCU School of Law Class of 1947 saved the law school. From left to right, John W. Langford, John H. Wheeler, Wilfred A. Kenney, James Joseph Sansom, Jr. and Thomas David Parham on June 2nd, 1947 outside of B. N. Duke Auditorium



Group portrait of eight men and eleven women gathered in front of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company on 2018 Centre Avenue, “C.C. Spaulding” and “E.L. Martin Dist. Mgr.” written on window

Adams Condemns USDA’s Suspension of 1890s Program

By: Greg Childress

NC Newsline

Congresswoman Alma Adams issued a statement late last week criticizing the Trump administration’s decision to suspend the 1890 Scholars Program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The Scholars Program was established in 1992 in partnership with USDA and the nation’s 1890 land-grant universities, of which there are 16, including North Carolina A&T University in Greensboro. The scholarship program’s goal is to increase the number of students from rural and underserved communities who study food, agriculture, natural resource and other related sciences. It provides recipients with full tuition, fees, books, room and board.

“It is infuriating that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has suspended the 1890 Scholars Program ‘pending further review,’” Adams said. “This is a clear attack on an invaluable program that makes higher education accessible for everybody, and provides opportunities for students to work at USDA, especially in the critical fields of food safety, agriculture, and natural resources that Americans rely on every single day.”

Scholars must attend one of the 1890 land-grant universities and pursue degrees in agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or related academic disciplines. The “1890s” schools were established or funded due to the 1890 Morrill Act, which was signed into law by President Benjamin Harrison. The goal was to expand the opportunities for people of color to access education, specifically in agriculture and mechanical arts.

“This program is a correction to a long history of racial discrimination within the land-grant system, not an example of it,” Adams said. “I demand USDA immediately rescind this targeted and mean-spirited suspension and reinstate the 1890 Scholars Program, for which the deadline for students to apply was originally March 1, 2025.”

Jacqueline Torok, director of media relations for N.C. A&T, said the university currently has 20 scholars who “will not experience any change in financial support.”

The program has supported more than “100 high-achieving students” from rural and underserved communities studying agriculture, food, natural resources and related sciences at North Carolina A&T since it was established, Torok said.

“We are discussing this important program with the UNC System and our elected representatives and are hopeful that support will be fully restored in the near future,” she said.

The “1890s” — as they are often referred to — also include:

- Delaware State University
- Florida A&M University
- Fort Valley State University, Georgia
- Kentucky State University
- Langston University, Oklahoma
- Lincoln University, Missouri
- Prairie View A&M University, Texas
- South Carolina State University
- Southern University, Louisiana
- Tennessee State University
- Tuskegee University, Alabama
- University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
- University of Maryland Eastern Shore
- Virginia State University
- West Virginia State University

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Arts & Culture

Roberta Flack, Soul Legend, R&B Icon, Dies Aged 88

By Ben Beaumont-Thomas and Safi Bugeł

Roberta Flack, the US singer behind a string of hits including Killing Me Softly With His Song, has died aged 88. “We are heartbroken that the glorious Roberta Flack passed away this morning, February 24, 2025,” a statement from her spokesperson read. “She died peacefully surrounded by her family. Roberta broke boundaries and records. She was also a proud educator.”

With her graceful presence, genre-crossing versatility and ability to give voice to the full range of love’s highs and lows, Flack is widely considered one of soul and R&B’s greatest ever artists.

Flack was born in 1937 in Black Mountain, North Carolina, to musical parents. Her mother Irene was a church choir organist, meaning Flack was introduced to religious and classical music early on. She began playing the piano aged nine and by 15 she was admitted to Howard University to study music on a full scholarship, one of the youngest students to be accepted in the school’s history.

At 19, the new Howard graduate aspired to be an opera singer, before taking up a teaching post in North Carolina. Alongside this work, Flack started performing in nightclubs during evenings and weekends, weaving elements of classical, blues, folk, Motown and pop. Her virtuosity landed her regular spots at venues across Washington DC and in 1968, a residency at Mr Henry’s Restaurant led Flack to give up teaching for good. She became acquainted with soul

jazz pianist and singer Les McCann, who in turn introduced her to Atlantic Records – by early 1969 she was recording her debut album First Take, reportedly in a window of 10 hours. The album documented those years at Henry’s, immortalising the cross-genre collection of tracks she had spent so long practising there. In the liner notes of the original edition, McCann wrote: “Her voice touched, tapped, trapped, and kicked every emotion I’ve ever known. I laughed, cried, and screamed for more.”

It took until 1971, however, and a placement on the soundtrack to Clint Eastwood’s Play Misty for Me, before her cover of Ewan MacColl’s folk ballad The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face became her first major US hit. It spent six weeks at No 1 in 1972, earning a Grammy award for record of the year in 1973. Killing Me Softly With His Song earned her the same award in 1974, making Flack the first artist to win in two consecutive years (a feat since repeated by U2 and Billie Eilish). That year she scored another US No 1 with Feel Like Makin’ Love.

Around this time, the star began collaborating with the soul legend Donny Hathaway; the pair went on to have two US Top 5 hits with Where Is the Love and The Closer I Get to You. In 1980, a year after Hathaway’s death, the pair had a posthumous hit in the UK with Back Together Again, which reached No 3, though she had her biggest UK hit with new duet partner Peabo Bryson: the ballad Tonight, I Celebrate My Love reached No 2 in 1983. Bryson has paid tribute to Flack,

calling her an “iconic and divinely gifted artist and friend ... She was my greatest inspiration”.

Flack’s impressive range of influences and collaborators was testament to her multidisciplinary approach and idiosyncratic style. She duetted with Michael Jackson, toured with Miles Davis and covered Leonard Cohen and Laura Nyro. After her initial success, she became associated with the growth of quiet storm, a deep, mature and ruminative offshoot of R&B which later inspired the likes of Erykah Badu, D’Angelo and the Fugees (whose own take on Killing Me Softly would rival Flack’s to be the definitive version). More recently, in 2012, Flack released a string of Beatles covers in an album titled Let It Be Roberta.

She once told a journalist: “What I consider myself is a soulful singer, in that I try to sing with all the feeling that I have in my body and my mind. A person with true soul is one who can take anybody’s song and transcend all the flaws, the technique and just make you listen.”

After becoming unwell on stage in 2018, her manager revealed that Flack had suffered a stroke some years earlier.

In 1966, Flack married jazz musician Steve Novosel. The couple divorced in 1972, and a later marriage also ended in divorce.

Among others paying tribute to Flack was Oscar-winning singer and actor Jennifer Hudson, who said she was “one of the great soul singers of all time. Rest well, Ms Flack. Your legacy lives on”.



How Cornrows May Have Helped Free Slaves Navigate

By: Jordan Meadows

Staff Writer

Cornrows are a hairstyle that holds deep cultural significance within the Black community. The style, named after the agricultural fields, dates back centuries and carries rich ties to African traditions. But did cornrows also serve as a method of covert resistance, allowing slaves to communicate, gain freedom, and preserve their cultural identity? The precise role of cornrows in aiding escapes during slavery is debated.

Cornrows are often confused with traditional braids, but their distinct interwoven patterns have been a hallmark of various African cultures long before they reached the Americas. The term “cornrow” emerged between the 16th and 19th centuries in colonial America, but its roots extend deep into Africa. In fact, in the Caribbean, cornrows are sometimes referred to as “cane rows,” reflecting their association with the sugar cane fields worked by enslaved Africans.

In ancient African civilizations, particularly Egypt, both men and women wore cornrows and braids, often adorned with gold or beads. These styles were used to signify social rank, kinship, and even age or marital status. They spread throughout the continent, influencing the

hairstyles of various African regions and peoples. Cornrows were a way to maintain African heritage during a time of forced cultural erasure and displacement.

Enslaved Africans were often stripped of their cultural identities, including having their heads shaved as a means of controlling and dehumanizing them. Yet, despite these efforts, cornrows became a quiet form of resistance. Slaves used cornrows to preserve their African heritage and as a tool for discreet communication.

One of the most compelling accounts of this practice is found in Colombia, where Benkos Biohò, a formerly enslaved man, escaped and built a Palenque village, creating an underground resistance network. Women in the community would use their cornrows to create “maps” and pass on escape routes or meet-up times without drawing attention. Cornrows, with their complex and varied patterns, offered a hidden language that could guide slaves toward freedom.

Similarly, historical records mention how enslaved individuals may have hidden seeds or fragments of food in their cornrows, providing sustenance during their perilous escapes. While no conclusive evidence has been found to directly confirm that enslaved people used cornrows

as a systematic code for escape, these stories persist within oral histories and seem plausible within the context of slave resistance.

Historians like Patricia Turner, folklorist and professor of African American studies at the University of California Los Angeles, caution against categorically declaring these practices true, as it remains difficult to verify such claims from the time. Yet, dismissing these stories entirely does a disservice to the resilience and creativity of enslaved peoples who found ways to survive in the harshest of conditions.

“These are kind of urban legends that serve a function of giving particulars to generalities. Slave messages on quilts and cornrows... give a story to something that is ultimately very true in my mind,” she said.

For some scholars, the possibility that enslaved people could have hidden messages or food in their cornrows makes logical sense, even if it’s impossible to confirm. Turner’s perspective, shared by others, is that the absence of direct evidence doesn’t necessarily negate the stories; instead, it underscores the importance of telling the broader history of Black resistance and survival, whether through folklore or historical record.

Oral history in Colombia recounts tales of Black slaves using their hair to send messages. A 2011 Washing-

ton Post article about the Smithsonian Folklife Festival explored this history through the perspective of Ziomara Asprilla Garcia, an Afro-Colombian hair braider:

“It had thick, tight braids, braided closely to the scalp, and was tied into buns on the top,” Asprilla Garcia said. “And another style had curved braids, tightly braided on their heads. The curved braids would represent the roads they would [use to] escape.”

Cornrows are more than just a style—they are a symbol of Black heritage, strength, and resilience. While many people across the world wear the hairstyle, cornrows continue to hold deep cultural importance for people of African descent. Celebrities such as Beyoncé, Alicia Keys, and Laverne Cox have made the style a fixture of modern fashion, showcasing its versatility while acknowledging its roots in African culture.

Cornrows, like other natural Black hairstyles such as dreadlocks, are often deemed “unprofessional” or “untidy” by institutions like schools and workplaces. In February 2024, a judge ruled that a Texas high school legally suspended a Black student, Darryl George, for wearing his hair in locs— even though he ties them up instead of allowing them to hang over his face and ears.

The history of cornrows goes be-



yond their aesthetic appeal. They symbolize a connection to African heritage, a quiet act of defiance during slavery, and a way for modern Black individuals to express pride in their culture. Whether or not slaves

in the U.S. used cornrows as a secret means of communication, the hairstyle remains a symbol of the ingenuity of those who fought to keep their cultural identity intact.

How Hip-Hop And House Revolutionized Culture, Dance

The Conversation—There was a time when artists representing two of America’s biggest homegrown musical genres wouldn’t get a look in at the Grammys.

Hip-hop and house both have their origins in the 1970s and early 1980s – in fact, they recently celebrated a 50th and 40th birthday, respectively. But it was only in 1989 that an award category for “best rap performance” started recognizing hip-hop’s contribution to U.S. music, and house had to wait another decade, with the introduction of “best dance/electronic recording” in

1998.

At this year’s awards, taking place on Feb. 2, hip-hop and house artists will be among the most talked about. House duo Justice and Kendrick Lamar, a hip-hop superstar who incorporates elements of house himself, are among those looking to pick up an award. Meanwhile, a nomination for a collaboration between DJ Kaytranada and rapper Childish Gambino shows how artists from both genres continue to feed off each other.

And while both genres are now celebrated for their separate contri-

butions to the music landscape, as a scholar of African American culture and music, I am interested in their commonality: Both are distinctly Black American artforms that originated on the streets and dance floors of U.S. cities, developing a devoted underground following before being accepted by – and transforming – the mainstream.

The pulse of the 1970s
The roots of hip-hop and house music both lie in the seismic shifts of the late 1970s, a period of sociopolitical unrest and electronic

experimentation that redefined the possibilities of sound.

For hip-hop, this was expressed through the turntable manipulation pioneered by DJ Kool Herc in 1973, when he extended and looped breakbeats to energize crowds. House music’s innovators turned to the drum machine to create the genre’s foundational four-on-the-floor dance rhythm.

That rhythm, foreshadowed by Eddy Grant’s 1977 production of “Time Warp” by The Coxsone Rhythm Section, would go on to

shape house music’s distinct pulse. The track showed how electronic instruments such as the synthesizer and drum machine could recast traditional rhythmic patterns into something entirely new.

This dance vibe – in which a base drum provides a steady four-four beat – became the heartbeat of house music, creating an enduring structure for DJs to layer basslines, percussion and melodies. In a similar way, Kool Herc’s breakbeat manipulation provided the scaffolding for MCs and dancers in hip-hop’s

formative years.

Marginalized communities in urban centers like Chicago and New York were at the forefront of these innovations. Despite experiencing grinding poverty and discrimination, it was Black and Latino youth – armed with turntables, drum machines and samplers – who made these groundbreaking advances in music.

For hip-hop, this meant manipulating breakbeats from songs like

(See *HIP HOP*, P. 12)

An Anatomy Fashion Show That Is Raising Funds And Awareness



Anatomy Fashion Show is a trademarked program of Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity, Inc. benefiting Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

Since 2012, PhiDE students have been walking the runway in campus ballrooms to showcase different artists’ renditions of the human body. Models wear spandex and are painted head-to-toe with paint. Students from community organizations join as models, painters, performers and audience members. Those in the audience are joined by families, advisors and other campus professionals. There is food, entertainment, prizes and a Master of Ceremonies to share the story of each work of art.

Anatomy Fashion Show continues to grow in our Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity community. As of today, over 45 chapters host this event to raise money and awareness for CMN Hospitals.

There are more than 170 Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals worldwide. Each year these hospitals treat 17 million children for every disease and injury imaginable. Collectively they impact the lives of more children than any other children’s organization in the world.

Children’s hospitals are special places, graced with experts trained in the care and handling of small, fragile, sick and injured children. It is critical that we, as a society, support these islands of care because any child can get sick or become seriously injured. When they do, it is critical that there be a children’s hospital nearby.

In Phi Delta Epsilon Medical Fraternity, we celebrate and support difference rather than just accepting it. Each member contributes to inclusion and our culture is the result of our commitment and collaboration. As current and future physicians, we believe every person and patient should be treated with equity and respect. We are committed to equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, gender identity, pregnancy, genetic information, marital status, military service, veteran status, age, non-disqualifying disability, religious preference, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin.



“The Talk” By Sonny Kelly Was Not Just A Performance

By Ms Jheri Worldwide
Staff Writer

On Sunday, February 23rd, at the Friday Conference Center at UNC Chapel Hill, Dr. Sonny Kelly delivered a tour-de-force performance of “The Talk,” a one-man show that transcends mere storytelling and becomes a visceral experience. Set against the stark backdrop of the tragic deaths of Trayvon Martin and Freddie Gray, Kelly’s work delves into the deeply personal and universally resonant “talk” between an African American father and his son. More than just a narrative, “The

Talk” is a masterclass in theatrical artistry. Kelly seamlessly embodies over twenty characters, a feat made all the more impressive by his minimalist approach. A simple prop, a subtle voice alteration, or even just a turn of his body transforms him from one persona to the next, creating a rich tapestry of voices and perspectives. From his father to James Baldwin, and even David Duke, Kelly brings the words and voices of many to the audience to reflect on. What truly sets Kelly’s performance apart is his ability to foster a sense of shared experience. He granted the audience permission to



feel uncertain and uncomfortable, reminding us that the goal was not to “call out,” but to “call people in.” This inclusive approach was evident in moments of crowd participation, where we were invited to turn and talk, or join in a knock-knock joke. Despite these interactive elements, Kelly remained firmly in control, expertly weaving audience feedback into the fabric of his performance for a super-inclusive experience. There was also a lively Q&A following the performance where Kelly continued to educate sharing that “empathy costs less than you think” and encouraging us to “expect favor,

manage the situation, a focus on our character” when facing adversity. The multimedia elements, including sound, video, and imagery, enhanced the emotional impact of the play, creating an immersive and thought-provoking journey. “The Talk” is not just a performance; it’s a conversation, a challenge, and a celebration of shared humanity. It’s an experience that lingers long after the final curtain, prompting reflection and dialogue in an increasingly divided world. Dr. Sonny Kelly’s “The Talk” is a must-see, a testament to the power of theater to illuminate, educate, and inspire.



Omega Psi Phi Plays Que-pid

WINSTON-SALEM, NC — On the day before Valentine’s Day, members of the Psi Phi chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. had a little love in their heart. They shared that loving feeling with appreciative senior citizens at Trinity Glen, a senior care community on Waterworks Road in Winston-Salem. In a heartwarming gesture of love and community service, the brothers of Psi Phi brightened the day for Trinity Glen residents by playing “Que-pid” and presented the female residents a single rose. The kind and thoughtful gesture brought smiles to the faces of the residents – both women and men – and reminded them that love and kindness know no bounds. “This small but thoughtful act of compassion is part of our ongoing mission to give back to the community and uplift those who may feel forgotten,” said Richard Watkins, basileus of the Psi Phi chapter. Omega members not only delivered roses but also spent time engaging with the residents, sharing warm conversations and creating heartfelt moments. The initiative reflects Psi Phi’s dedication to service and friendship, hallmarks of the fraternity’s values. The “Que-pid” initiative was the latest community service initiative by the brothers of Psi Phi. In November, the brothers delivered boxes of food to 25 local families. In December, they delivered fruit baskets to Omega widows and widowers. Through efforts like these, the Psi Phi chapter continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

Cary Youth Advocacy Summit



The Town of Cary held its first annual Youth Advocacy Summit at the Cary Arts Center on Sunday. About 80 youth participated in activities which ranged from mental health discussions, storytelling, civic engagement, self care and T-shirt design. The event ended with a panel discussion lead by ABC-11’s Lauren Johnson. *Mathias Bishop Photos*



Lincoln Park Youth Pay Tribute



Through a powerful portrayal, Lincoln Park youth honored the legacy of the four little girls -- Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, and Carol Denise McNair -- who lost their lives while attending church on September 15, 1963, at the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing.

By: Janine Latus
National Endowment for the Humanities

It was 1898 and the port city of Wilmington, North Carolina, was bustling with former slaves. They competed with white citizens for jobs as blacksmiths and carpenters, doctors and lawyers. The city’s population was majority Black citizens, and their wealth and influence were growing. They bought property and opened businesses, invested in banks and worked as police officers. They held jobs in government, won election to public office—including to the U.S. House of Representatives—and organized alongside their working-class white neighbors to create a political movement known as Fusion, in which white Populists and Black and white Republicans formed joint electoral tickets on shared priorities. Black men served on the Board of Aldermen, as city treasurer, city jailer, and city corner. Ten of Wilmington’s 26 policemen were Black.

But Black men’s success threatened the power of the local white elite, so white men mounted the first successful coup d’état in U.S. history, wielding intimidation, racist propaganda, beatings, and murder to drive Black people out of office, out of business, and out of town. An unknown number were murdered during what is now called the 1898 Wilmington massacre, a series of terrible events that would leave the city forever changed.

The beginnings of the coup can be traced to the summer of 1898. Self-declared white supremacists used the state’s most influential newspaper, the News & Observer, published by Josephus Daniels, to gin up panic over “Negro Rule,” with inflammatory headlines and racist cartoons depicting Black people as buffoonishly incompetent when they weren’t chasing down and raping white women.

Before the coup was in motion, however, a racial panic was already underway. Earlier that year, Rebecca Felton, a white woman from Georgia, gave a speech claiming that white men weren’t doing enough to stop the “Black beast rapist.”

“Where there is not enough religion in the pulpit to organize a crusade against sin, nor justice in the courthouse to promptly punish crime, nor manhood enough in the nation to put a sheltering arm about innocence and virtue,” she said, “if it needs lynching to protect women’s dearest possession from ravaging human beasts, then I say lynch—a thousand times a week if necessary!”

White supremacist newspapers reprinted the speech, and Alex Manly, editor and publisher of the Daily Record, Wilmington’s Black newspaper, had the temerity to respond that, indeed, the white men who had been raping Black women since the country was founded had not been held to account. His editorial was reprinted throughout the South, further enraging the white elite, and threats against Manly’s life poured in.

Wilmington’s white business leaders, aided by the News & Observer, amped up their white supremacist campaign. They hoarded guns and cheered barn-burning calls to action. They invited help from South Carolina racists—the so-called Red Shirts, white men who would yank Black men out of their homes, beat them, and threaten to kill them if they tried to vote. On November 7, at the county courthouse, Confederate Civil War veteran Alfred Moore Waddell gave an incendiary speech: “Men, the crisis is upon us. You must do your duty. This city, county, and state shall be rid of negro domination once and forever. You are the sons of noble ancestry. You are Anglo-Saxons. Go to the polls tomorrow and if you find a negro out voting, tell him to leave the polls. And if he refuses, kill him. Shoot him down in his tracks.”

On Election Day, armed white men (Red shirts) stalked the streets of Wilmington, intimidating Black men from voting. In Black precincts, election officials threw out Republican ballots and replaced them with Democratic ones.

As publisher Daniels wrote in his memoir, Editor in Politics, “If you have never seen three hundred redshirted men towards sunset with the sky red, you cannot concede what an impression it makes. Their appearance was the signal for the negroes to get out of the way. The result, of course, was that many negroes either did not vote or

made no fight in the affected counties on Election Day.”

The intimidation and fraudulent votes ensured a Democratic victory in North Carolina, but white supremacists in Wilmington were not content to stop there. The morning after the election, hundreds of white leaders formed a plan to force out the city’s Fusionist mayor and Black municipal officeholders. They issued a White Declaration of Independence, proclaiming that they’d never again be ruled by men of African origin. A committee led by Waddell came up with a list of demands, including the closure of the Daily Record, and ordered the city’s Black leaders to respond.

Vigilantes rode off to find Manly and lynch him. After he escaped, a mob burned down the offices of the Daily Record and then posed for triumphant photos in front of the smoldering remains.

The mob forced their way into Black churches and a community center. They killed Black men and forced women and children to hide in the cemetery and the swamps. They held local government officials at gunpoint until they resigned their seats and ran prominent Black families out of town. At the time, 56 percent of Wilmington was Black. Today its Black population is just shy of 14.9 percent.

And the story was nearly erased

from history. Newspaper headlines at the time referred to it as a Black uprising, as if the Black people were at fault. It wasn’t until the 1950s that it was recognized as a massacre, and not until 100 years after it happened that it was recognized as an insurrection, a coup, with distorted media one of the elite’s weapons.

Today the story is told in American Coup: Wilmington 1898, running now as part of American Experience on PBS and sponsored by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in association with PBS North Carolina. Directed by Brad Lichtenstein and Yoruba Richen, it weaves the history of the coup with the experiences of descendants of both the attackers and their victims, some of whom were talking about their family’s role on camera for the first time.

“American Coup: Wilmington 1898 is a cautionary tale for our country,” said PBS North Carolina executive producer Rachel Raney, “about a perilous breakdown of a cornerstone of our democracy: fair and free elections.”

The filmmakers found many of the descendants through the Wilmington chapter of Coming to the Table, a national organization dedicated to facilitating community discussions about racial violence. Now, people like Lucy McCauley, a great granddaughter of William McKoy, a white man who

helped orchestrate the coup, sit down with Kieran Haile, a descendant of newspaper owner Alexander Manly, to bring their ancestors’ experiences to light.

“I didn’t know about it, like everybody else in Wilmington, for a very long time,” McCauley says in the film. “When I was growing up here, in high school and even into college, I was drinking the Kool-Aid. I learned all this about my great-grandfather in 2018, and it was just a physical blow to my body. ‘Cause it was such a departure from everything I’d been told about my family and everything I had believed.”

The great grandson of Josephus Daniels says, “The News and Observer did so many terrible things back in that period of time. We have had a reckoning with ourselves about, you know, who Josephus was. In his later years, he was unapologetic. It’s a shame that he did not recognize that the things that he did had damaged our state and our nation. I can’t apologize for him, but, you know, I feel remorse. Part of the legacy that I have is that we were the worst of it for a period of time.”

The story was buried because of shame among the white families, but the families of Wilmington’s Black citizens also considered the topic taboo. Too painful. Too much betrayal.

The Carolinian to Host 2nd Annual Housing Symposium

By Ms Jheri Worldwide

Staff Writer

The Carolinian Newspaper, a longstanding voice in Black-owned media since 1940, will host its 2nd Annual Housing Symposium on April 5th, 2025, from 11 AM to 2 PM at the John P. “Top” Greene Community Center, located at 401 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Raleigh, NC 27601. This free event aims to empower community members with the knowledge and resources needed for homeownership.

The symposium will gather leading experts from various sectors of the real estate industry, providing attendees with valuable insights, resources, and information. The Carolinian encourages those interested to RSVP via the provided QR code or Eventbrite link. The event will also feature advertising opportunities. For more details, contact 919-817-0593 or follow The Carolinian on Instagram @thecaronews.



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Church

Obituaries

TERESA ANN DAVIS MCMILLAN WILSON

On Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025, God called home one of His most precious flowers, Teresa Ann Davis Wilson McMillan. Teresa was born in Wake Co. to the late Marvin Davis, Dr. and Mary Bates Davis on June 16, 1949. She was the oldest of 8 children.

Teresa attended Wake Co. Public Schools and graduated from Enloe High School in Raleigh, NC, in 1967. She also attended and graduated from Hardbarger Business College in Raleigh, NC. Teresa was a federal civil servant before retiring as a plant manager in Rocky Mount. She never shied away from a challenge and was known for stepping into plants to improve their performance. She traveled with the post office on several important assignments throughout the United States. Teresa took great pride in her work, and along the way, met many people who became lifelong friends. Teresa was mentored by Marilyn Spells, John



“JR” Moore and Ross Goroski. She was also the owner of GPM Life Insurance.

Teresa was a member of Ruth Chapter No. 3, Order of Eastern Stars HPA., and Daughters of Kabala

court No. 67, Oasis of Raleigh, Desert of North Carolina.

Teresa loved family. Her greatest joy in life was her son, Atlas, and her granddaughter, Alise. She loved to entertain. Teresa never met a stranger, she had a gift for turning acquaintances into friends. She was the matriarch of the family and made sure that everyone gathered together during the holidays. She loved to travel, especially spending time at her beach home. Teresa’s favorite color was blue.

Teresa was a loving mother, sister, aunt, cousin, and friend. She is survived by her son, Atlas Wilson Jr. of Clayton; granddaughter, Alise Miller of Wake Forest; siblings, Frances Akins of Raleigh; brothers, Norman “Jodie” Davis of Virginia Beach, VA., Raymond Davis (Sharon) of Garner, Louis Davis (Mechelle) of Raleigh, Yancy Davis (Stacey) of Zebulon, and Tommy Davis of Wilson; and a host of other family and friends, including her loving companion, Charles Hunter.

Obituaries

REVEREND DR. NELSON JOHNSON

Died on 11 February 2025, Reverend Dr. Nelson Johnson was a prominent leader of the Civil and Human Rights struggle and movement in the State of North Carolina. He will be laid to rest on Friday, 21 February 2025.

In 1979, Nelson Johnson led a labour and civil rights march that ended in tragedy. Johnson and several others in the Workers Viewpoint Organization faced the Ku Klux Klan and members of the American Nazi Party. That event is now known as the Greensboro Massacre. Nelson and his fellow activists aim was for the eradication of segregated laws of oppression directed at Afrikans in the Southern USA.

In his youth, Nelson mobilized the Black Community for civil disobedience with Sit-ins and boycotts to advance political freedom and socio-economic justice particularly for Afrikans. The success of this campaign also benefited other disadvantaged people in America.

In the early 1970s, as a leader and member Nelson Johnson was engaged in the mobilization by the African Liberation Support Committee (1972), with a focus on liberation movements in Afrika. He was the publisher of “THE AFRICAN WORLD.” A newspaper that championed the cause of Afrikan liberation and unity.

The principal theme of the paper’s editorials promoted UNITY AND SOLIDARITY IN STRUGGLE, in America and Afrika. Nelson Johnson and his group supported and promoted AFRICAN LIBERATION DAY in the Diaspora. Nelson and Owusu Saudaki led the NC delegation to the 7th PAC in Tanzania in 1974.

Nelson Johnson actively led mobilizations for social justice in local racist cases of the CHARLOTTE 3, WILMINGTON 10 Defence, Joan Little and others as well as Textile Workers Union campaigns of the TRIAD at a public rally in Wilson, NC for President Jimmy Carter.



In his latter years, Reverend Dr. Nelson Johnson built a BELOVED COMMUNITY CENTER in Greensboro for outreach programs to assist the needy, Voter registration, Food Pantry and community healthcare services.

Nelson Johnson’s decades of productive community activism work among the grassroots speak for itself. He faced challenges, including covert entrapments, from “friends and foes”, the type of lived experiences of nearly all effective community leaders engaged in freedom struggles for the poor and oppressed. Nelson might have been bruised; but he prevailed up to the age of 81.

Nelson Johnson’s work is now recorded in the Annals of Human History, alongside those freedom fighters, irrespective of their ethnicities, nationalities, gender, colour and geographical locations. Indispens-

able collection of indelible records of individuals and collective struggles and services to Humanity.

Here, the Afrikan Collective Personality is well-represented, showcasing AFRIKAN PROTRACTED AND INDOMITABLE WILL, during the past five centuries, challenging Plantocracy and associated Institution of Chattel Slavery, profiteering from kidnapped Afrikans from Afrika; imperialism; colonisation and neo-colonisation, all harmed and enforced poverty and debt traps of the innocent.

Afrikans pushed back. Self-defence, as they are doing today, coming together, with Time-tested Friends, uniting and re-affirming that Afrikans are their own liberators. And that DEPENDENCY AND DISUNITY, in all forms, within Global Afrika – the Afrikan Continent and her Vast Diaspora, are Afrikans principal enemies, which must be defeated.

That the history of Afrikan struggles and demands for their Sovereignty - Afrikan human rights, within Global Afrika, are demonstration that, for Afrikans to realise their demands, there MUST be sustainable and effective united actions, built on a sound foundation of diversity and adversity, consensus, sacrifice and perseverance. This is one of the indisputable lessons of Afrikan historical struggles at home and abroad.

When these fundamentals are not delivered, Afrikan demands for human rights and Sovereignty are not taken seriously by perpetrators, gatekeepers and usurpers of other nations and their peoples’ birth rights and Sovereignities.

Evidently, you gave your all: rest in serene peace Freedom Fighter, Nelson Johnson. We salute you and welcome all those who will be filling the vacuum you left behind. In the absence of natural justice, struggles for human rights are never ending.

WE are always mindful that “freedom is not free”.

And yet - the wronged “SHALL NOT BE SILENCED!!”

Gospel’s Role In Civil Rights



Mahalia Jackson sings at a Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom in May 1957.

By: K’mari Peede

NCCU Campus Echo

Dr. Claudrena N. Harold, the associate dean for the Social Sciences and Edward Stettinius professor of history at the University of Virginia, said she has come to appreciate gospel during the 2025 McNeil African American History Month Lecture on Feb. 20.

“I feel a deep connection to the people that I write about, sometimes it’s too much of a connection,” Harold said. “There is nobody I don’t feel deeply about. It has had a profound impact on who I am, even when I don’t like some of the messages.”

The event is usually hosted in the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill but pivoted to a Zoom webinar due to inclement weather conditions.

The webinar began around 7:15 p.m. The first four speakers were a series of UNC-Chapel Hill administrators, Dr. LeRhonda S. Manigault-Bryant, Dr. Marcus Collins, Dr. Miguel La Serna and Dr. Claude Clegg, who introduced Dr. Harold.

Harold is also the author of three books: “The Rise and Fall of the Garvey Movement in the Urban South, 1918-1942,” “New Negro Politics in the Jim Crow South” and “When Sunday Comes: Gospel Music in the Soul and Hip-Hop Eras.”

These three books share common themes, which she also highlighted in her speech, were Black political mobilization, the intersection of religion and politics and the Southern roots of Black liberation.

In her speech, “Truth is on the Way:

Gospel Music, Black Liberation, and the Politics of Freedom in the Soul and Hip-Hop Era,” Harold said that “Hampton,” a movie about a choir at UVA, was inspired by a conversation she had with Debra Saunders-White, NCCU’s first female chancellor.

“She told the story of Being a student at the UVA in the 1970s and having this transformative moment and finally feeling like she belonged,” she said.

Harold’s speech also explored the political evolution of gospel music through the last 50 years. She focused on Dr. Wyatt T. Walker’s idea that what Black people sing in gospel music is a reflection of their sociological ideations.

She spoke of gospel artists through different eras and how they used their platforms to send powerful messages to their listeners.

Harold said Aretha Franklin’s music and political activism must be understood within a broader context of Black community struggles and liberation. She used Franklin’s 1987 recording of “Surely God is Able” and her “Amazing Grace” album to demonstrate how gospel music was intertwined with Black Power movements.

Similarly, during the Civil Rights Movement, the gospel group Rance Allen and the diverse singer Shirley Caesar used gospel music to talk about racism, class and poverty as they related to Black Americans.

Following this, Harold shared that her uncle, David Crawford, mentored her and posed questions that she still thinks of today.

“Was God’s word enough for the unique challenges of the post-civil rights, post-segregation, post-colonial, postmodern world,” Harold said. “Could and should gospel music provide more than Christian-based theological reflections?”

Around 8:30 p.m., Harold wrapped up her lecture with a riveting showing of a short film she co-directed with Kevin Jerome Everson titled “Dooni,” a film about a eulogy of the soul-singer Sylvester told by preacher and gospel singer Edward Hawkins.

“In ways both subtle and direct, these artists invite us to consider a different use of Black churches and the gospel imagination,” said Harold. “And that’s what I’ve attempted to do in a new experimental film with Walter Hawkins and Sylvester.”



Practical Biblical Principles

This sermon is Pastor Caldwell’s personal interpretation of poet, James Weldon Johnson’s reflections on hearing many so-called “Train sermons.” Johnson’s desire was to help preserve and maintain the beautiful, poetic Black preaching style. These train sermons were often preached in the Negro Church in the 1920’s - 1950’s. These train sermons were preached by the likes of Rev. W.A. Nix, and Rev. Gates of Chicago during the 1922 Harlem Renaissance period which stretched from the 1920’s to the 1950’s. The train sermons were designed to produce a mental, vivid, and visual image in the minds of the hearers. In short, these sermons were simply a Spiritual call for Blacks to return to church after the 1916 Black Exodus from the South to North.

The Black Diamond Express

Read: Isaiah 5:14,

2 Peter 2:4, Matthew 7:13-14

By J. L. Caldwell, Pastor

New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

Sinners have never heard of the Black Diamond Express train. It is a huge, black, passenger train which runs constantly, back and forth between hell and the abode of men. It leaves hell late, makes its run to the surface of the earth collecting lost souls, always returning to hell ahead of schedule with a full passenger load of lost souls.

We see demons stirring a large, train fire box filled with the souls of human flesh and bones. Human screams can be heard from the skeleton-looking faces of lost souls being pushed under the blazing surface by a long, red hot stoking pole handled by six dirty, sweaty, and ugly demons. The fiery pit was hotter than a thousand black smith’s fires and redder than the exploding sun.

Then a chilling, blood-curling scream from the devil shouted out to the horned-looking demons operating the hell train. Hurry up, get this train moving, we have to get going and pick up a new load of lost souls before the fires go out. We can’t let the fires go out! We must stoke the fires with more lost souls. I’ve been running this train ever since I got Eve to do my dirty work in the Garden of Eden, and I have never allowed my burning hell fires to go out, and I don’t intend to. I will forever feed my fires with somebody’s lost soul. The souls of hypocrites and non-believers make good fires.

This beautiful Black Diamond Express is 7-miles long, which includes 543 coaches, each is 68 feet long each holding 60 passengers. A full load is 32,580 souls. There is no baggage car because this is a one-way trip. The seats in the coaches are made out of black coal – there is no comfort. All of the coaches are Black inside and out. There are

no windows. The steam locomotive itself is one half mile long with more than 132 wheels on each side, each wheel being 20 feet in diameter. Mounted on the front of this black beast is a huge beautiful Black Diamond 30 feet in diameter. No one can see the light reflected from this huge diamond except the engineer, who is the devil himself.

The demons mounted the long, black, windowless train with the devil, himself, being the conductor and engineer. Sixty-six demons began shelling brimstone, lost souls, and stinking sulfur into the huge fire box in the fire chamber of the huge black train. The devil pushed the huge black throttle forward and pulled on the black steel cord to signal that the train was leaving the station. The whistle blew, but there was no sound. And the huge black, snake-like monster slowly moved out from hell’s station and immediately began to pick up speed. Steam from the huge beast was not white, but blacker than the heart of the worst sinner. The smell of the black steam smelled of rotten eggs mixed with brimstone and sulfur. The steam engine itself was bigger than thirteen tractor trailers and each of its 132 wheels stood as tall as a 20-foot pole and were about as wide as six, black, pot belly stoves. The entire train was as long as a seven-mile tunnel, and blacker than a thousand midnights with a huge, three-ton, black diamond mounted on the front of the puffing engine. The train gave off no reflections, but it was as pretty as sin. Yet nobody could see it coming until it was too late. Well, I can hear the whistle miles away, the train is a beast, but I must stay away. This train is a beauty making everybody stare, but its only “destination is the middle of nowhere.” – Josh Turner.

Black sweat ran down the faces and bodies of the demons as they shoveled the brimstone into the fire

chamber, speeding the black train on its way to pick up lost, unsuspecting souls. The Black Diamond Express raced on, as long blades of fire shot from its huge, black wheels, but they made no sound. This train is fast and can outrun the light rays of God’s great sun.

Like a huge black snake slithering up and around a giant red-wood tree, the black train shot up to the surface of the earth and leveled out with its destination being the Raleigh/Durham, NC area. Open the doors shouted the devil. The conductor shouted, “First stop, the church! My favorite stop.” The train appeared not to slow down, yet a large group of hypocrites and back sliders were somehow loaded onto the windowless black train. The church was left empty.

“Next stop,” cried the conductor, Gambler’s corner! The train stopped and a whole bunch of gamblers were ushered onboard the train. Some had ball tickets and dice still in their hands. They didn’t see the train coming.

“Next stop,” hollered the conductor is Stealing/Cheating and Liars Junction! Folks who steal from the church, their homes, jobs, their families, and other folk. Lying all at the same time.

They didn’t see the train coming. “Next stop,” Unbelievers’ Junction! The Black Diamond Express made two round trips for this group and the train was then completely full. They didn’t see the train coming. Sinners never see the train.

The Black Diamond Express again got its load for the week and sped back down into the open blackness of an everlasting hell filled with sinners, where the fire pits of hell await those lost souls, who will forever be separated from Almighty God. You can cancel your ticket on the Black Diamond Express by simply accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Honoring Black History Makers...



With Wall Of Historical Events

Karl Anderson, Vice President, and Orrin Ray Haywood, President, invite everyone to come and see their complete “Black History Wall Of Fame.” The Wall is one among a number of presentations hung through the Funeral Home depicting the many individuals who have made significant contributions to our history. “We feel it is both a reminder of how far we have come, and a challenge to all of us as to how far we have yet to travel.” Haywood Funeral Home embraces daily the legacy of these outstanding African-Americans who have come before us!

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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.

Editorials

Defunding A Legacy



Recently, the NC Democratic Party decided to defund the Congresswoman Eva Clayton Fellowship in their budget. Budgets get cut all the time. Why did this one cause such a controversy? Budgets are value statements. I contend that this budget cut should have come as no surprise, given the historical tradition of the treatment of Black voters in our state. For those of you who may be new to NC, the Honorable Eva Clayton is an American politician from North Carolina. On taking her seat in the United States House of Representatives following a special election in 1992, Clayton became the first African American to represent North Carolina in the House since George Henry White was elected to his second and last term in 1898.

That was kind of a big deal then. And, for those of us with a sense of history and respect for our wise elders, she is still a great big deal. “North Carolina had amended its constitution in 1899 to disfranchise Blacks, as did most southern states from 1890 to 1908, and no Black candidates were elected to Congress in the succeeding 92 years.”

She began her service as the president of her freshman class and she went on to a stellar career, which I hope you will take the time to read in more detail. <https://history.house.gov/People/Detail/11065>

When her nephew, Rev. William Clayton, learned about the budget decision in the NCDP, he communicated his displeasure.

“The disrespect you have shown my aunt, my family, and the Black community in this state will not go unanswered,” he wrote. “The legacy of Eva Clayton will not be erased by your shortsighted decision. She has done more for this state, for this party, and for this country than you or your political consultants ever will.”

For anyone reading this who might be shocked or clutching their white, liberal pearls with a southern, “Well, I never!” - please allow me to assure you that this insult to Black voters in NC is nothing new.

The next day, the Party restored the funding. But, a few days later came the welcome news that the Fellowship would no longer be housed or administered by the NCDP. Two groups issued a cease and desist letter and the North Carolina Black Alliance and Advance Carolina will now oversee the fellowship program.

A rereading of the late NC State Representative and academic political sociologist Paul Luebke’s book, Tar Heel Politics: Myths and Realities, published in 1990, contends, “...the moderate path that the white elite chose nevertheless institutionalized and legitimated a segregated society in which blacks could not expect either political or economic equality. The reality was that blacks had little voting strength and even less political power, especially in the state’s small towns and rural communities.”

Luebke further explains the Gingles case, which forced the creation of 7 single-member districts in the House and 2 single-member districts in the Senate. This ruling opened the door for Black candidates to be elected to the Legislature without the added deficit of running in multiple-member districts that they could not win.

Importantly, the courts allowed that the influence of racial politics must be considered in the ruling. “The plaintiffs also recounted the conscious actions of the General Assembly, from 1900 through the 1960’s, to reduce black political participation and thus black political power.”

Luebke adds that primarily due to the Gingles decision, blacks won 14 seats in November 1984, a record number. This success eventually had an impact in local city, county, and school board elections.

Luebke ends his discussion with a pessimistic view to the future, which we can still see to this day. He predicted then that the inability of blacks and their few white allies to keep a rigorous debate going in the General Assembly about economic and political inequity would result in the continued failure to address problems of the poor.

He was right.

Other Viewpoints

ELON MUSK: A FORCE OF NATURE

By Armstrong Williams

Elon Musk is a force of nature. He has assembled the greatest fortune (more than \$450 billion) in the history of mankind with a maniacal work ethic and fearlessness in challenging orthodoxies or tradition. He is a one-man show at SpaceX, Tesla and X (formerly twitter), and is poised to dominate artificial intelligence. Mr. Musk is a marvelous combination of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison in the private sector.

We should rejoice that Mr. Musk has taken his superhuman talents to focus on the ultra-bloated federal government, which is bankrupt by any private business metric: a \$36 trillion



national debt, chronic budget deficits exceeding \$1 trillion, millions of deadweight federal employees and contractors, and sub-mediocrity as the workplace ethos.

The federal Leviathan is so huge, it needs Mr. Musk’s blunderbuss approach. A scalpel would take decades before real change could be discerned. Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency has adventurously ordered a freeze on trillions in government spending, offered to buy out the contracts of 2.3 million government employees (tens of thousands have already accepted), and closed the doors of or downsized the useless U.S. Agency for International Development, the Department of Education, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Mr. Musk has already saved taxpayers untold sums in wasteful spending and done more good for the American people in weeks than most elected officials accomplish in a lifetime.

An outsider like Mr. Musk with a wrecking ball is necessary to offset the natural urge of professional politicians to grow government to hand out figurative candy bars to their constituents. You can’t run a political campaign on standing pat and letting the private sector flourish. Politicians need something concrete to take credit for — even helping constituents navigate a dizzying bureaucratic maze that they created. The bigger the government, the greater the opportunity of elected officials to do favors in exchange for political support.

That dynamic explains why the federal government grows bigger every year, notwithstanding volumes of campaign rhetoric about putting the government on a starvation diet. Former President Ronald Reagan cut taxes, but federal borrowing kept the federal government fat. During President Donald Trump’s first term, the national debt soared by \$7.8 trillion. Candidates are eager to take “no new taxes” pledges but scamper away from pledges against new spending or freezing the debt ceiling. Unlike insiders, outsiders like Musk have no incentive to blink at reality to preserve their status, power and prestige.

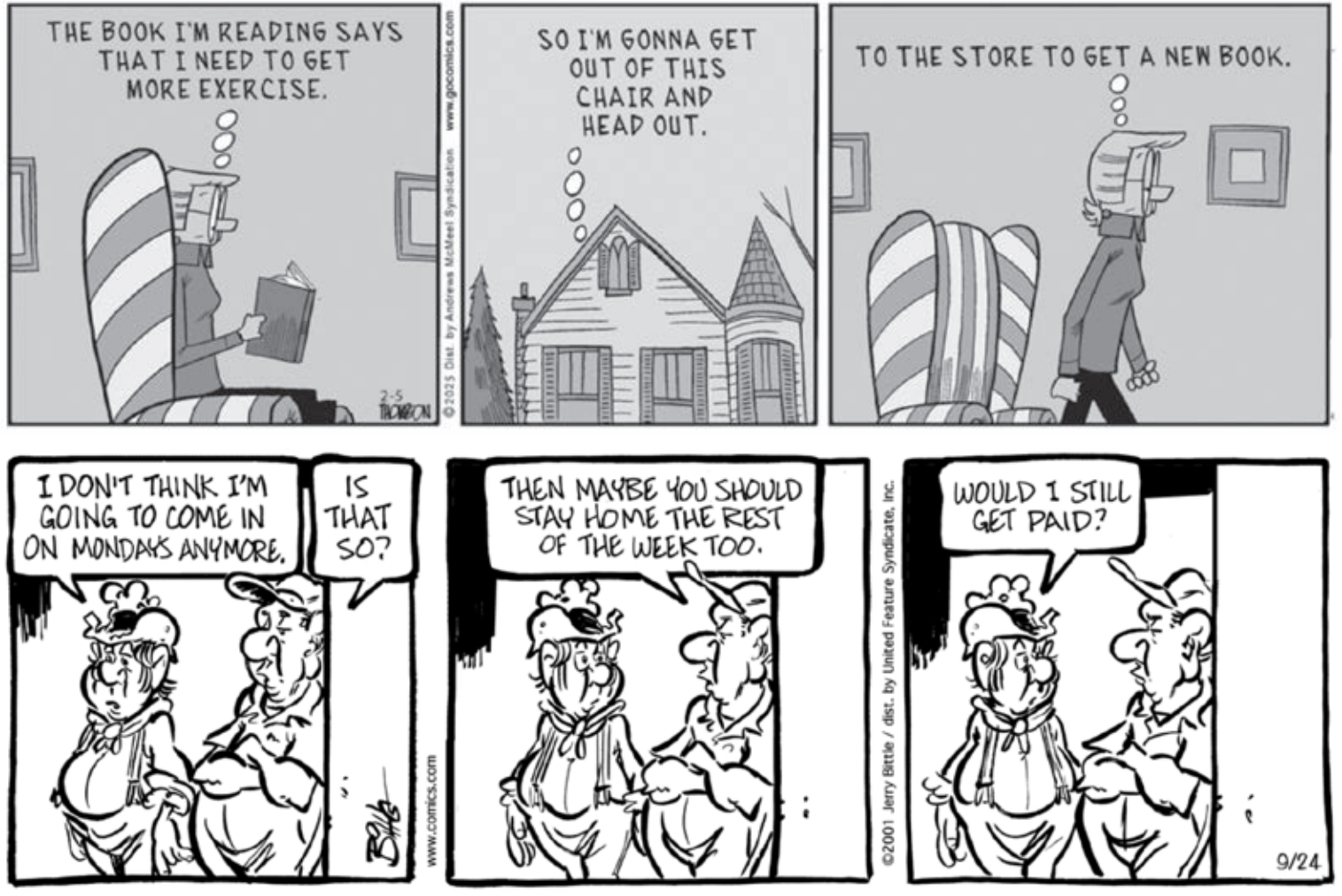
With all due respect for his limitless business savvy, however, Mr. Musk is a political ingenue. He is accustomed to playing dictator or bull in a china shop in his own companies to maximize profits. Government does not work that way. The preamble to the U.S. Constitution identifies liberty and justice as the nation’s glory. It features separation of powers as a structural shield against tyranny of the one, the many or the majority. In politics, you need to invite people to be with you on the takeoff if you want them by your side on the landing.

Government efficiency is not synonymous with government legitimacy. Not a single vote was cast for Mr. Musk in the 2024 elections. The United States is not yet a plutocracy. Process is even more important than policy. The government must turn square corners as an example for the citizenry generally.

Mr. Musk’s blitzkrieg against the federal bureaucracy has been answered by a rising tide of lawsuits challenging the legality of his freeze on government spending, termination of government agencies, buyouts of the contracts of government employees, and access by untrained and unschooled Musketeers to sensitive private information — Social Security numbers and bank account information, for example — used in the handling and payment of trillions of dollars in federal funds. At present, Mr. Musk has lost every preliminary skirmish in courts. Instead of going back to the drawing board and dotting i’s and crossing t’s or asking a Republican-controlled Congress to amend or repeal relevant laws, Mr. Musk has raged at federal judges, steaming that U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer was “a corrupt judge protecting corruption” and “needs to be impeached NOW.” (It has been established for more than two centuries since the failed impeachment trial of Justice Samuel Chase that judges may not be impeached for alleged erroneous decisions. Appeal is the proper avenue of redress.)

Musk needs trusted supervision and wisdom if all his remarkable talents and energies in streamlining the federal behemoth are not to go to waste, stymied by never-ending lawsuits. Is anyone brave enough to deliver the message to the world’s richest man with a penchant for retaliation?

Armstrong Williams is manager/sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and the 2016 Multicultural Media Broadcast owner of the year.



Classifieds

DURHAM COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E001958-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 7th day of February 2025, as Executor of the Estate of ROBERT GORDON CHRISTIE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of May, 2025 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 27th day of February 2025.
Patricia Mary Christie, Executor
4722 Highgate Drive
Durham, NC 27713
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000226-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 24th day of February 2025, as Executor of the Estate of LANA T. HENDERSON, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of May, 2025 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 27th day of February 2025.
April N. Henderson, Executor
139 Silver Fir Lane
Durham, NC 27713
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24-E-444
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 4th day of April 2024, as Executrix of the Estate of SARAH ALLENE OWENS, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of May, 2025 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 27th day of February 2025.
Janet Owens Hammond, Executrix
2706 Wedgedale Ave.
Durham, NC 27703
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000141-310
The undersigned, Carla Carrough, having duly qualified as Administratrix of the Estate of ROSIE C. HARPER, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, within ninety (90) days of the first publication of this Notice or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
This the 27th day of February, 2025.
Carla Carrough, Administratrix
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000160-310
The undersigned, Helen Marie McNeil Price, having duly qualified as Executrix of the Estate of ORENE SUE VEASEY STEWARD, deceased, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to

present them to the undersigned in care of Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney for the Estate, 3400 Croasdaile Dr., Ste 205, Durham, NC 27705, within ninety (90) days of the first publication of this notice or it will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons and legal entities indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
This the 27th day of February, 2025.
Helen Marie McNeil Price, Executrix
C/O Ronald G. Coulter, Attorney
3400 Croasdaile Drive Ste 205
Durham, NC 27705
1-919-246-5775
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000172-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of February 2025, as Executor of the Estate Of FLORENTINE HARRIS, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 29th day of May, 2025 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 27th day of February 2025.
Nayati Shamir Harris, Executor
806 Buxton Street
Durham, NC, 27713
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND
File Number 25E000131-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of February 2025, as Executor of the ESTATE OF JOHN DAVID CRONIN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of May, 2025 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 27th day of February 2025.
Ann Louise Magnes, Executor
Estate of John David Cronin
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND
File Number 25E000122-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 11th day of February 2025, as Administrator of the ESTATE OF DEREK JANSEN ROSE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of May, 2025 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 27th day of February 2025.
Zoe Rose Duffie, Administrator
Estate of Derek Jansen Rose
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
240 Leigh Farm Rd, Ste 100
Durham, North Carolina 27707
2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND DEBTORS OF WILLIAM ALLEN MCFARLAND
File Number 25E000101-310
All persons, firms and corporations having claims against WILLIAM ALLEN MCFARLAND, late of Durham County, North Carolina, are notified to exhibit them to Annette Wilson as Executor of the decedent's estate on or before May 29, 2025, c/o Brittany N. Porter, Attorney at Law, 1414 Raleigh Rd., Ste. 203, Chapel Hill, NC 27517, or be barred from their recovery. Debtors of the decedent are asked to make immediate payment to the above-named Executor.
This, the 27th day of February 2025.
Lori Allsbrook
c/o Brittany N. Porter, Atty.
TrustCounsel
1414 Raleigh Rd., Ste. 203
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

2/27, 3/6, 3/13, & 3/20/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002551-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 5th day of December 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF IRMA ROBINSON DUNNEGAN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 21th day of May, 2025 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 20th day of February 2025.
Jerry Darryl Dunnegan, Executor
3011 Laws Store Road
Hurdle Mills, NC 27541
2/20, 2/27, 3/6, & 3/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000152-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 12th day of February 2025, as Administrator C.T.A of the ESTATE OF LINDA HOLLAND CHIARALUCE, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 21th day of May, 2025 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 20th day of February 2025.
Jessica Chiaraluce
Administrator C.T.A
c/o Bagwell Holt Smith P.A.
111 Cloister Court, Suite 200
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
2/20, 2/27, 3/6, & 3/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000134-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 10th day of February 2025, as Executor of the ESTATE OF ROBERT PARKER SNIFFEN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 21th day of May, 2025 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 20th day of February 2025.
Parker Clifton Sniffen, Executor
Estate of Robert Parker Sniffen
c/o Jennifer Dalman, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
240 Leigh Farm Rd, Ste 100
Durham, NC 27707
2/20, 2/27, 3/6, & 3/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000093-310
Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Danny McCoy Daye deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of DANNY MCCOY DAYE to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This the 13th day of February, 2025.
Shayetta E. Lindsey-Daye, Executor
c/o John W. Perry
Attorney for the Estate of Danny McCoy Daye
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File No. 25E000127-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the ESTATE OF MARGARET RILEY, late of Durham 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 16th day of May 2025, 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.
Ann Roy, Executor
Estate of Margaret Riley
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Estate of Christene Jo Hitchcock
File No. 25E000132-310
The undersigned, having qualified as Executor of the Estate of Christene Jo Hitchcock deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina hereby notifies all persons, firms and corporations having claims against the Estate to present such claims to the undersigned at the address below on or before the 13th day of May 2025, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms and corporations indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
This is the 13th day of February 2025.
Michael Hitchcock, Executor
136 Dennis Ct.
Clemmons, NC 27012
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000155-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of KATHRYN RAINEY, late of Durham 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 16th day of May 2025, 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.
Mark A. Kuhn, Executor
2821 Wade Rd.
Durham, NC 27705
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000148-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JESSIE TAYLOR HOLLEMAN A/K/A DOROTHY JESSIE TAYLOR HOLLEMAN, late of Durham 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 16th day of May 2025, 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.
Susan Caviness, Executor
2413 Patterson Rd.
Durham, NC 27704
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
FILE NO. 24E002620-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 23rd day of December 2024, as Administrator of the ESTATE OF BENJAMIN KOLIN MARTIN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of May, 2025 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 13th day of February 2025
Karla Martin Curran
Administrator
Estate of Benjamin Kolin Martin
c/o Richard G. Long III, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,

Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000073-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as ADMINISTRATOR of the Estate of MARION D. COUCH, late of Durham 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 16th day of May 2025, 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.
Bonita D. Couch, Administrator
1000 Arnette Ave.
Durham, NC 27707
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000085-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of TERRY JOHN HEINDEL, late of Durham County, North Carolina, hereby wishes to notify all STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000142-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JERRY LEE NOWELL, late of Durham 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 16th day of May 2025, 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 is the 13th day of February, 2025.
Lesley N. Day, Executor
213 Desert Tree Court
Cary, NC 27519
2/13, 2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000096-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of ANNIE LOU HAMLETT, late of Durham 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 9th day of May 2025, 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 is the 6th day of February, 2025.
Nancy H. Tillman, Co-Executor
1821 Grady Drive
Durham, NC 27712
Randall J. Hamlett, Co-Executor
217 W. Scarlett Mtn Rd.
Hillsborough, NC 27278
2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000059-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Diana Jean Roberts deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Diana Jean Roberts to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This the 6th day of February, 2025.
John W. Perry, Administrator
Perry, Perry & Perry, P.A
Attorneys at Law

Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000058-310
Having qualified as Administrator of the Estate of Roderick Eugene Roberts deceased, this is to notify all persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the Estate of Robert Eugene Roberts to present them to the undersigned within three months from the date of the first date of publication of this Notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons, firms, and corporations indebted to said Estate, please make immediate payment.
This the 6th day of February, 2025.
John W. Perry, Administrator
Perry, Perry & Perry, P.A
Attorneys at Law
Post Office Drawer 2051
Durham, North Carolina 27702
Telephone: (919) 683-8685
2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 24E002506-310
THE UNDERSIGNED, having qualified on the 26th day of November 2024, as Executor of the ESTATE OF EDWIN DOYLE GRIFFIN, Deceased, of Durham County, North Carolina, does hereby notify all persons, firms and corporations having claims against said Estate to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 7th day of May, 2025 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 6th day of February, 2025.
Stuart Doyle Griffin, Executor
Estate of Edwin Doyle Griffin
c/o Shirley M. Diefenbach, Attorney
Walker Lambe, PLLC
Post Office Box 51549
Durham, North Carolina 27717
2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 25E000088-310
The Undersigned, having qualified as EXECUTOR of the Estate of JEAN MARY KEENE, late of Durham 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 9th day of May 2025, 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 is the 6th day of February, 2025.
Paul L. Keene, Executor
c/o Marion Law Office, PLLC
2741 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DURHAM COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
File Number 25E000091-310
The undersigned having qualified as Executor of the Estate of MARY B. McLELLAND, Deceased, late of Durham 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 10th day of May, 2025, or this Notice will be in bar of their recovery.
All persons indebted to the Estate will please make immediate payment.
This is the 6th day of February, 2025.
Robert McLelland, III, Executor,
Estate of Mary B. McLelland, Deceased
Robert A. Idol, Esquire
IDOL LAW, PLLC
Attorney at Law
PO Box 51759
Durham, NC 27717
(919) 401.5151
2/6, 2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

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Classifieds

ORANGE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
ORANGE COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY
PROCESS OF PUBLICATION
In The General Court Of Justice
District Court Division
FILE NO.: 25JT000004-670,
25JT000003-670,
IN RE: "C.C. & L.C."
DOB: 6/7/21 & 7/1/22
TO: Biological father/Father/
Donte Jones/unknown father of
the above female and male child,
respectfully, born at Rex Hospital in
Raleigh, NC to Jameisha Holloway.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a
Petition has been filed to terminate
your parental rights to the above-
referenced minor child. You have
forty days from 2/13/2025, the first
date of publication of this Notice
to respond to said Petition by filing
a written answer to the petition
with the Orange Clerk of Court.
Your parental rights to the juvenile
may be terminated upon failure to
answer the petitions within the time
prescribed.
Any attorney appointed
previously in an abuse, neglect or
dependency proceeding and still

representing you shall continue to
represent you. If you are indigent
and not already represented by
an attorney, you are entitled to
a court-appointed attorney by
contacting the Orange County
Clerk of Court.
STEPHENSON & FLEMING, L.L.P.
BY: /s/ DEANA K. FLEMING
Attorney for Petitioner,
ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF SOCIAL SERVICES
109 Conner Dr. Suite 208
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514
Telephone: (919) 869-7795
2/13, 2/20, & 2/27/2025

CARTERET COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
CARTERET COUNTY
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY
PUBLICATION
File Number 20-CVS-1127
Thomas Matthews and Blair
Matthews v. Richard A. Denzler,
Jr., Jennifer May Denzler, Hugh
Gilleece, III, Hugh Gilleece, IV, and
Emily Kuttner and Tradewinds
Mobile Home Park, Inc.
v. Tony Tripp, Sarah Tripp, Donald
H. Arnold, Rebecca Arnold, et al

To: Donald H. Arnold & Rebecca
Arnold, Defendants
Take notice that a pleading
has been filed against you in
the above-titled action. You are
named as a nominal defendant
and owner of an interest in the
Tradewinds Mobile Home Park.
The pleading seeks declaratory
judgment and injunctive relief
against the enforcement of certain
restrictive covenants, bylaws,
and rules and regulations of the
Tradewinds Mobile Home Park. To
the extent that you have, or assert,
any interest in the enforcement of
these, you are required to make
defense to such pleading no later
than the 14th of April, 2025, such
date being at least 40 days from
the first publication of this notice.
Upon your failure to do so, any
party seeking relief against you
may apply to the court for the relief
sought.
This is the 17th day of February,
2025.
Hugh J. Gilleece, III
c/o Daniel J. Finegan
(NC Bar No. 36754)
Hamilton Stephens Steele + Martin,
PLLC
525 North Tryon Street, Suite 1400
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
704-344-1117
2/20, 2/27, & 3/6/2025

WAKE COUNTY

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 24E002613-910
THE UNDERSIGNED, having
qualified on July, 24, 2024, as
Administrator of the ESTATE OF
RONALD GAITHER, Deceased, of
Wake County, North Carolina, does
hereby notify all persons, firms and
corporations having claims against
said Estate to exhibit them to the
undersigned on or before the 21th
day of May, 2025 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 20th day of February
2025.
Michael Anthony Gaither,
Administrator, by and through
Attorney Steve Monks
6613 Speight Circle
Raleigh, NC 27616
919.213.8084
2/20, 2/27, 3/6, & 3/13/2025
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
In the General Court of Justice,
Superior Court Division
Before the Clerk
File Number 23E006255-910
The Undersigned, having
qualified as EXECUTOR of the
Estate of KEVIN JOSEPH RODDEN
A/K/A KEVIN J. RODDEN, 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 16th day
of May 2025, 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 is the 13th day of February,
2025.
Alice Ann Rodden, Executor
4808 Greenpoint Lane
Holly Springs, NC 27540

Classifieds

D/M/WBE
SUBCONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS WANTED
T. A. Loving Company (NC General Contractor License No. 325) is seeking certified DBE, MBE, and WBE subcontractors and suppliers for the **Lebanon Church Road 16 Inch Water Main project for Columbus County** which bids on **March 6, 2025, at 2:00 PM**. Plans and specifications for this project are available at the following locations: T. A. Loving Company; 400 Patetown Road; Goldsboro, NC 27530 * Columbus County; 127 West Webster Street - 3rd Floor; Whiteville, NC 28472 * Green Engineering, PLLC; 303 Goldsboro Street, East; Wilson, NC 27893 * ConstructConnect website.
Potential subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to surveying, hauling, asphalt paving, striping, traffic control, erosion control, linework, jack & bore, bypass pumping, flatwork, and directional drilling. Please contact Jeff Price (jprice@taloving.com) if you are interested in submitting a proposal on any portion(s) of this project. Contact via phone 919-734-8400; fax: 919-736-2148; or email. All quotations will be accepted up to the closing time of the bid date. T. A. Loving Company is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.
Please advise if assistance is needed with obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or insurance/bonding to satisfy the work requirements. We are willing to accept quotations for all or partial quantities and items of work. We can offer 2-party check payments and quick payment agreements, but the agreements need to be negotiated prior to the bid date.

WANTED WBE, MBE & DBE BIDS
for the following job:
East Carolina University
Ormond Way and Bennett Way - Repair and Repave
Project# AiM-CP-2086 Pitt Co. Bid Date: March 11th
These projects 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@stwc corp.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.



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NC House Passes \$500M In Helene Aid, \$100 Boost To Weekly Unemployment

NC Newsline—The North Carolina House approved a pair of key bills Tuesday, passing the next round of Hurricane Helene relief and an increase in the state's weekly unemployment payouts.

Both measures received bipartisan support; the Helene aid bill now heads to the Senate, where leaders have been quiet about their exact plans. The unemployment bill requires one more vote to pass the House.

House Bill 47, state lawmakers' third round of aid for western North Carolina, sends \$500 million in new spending to the mountains. It passed the House unanimously.

The relief bill includes \$150 million for a new homebuilding program, \$150 million for agricultural relief and \$100 million to repair private roads and bridges in the region.

Efforts by the legislature to get new money flowing have taken on a new sense of urgency with questions plentiful and mounting at the federal level, months after the storm. Officials had already expected months-long delays on money to rebuild homes. And reported White House cuts to key offices could further complicate another bundle of money arriving on time.

Rep. Dudley Greene (R-Avery), one of the lead sponsors of the bill, said it would address "immediate needs" in the mountains.

"We all hope that that money will start flowing soon," said Greene. "But I fully expect that this won't be the last that will be needed. In this or future sessions."

The bill marks the General Assembly's largest investment in Helene relief since mid-October, when it approved a \$600 million aid bill. And it brings the state's total spending on Helene to about \$1.1 billion.

Gov. Josh Stein and his fellow Democrats have continued to urge, without success, higher levels of spending in the latest round of aid. Stein requested \$1 billion earlier this month, including money for a small business grant program and for schools to fund summer classes.

"We are five months out from this storm," said Rep. Lindsey Prather (D-Buncombe). "We've got to move quicker, and we've got to spend more. We have a rainy day fund for a reason. Let's use it."

House Speaker Destin Hall (R-Caldwell) told reporters Tuesday that the current approach to sending aid allowed for further transparency on how the money has spent. Republicans remain wary of disaster relief after one of the offices leading recovery efforts in eastern North Carolina in response to past hurricanes ran up a major deficit.

"Instead of just passing one bill and sending all of that money to the governor in one go, we're going to have oversight of it over time," Hall said.

It remains to be seen whether the Senate will make major changes to the aid bill. Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) said earlier this month that the chamber could either take up the House bill or begin moving its own.

House OKs unemployment hike to \$450 weekly

The House also gave initial approval to a bill boosting the state's weekly unemployment payouts by \$100 on Tuesday.

House Bill 48 would raise North Carolina's maximum weekly payment from the current \$350 to \$450. It earned initial approval in the House on a 115-1 vote.


The bill would mark the first increase in unemployment benefits since they were slashed almost a decade ago. Facing with repaying a federal loan from in the aftermath of the Great Recession, lawmakers in 2013 dramatically cut the total length of unemployment eligibility and capped the weekly payment at \$350. Since then, North Carolina's unemployment benefits have been among the least generous in the country.

When first introduced, the bill increased the weekly payment to \$400. A Democratic-led push to boost it further, to \$450, found bipartisan support during the committee process.


The increase, if it becomes law, would spend around \$584 million from the state's unemployment fund over the next five years, according to legislative staff's analysis. But the staff still expects the fund to "continue to increase," even with increased benefits.

After Hurricane Helene, former Gov. Roy Cooper issued an executive order increasing the maximum weekly unemployment check to \$600. That order expires March 1.

The bill both ratifies that executive order while also declaring that the governor did not have the authority to issue it in the first place. Democrats have expressed concerns that the language could stop governors from moving to respond to future disasters effectively.



2025 NCDOT TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHEDULE



RALEIGH
Wake Technical Community College
Western Wake Campus
3434 Kildaire Farm Road
Cary, N.C. 27518


CONCORD
Rowan Cabarrus Community College
South Campus - Bldg S201/Room 107
1531 Trinity Church Road
Concord, N.C. 28027

LUMBERTON
Robeson Community College
Trust Conference Room
5160 Fayetteville Road
Lumberton, N.C. 28360

HICKORY
Western Piedmont Council of Governments
WPCOG Conference Room
1880 2nd Ave NW
Hickory, N.C. 28601

DATES	COURSE TOPICS	RALEIGH	CONCORD	LUMBERTON	HICKORY
April 2025	Construction Plan Reading	April 3	April 10	April 17	April 24
May 2025	Drones (UAS) & Construction Surveying	n/a	May 15	May 29	n/a
June 2025	Erosion Control	June 12	n/a	n/a	June 19
July 2025	Navigating NCDOT Contracts	n/a	July 10	July 24	n/a
August 2025	Incidental Concrete	Aug. 14	n/a	n/a	Aug. 28
September 2025	Work Zone Traffic Control	n/a	Sept. 11	Sept. 25	n/a
October 2025	Clearing, Grubbing & Excavation	Oct. 9	n/a	n/a	Oct. 23
November 2025	Construction Hauling	Nov. 6	Nov. 13	n/a	n/a

The 2025 NCDOT Technical Training Series is a program that offers various courses to small highway construction contractors interested in working on NCDOT projects. Each course will cover NCDOT Standard Specifications and Drawings, lettings & bidding, project management, invoicing and payment, equipment requirements, and more. Courses will be held in Raleigh, Concord, Lumberton, and Hickory and will be taught in-person by NCDOT engineers, prime contractors, and other industry professionals. To register, please visit the website: www.ncdot.gov/highwaystechtraining. For questions, please email: ccu@ncdot.gov or call: 984-810-9276.



Sports

They Told Her Women Shouldn't Box. Now She's A Champion

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — When Abigail Kwartekaa Quartey decided as a teenager to become a professional boxer — an unusual choice for a young woman in a working-class neighborhood of Ghana’s capital of Accra — her family begged her to stop training.

Boxing is the pride of Jamestown, which is based around the fishing industry and also known for being home to many boxing stars. But like most sports in Ghana, boxing has often been seen as for men only, and women are discouraged from taking part.

But Quartey persisted.

And last year, at age 27, she became Ghana’s first female world boxing champion and the first woman to travel the world as a member of the West African nation’s national team.

“My aunts and siblings didn’t like it when I started boxing. They would come here to beg my coach not to let me become a boxer,” she said at the Jamestown neighborhood’s Black Panthers Gym where Quartey has been training since her teenage years.

But when last November Quartey



defeated British boxer Sangeeta Birdi in Jamestown’s main boxing area, winning the WIBF World Super Bantamweight title, crowds of friends and supporters from the neighborhood celebrated wildly, seemingly forgetting about the prejudice against female boxers.

Ghanaian media pronounced her win “history,” but Quartey is quick to point out that she is by no means the first female boxer in Ghana.

“There were women in boxing before I ventured into boxing,” she said. But they weren’t allowed to travel outside the country, she added.

Quartey’s long road to this spectacular victory highlights the many challenges that female athletes in African countries face in their careers.

Quartey grew up in Jamestown and, as a teenager, sold rice with her aunt to help the family make ends meet. The only people who supported her boxing dream were her brother, a fellow boxer, and her coach.

In 2017, she stopped boxing and

started selling lottery tickets to earn money. It took a lot of convincing from her coach to get her back into the ring in 2021. She could not afford a manager, and feared she would not make it without one.

In Ghana, she said, “female boxers do not receive much support and it is difficult to keep training.”

‘BIG DEAL’ FOR EVERYONE

Sarah Lotus Asare, a boxing coach and the project lead for the Girls Box Tournament, said Quartey’s world title meant a lot for all boxers in Ghana.

“Even for the male boxers, when they fight with non-Africans, it’s very difficult for them to win, because they have a lot more facilities and equipment than we do,” she said.

Quartey’s title is “a big deal for her, the gym, the community, Ghana, Africa and the world at large,” said her coach, Ebenezer “Coach Killer” Adjei, as he watched her train during an afternoon session at the Black Panthers Gym.

But for Quartey, what counts the most is the impact on young women from her neighborhood.

She wants more women to become professional athletes.

“I am a world title holder and that confirms that what a man can do, a woman can also do,” she said.

Training next to her was 18-year-old Perpetual Okaijah, who said her family had also tried to dissuade her from going to the gym, arguing that it was for men only. But she has kept on coming anyway.

“I look up to Abigail because she’s a very tough girl,” she said. “She inspires me, shows me the right thing.”

HBCU Legacy Bowl Week

Spotlight

JOAQUIN DAVIS, WR, NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL

Davis had an excellent HBCU Combine earlier in the week, running a 4.44-second 40-yard dash and posting a vertical of 40 1/2 inches. He’s more of a straight-line receiver right now, but he caught a pass on a curl route and turned it upfield in the game, showing he’s not just a go-up-and-get-it guy downfield. I like his combination of length, size (6-4 1/8, 192 pounds) and speed. What NFL teams might like even more is how he approached playing special teams all week long. He showed a strong grasp of that phase in practice and made a nice open-field tackle on a punt return in the game. Those things can get him noticed in a camp if he gets an opportunity.

HIP HOP

Continued from page 6



Kraftwerk’s “Trans-Europe Express” and “Numbers” to energize b-boys and b-girls; for house, it meant extending disco’s rhythmic pulse into an ecstatic, inclusive dance floor. Both genres exemplified — and continue to exemplify — the ingenuity of predominantly Black and Hispanic communities who turned limited resources into cultural revolutions.

From this shared origin of technological experimentation, cultural resilience and creative ingenuity, hip-hop and house music grew into distinct yet globally influential movements.

The message and the MIDI

By the early 1980s, both genres had found their feet.

Hip-hop emerged as a powerful voice for storytelling, resistance and identity. Building on the foundations laid down by DJ Kool Herc, artists like Afrika Bambaataa emphasized hip-hop’s cultural and communal aspects. Meanwhile, Grandmaster Flash elevated the genre’s technical artistry with innovations like cutting and scratching.

By 1984, hip-hop had evolved from its grassroots beginnings in the Bronx into a cultural movement on the cusp of mainstream recognition. Run-DMC’s self-titled debut album released that year introduced a harder, stripped-down sound that departed from disco-influenced beats. Their music, paired with the trio’s Adidas tracksuits and gold chains, established an aesthetic that resonated far beyond New York City. Music videos on MTV gave hip-hop a new medium for storytelling, while films like “Beat Street” and “Breakin’” showcased the features and tenets of hip-hop culture: DJing, rapping, graffiti, breaking and knowledge of self — cementing its cultural presence, and presenting it to a world outside the U.S.

But at its core, hip-hop remained a voice for the voiceless that sought to address systemic inequities through storytelling. Tracks like Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five’s “The Message” vividly depicted the reality of living in poor, urban communities, while Public Enemy’s “Fight the Power” and Tupac Shakur’s “Keep Ya Head Up” became anthems for social justice.

Together these artists positioned hip-hop as a platform for resistance and empowerment.

Becoming a cultural force

Unlike hip-hop’s lyrical storytelling, house music focused on the physicality of rhythm and the collective experience of the dance floor. And as hip-hop moved away from disco, house leaned into it.

Italy’s “father of disco,” Giorgio Moroder, showed the way with his pioneering use of synthesizers in Donna Summer’s “I Feel Love.” Over in New York, Larry Levan’s DJ sets at Paradise Garage demonstrated how electronic instruments could create immersive, emotionally charged experiences as a club that centered crowd participation through dance and not lyrics.

By 1984, Chicago DJs Frankie Knuckles and Ron Hardy were repurposing disco tracks with drum machines like the Roland TR-808 and 909 to create hypnotic beats. Knuckles, known as the “Godfather of House,” transformed his sets at the Warehouse club into euphoric experiences, giving the genre its name in the process.

House music thrived on inclusivity, served as a safe space for Black and Latino members of the LGBTQ+ communities at a time when hip-hop was severely unwelcoming of gay men. Tracks like Jesse Saunders’ “On & On” and Marshall Jefferson’s “Move Your Body” celebrated freedom, love and unity, encapsulating its liberatory spirit, as rap music and hip-hop culture embarked on its mainstream journey with songs like Run DMC’s “Sucker M.C.s (Krush Groove)” and Salt-N-Pepa debuted their album “Hot, Cool, & Vicious.”

As with hip-hop, by the the mid-1980s house music had become a cultural force, spreading from Chicago to Detroit, to New York and, eventually, to the U.K.’s rave scene. Its emphasis on repetition, rhythm and electronic instrumentation solidified its global appeal, uniting people across identities and geographies.

Mainstays in modern music

Despite their differences, moments of crossover highlight their shared DNA.

From the late 1980s, tracks like Fast Eddie’s “Yo Yo Get Funky” and the Jungle Brothers’ “I’ll House You” merged house beats with hip-hop’s lyrical flow. Artists like Kaytranada and DoeChii continue to blend the two genres today, staying true to the genres’ legacies while pushing their boundaries.

And technology continues to drive both genres. Platforms like SoundCloud have democratized music production, allowing emerging artists to build on the decades of innovations that preceded them. Collaborations, such as Disclosure and Charli XCX’s “She’s Gone, Dance On,” highlight their adaptability and enduring appeal.

Whether through hip-hop’s lyrical narratives or house’s rhythmic euphoria, these genres continue to inspire, challenge and transcend.

As the 2025 Grammy Awards celebrate today’s leading house and hip-hop artists and their contemporary achievements, it is clear that the legacies of these two genres are mainstays in the kaleidoscope of American popular music and culture, having come a long way from back-to-school park jams and underground dance parties.

