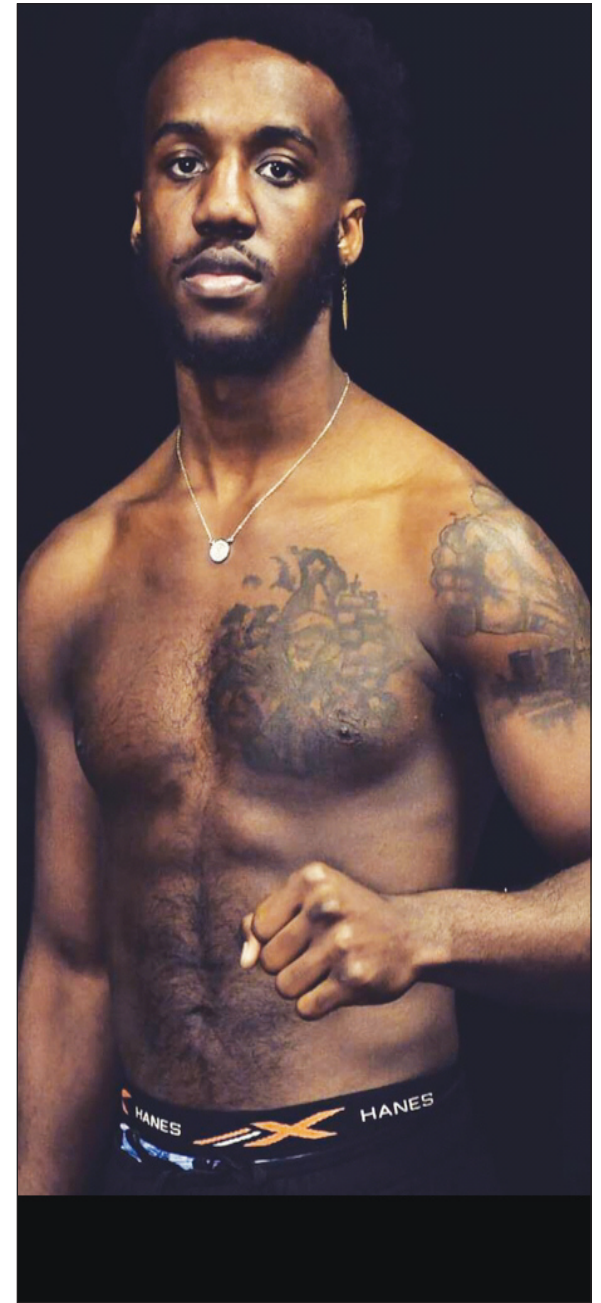


The Annapolis Times

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Mack 'Papi' Allison IV Continues on Road to Boxing Greatness



When Mack Allison IV next steps inside the boxing ring at the Waldorf Cultural Center on Saturday, May 4, 2017, the 21-year-old Baltimore lightweight hopes he'll emerge with another victory that pushes him closer to a world title bout. Known as "Papi," the scheduled match will be the 13th of Allison's young career, one that has been heavily influenced by his father, Baltimore legend Mack Allison III. Photos (right): Mack IV poses with his father when he was an amateur in 2013.

(Left): Photo taken in 2017. (See article on page 9) Courtesy Photos

What you need to know about dog bites

By Raymond Pensy, MD

This article is part of the #STCPreventionMatters campaign from the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center, University of Maryland. For more information about the campaign and the Center for Injury Prevention and Policy, visit www.umm.edu/PreventionMatters

Dogs are one of the most popular pets in the United States and they are the top choice of pets among children. In 2001, an estimated 68 million homes had a dog. Between 30-40 percent of households in the U.S., Australia, and the U.K. own a dog.

Owning a dog can have many benefits. For children, it can help teach responsibility and encourage social development. For families, dogs can help provide a sense of security and companionship. Even more, service dogs help countless people with physical and emotional disabilities.

However, an estimated 4.7 million people in the U.S. are bitten by dogs every year. About 800,000 of them need medical treatment, and roughly 2,000 have to stay in a hospital overnight. Roughly 15 people every year are killed by dog bites. Bites most commonly affect the arm/hand (45.3 percent), leg/foot (25.8 percent), and head/neck (22.8 percent).

Even worse, over half of all people who are seriously injured are children between five and nine years old. Children are also the most likely to die following a dog-bite than any other age group.

Each year, these injuries result in \$51 million in healthcare costs, and over \$500 million in homeowner's insurance claims.



An estimated 4.7 million people in the United States are bitten by dogs every year. Even worse, over half of all people who are seriously injured are children between five and nine years old.

Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

What can we do to prevent these injuries?

The CDC recommends three ways to decrease the risk of dog bites:

- Owner and community education
- Animal control at the community level
- Dog bite reporting

For those interested in owning a dog, here are a few helpful tips:

- Ask a vet for advice before bringing a dog into the home
- Do not bring dogs with a history of aggression into a home with children
- Get to know the dog before you buy it
- If the child(ren) seem afraid of the dog, consider waiting a few months before you buy it
- Spay/ neuter the dog (this will make it less aggressive and unable to have babies)

•Do not “rough house” or wrestle with the dog

Like any animal, dogs will show certain warning signs when they feel like someone or something is going to hurt them.

Signs that should alert, that the dog maybe more likely to bite include:

- Growling
- Bearing its teeth
- Hair standing on end
- Laid back ears
- Lowered head
- Rigid posture on all fours

Children should be taught not to approach an unfamiliar dog, and if threatened by one, not to make direct eye contact. Do not run and scream; instead stand still “like a tree.” If attacked, they should curl into a ball, and lay “still as a log.”

In our experience at Shock Trauma,

the worst injuries happen when an owner tries to break up a dogfight. No one should ever use their own body to break up a dog fight. Cases have resulted in near amputation, disfigurement and even death. In one situation, a woman's forearm bone was completely removed by the powerful grip of the dog bite, and both of her forearms and one of her hands became nearly useless.

Dogs that are in a heated battle will attack whatever is in front of them. Trying to use your hands to grab the collar or the dog's head or neck will only lead to a severe bite. Instead, stay clear! If you witness a serious dogfight, many vets recommend distracting the dogs with a loud noise, throwing cold water or spraying the dogs if a hose is available, or possibly throwing a blanket over the dogs. People should realize that placing themselves in between fighting dogs will almost always result in serious bodily harm.

When a dog bite occurs:

- Get information on the dog's immunization status and ask for its records from the owner
- Seek medical attention immediately
- Notify animal control. In some states, the law requires reporting any dog bite that requires medical attention.

Raymond Pensy, MD, is an Associate Professor of Orthopaedics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and an Orthopaedic Surgeon with the Division of Orthopaedic Traumatology at the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center at the University of Maryland Medical Center. He specializes in hand and reconstructive microsurgery and a substantial portion of his practice is committed to limb salvage.

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Morgan names new dean for School of Education and Urban Studies

Baltimore— Morgan State University (MSU) President David Wilson has named Glenda M. Prime, Ph.D. as the new dean for the School of Education and Urban Studies (SEUS).

The appointment comes following the retirement of the school's long-serving dean, Patricia L. Welch, Ph.D. and upon the recommendation of the Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Anna McPhatter, Ph.D., after an extensive national search.

Dr. Prime, who most recently served as a full professor at Morgan and the chair of the Department of Advanced Studies, Leadership and Policy, has been with the University since 1999. During her tenure at Morgan, she served in numerous professorial and administrative capacities, including as an associate professor and coordinator of Graduate Programs in Mathematics and Science Education (1999 to 2008) and as acting chair of the Department of Advanced Studies, Leadership and Policy until assuming the position permanently in 2009.

"When we embarked on a national

search to replace someone as renowned as former Dean Patricia Welch, I knew that we had our work cut out for us. However, sometimes the best person for the job is already working for you and on this occasion that person was Dr. Glenda Prime," said President David Wilson. "Dr. Prime not only brings to the role of dean a wealth of experience and an intimate knowledge of what makes the School of Education and Urban Studies great, but also the respect of her peers and a shared vision for where the school should go in order to prepare the students of tomorrow."

"Urban learners within the K-20 spectrum face a myriad of challenges—some old, some new—that demand bold and innovative approaches to teacher preparation, research that seeks answers to some of the most persistent problems of outcomes disparity, and the formation of effective partnerships between higher education and the K-12 sector," said Dean Prime. "I am committed to unlocking the full potential of the faculty, staff and students of the School of Education



Dr. Glenda M. Prime has been appointed the new dean for the School of Education and Urban Studies to provide leadership and direction following the retirement of the school's long-time dean, Patricia L. Welch, Ph.D.

Courtesy Photo/MSU

and Urban Studies in the pursuit of these goals."

The School of Education and Urban Studies is comprised of three departments: Advanced Studies, Leadership and Policy; Teacher Education and Professional Development; and Family and Consumer Sciences. The school has an enrollment of more than 1000 students in a total of 12 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and currently produces the largest number of doctoral degrees of any other department in the university. The school's mission is to prepare a culturally and ethnically diverse student body to serve with distinction in the field of education and urban studies. SEUS graduates hold prominent positions in education in the state and across the nation, including community college presidents, university faculty and school administrators and classroom teachers.

For more information about Morgan State University, visit: www.morgan.edu.

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Editorials/Letters

It's Murder She Wrote, Not Marijuana

"It's counterproductive for us to continue to pursue and prosecute marijuana cases when we have the level of violence that is plaguing our communities, when we have homicide clearance rates that we still have to tackle," was the response of Baltimore City States Attorney, Marilyn Mosby, to the ruling of judges from Baltimore's District and Circuit courts denying her request to dismiss 4790 pot convictions.

Last Friday, Judges, W. Michel Pierson of the Circuit Court and Kathleen Sweeney of District Court denied the request Mosby made last January. The 1000 cases pending in Circuit Court and 3790 before the District Court were rejected out-of-hand by the jurists without allowing Mosby's office to defend or refute the court's decisions.

Judge Sweeney's comments had a strident tone, bordering on personal: "Now, this same State's Attorney claims that drug enforcement in Baltimore City, presumably her own efforts, have had a disparate impact on African-Americans," Sweeney opined, referring to reports that Mosby's policy immediately after assuming office was to crackdown on street drug sales in West Baltimore.

The judge further stated: "With 3,778 opportunities, the State fails to identify any actual single consequence suffered by any of these individuals," noting that these same people would be eligible to possibly have their convictions expunged from their records by other means.

The City States Attorney has several valid arguments that refute Judge Sweeney's claims. First, the issue of whether or not drug enforcement by Baltimore police has a 'disparate impact on African Americans.' It has been widely reported that despite former Governor Martin O'Malley's decriminalization of Cannabis in 2014, the police department— not Mosby's office— stepped-up arrests significantly.

Cannabis citations in Baltimore went from 44 in 2015 to 200 in 2016 to 544 in 2017. In 2017, according to FBI data, all but 18 of the 544 suspects arrested for Marijuana were African American— 96.7 percent, even though usage by African Americans and Caucasians has been determined to be essentially the same. The arrest results reflect the policy of Baltimore police to concentrate their enforcement in communities of color as substantiated by the Department of Justice's 2015 investigation, which resulted in a consent decree.

Next, Judge Sweeney incredulously asserts that 'the State fails to identify any actual single consequence suffered by any of these individuals.' This position ignores the legitimate reason Mosby offered regarding how pot convictions inhibit citizen's employment prospects.

This stigma is so pervasive that the city passed "ban the box" legislation restricting private employers from inquiring into criminal history of job applicants. Recognizing that three Baltimoreans are being arrested every two days on Marijuana charges, Marilyn Mosby was spot on in her request to the courts.

The City States Attorney's most cogent explanation, which any Baltimore municipal judge should recognize and support, is the necessity to redirect resources from an activity which is on its way to becoming completely legal in the United States to address murder and other violent crime. Consider the homicide clearance rate that Mosby warns about:

The homicide clearance rate in 2018 was 43.4 percent, with 309 murders committed— meaning 175 killings went unsolved. In 2017, 51.3 percent versus 343 murders, 167 unsolved; 2016, 38.7 percent versus 318 murders, 195 unsolved; 2015, 30 percent versus 344 murders, 241 unsolved. In other words, Marilyn Mosby is sounding the alarm that there are as many as 778 murderers walking the streets of Baltimore and every resource, human and monetary, must be marshaled to solve these murders and protect citizens.



Letters to the Editor:

Editor:

Re: New Information Source for the Stuttering Community

Do you stutter? Do you know someone who does? Most people do. More than three million Americans and 70 million people across the globe stutter, but sadly it's still quite misunderstood. Help us change that.

May 13 – 19, 2019, is National Stuttering Awareness Week. To support the stuttering community, the nonprofit Stuttering Foundation launched a new website with easy-to-find information like articles, brochures, magazines,

videos, research reports and counselor referrals, with a new laptop and mobile-friendly interface.

The Stuttering Foundation has accurate, trusted information about stuttering and free help on its new website: StutteringHelp.org.

Please take a look and tell a friend.

Jane Fraser

President,
The Stuttering Foundation
StutteringHelp.org

When sending letters to the editor, your correct name, address and telephone number must be included with your submission. Your letter will not be published without the required information.

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After over 50 years of failure why does Social Promotion still have merit in Baltimore City Public Schools?

By Regi Taylor

The evidence is clear. The practice of promoting Baltimore City Public School students to successive grades despite their apparent failure to master their contemporaneous grade level curriculum is abysmal, counterproductive and shameful.

Essentially, "Social Promotion" advances and matriculates students based on three loosely defined criteria: behavior, attendance and engagement. If a student displays no egregious or outrageous disciplinary conduct, attends school more regularly than the most truant students - an amorphous standard, and demonstrates an interest in learning or a rudimentary understanding of the subject matter, he's 'successful', and moves on to the next grade or graduates.

A review of first year college performance for too many Baltimore City high school students graduating at the top of their classes will reveal that despite their 'superior' academic status compared to

their classmates many may require remedial education to become fully competitive in a higher learning environment.

Unfortunately, the practice of Social Promotion is so old and pervasive it has created several generations of 'professionals' and para-professionals whose communication skills are not sufficient to master their own native English language. This includes a few teachers.

Current Baltimore students are sometimes 'learning' from teachers who are not sufficiently learned themselves to teach speaking, writing and comprehension as dynamic subject matter, never mind providing instruction that would lead the average student to a high achievement of language eloquence.

Baltimore students' inability to articulate their native language fluently is further exacerbated by the long-time cultural stigma associated with communicating effectively referred to as "talking white." This may be true of some of their teachers as well who have encountered that same stigma in their earlier development as they themselves 'progressed' through Social Promotion during their own Baltimore City public school experiences.

Over one million immigrants from every continent come to America every year to seek their fortune, armed with superb aptitudes, skills, abilities and education. However, without a firm grasp of the standard American English language they would never be successful. The language shunned as "uncool" when spoken properly by too many native-born Americans is coveted as invaluable by newly arrived immigrants.

Social Promotion does not emphasize the critical communication skills students will eventually need to successfully navigate the educational, social, cultural and commercial worlds that

await them, in America and in the global economy.

Due in part to the shortage of entry level American workers with strong communication skills corporations have outsourced millions of customer service call center jobs overseas primarily to Central and South American, European and Asian workers.

Even though the current focus is on STEM— Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics— these professional paths are not alternatives for students who are not thoroughly fluent in English communication.

Whose idea is it— and why— to continue Social Promotion in lieu of sound, rigorous academic preparation, as the standard that has rendered generations of urban students incapable of competing in the world economy, or even in their homegrown communities as engaged citizens?

Why aren't students informed that mastering their native language can open up a world of opportunity tantamount to the success of some of their favorite sports and entertainment idols. There are performers and athletes who will substantiate that despite their level of success as viewed by the world, their potential to achieve their greatest success may have been stifled due to lack of a more thorough education, notably communication skills.

The international language of business, English acumen is not only the ticket to local academic and professional advancement but a ticket to success in the global culture and economy. An examination of Baltimoreans who have completed their secondary public school education or have been marginalized by Social Promotion, will show:

*Less than 55 percent of Baltimore residents have a high school diploma

*Roughly 30 percent have a college degree

*Officially, 15.9 percent or one in six are functionally illiterate

*Median household income is \$46,600 (U.S. median income \$61,400)

*Overall unemployment 5.6 percent (African American unemployment 14 percent)

*Underemployment (regionally) 34.3 percent

*Nearly one in four live in poverty
While people on the losing end of Social Promotion might argue that the glass is less than half empty, there is an argument to be made— albeit ominous— that the 'victims' of Social Promotion make the glass more than half full for the rest of society, relative to how slavery functioned.

Not only will the undereducated not compete for limited classroom space and financial resources for college and advanced job training, and by extension prime employment opportunities, they will likely never compete for the chance to live in better housing or achieve home ownership.

Most recipients of Social Promotion, based on current statistics, will likely become members of the perpetual underclass, the permanent class of consumers whose role in society is to routinely recycle money into the economy on subsistence wages and government assistance, profiting the merchant class and powering the urban economic treadmill.

For Baltimore students, and the city at-large, Social Promotion is a societal demotion spelled— f-a-i-l-u-r-e.

West Baltimore native, Regi Taylor is a married father of four. He is an artist, writer and media professional specializing in political history.

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Former incarcerated Baltimore woman brings opportunity to other ex-offenders

By Stacy M. Brown

To prove that ex-offenders can be rehabilitated, Koch Industries is supporting the production of “Success Beyond Bars” which profiles ex-offenders who have become successful after release.

One of those profiles is Teresa Hodge, co-founder of the Baltimore-based non-profit organization, “Mission: Launch,” and CEO of the for-profit service, R3 Score.

Hodge was once incarcerated and has now gone on to become a successful entrepreneur. She founded “Mission: Launch,” with her daughter Laurin Leonard after serving an 87-month prison sentence.

“Transitioning from prison to freedom was challenging for me. Even though I mentally fought to maintain dignity while behind the gates, when I was released from prison, I initially found it difficult to process and receive random acts of kindness, human decency and courtesies from strangers,” Hodge said. “Yet, I was filled with so much gratitude when I was treated as normal.”

Hodge has become a passionate advocate for people with criminal connections, and she says she is committed to reducing the lasting effects caused by prison.

Her nonprofit assists as many as 15 returning citizens each year and focuses on introducing technology and entrepreneurship to previously incarcerated individuals as a way of ensuring self-sufficiency. Additionally, the organization manages the Rebuilding Re-Entry Coalition, a citizen-led movement committed to creating a more just and inclusive society for returning citizens.

Hodge also plays a critical role in building strategic partnerships and



Teresa Hodge (right) with her daughter Laurin Leonard. The mother and daughter duo co-founded Mission Launch and R3 Score. Mission Launch assists as many as 15 returning citizens each year and focuses on introducing technology and entrepreneurship to previously incarcerated individuals as a way of ensuring self-sufficiency.
Courtesy Photo

establishing social enterprise models for greater reach and sustainability.

“I left prison 100 percent committed to building solutions that would help me and help other people,” she said. “Not one person I encountered in prison said ‘they can’t wait to be released so that they can come back.’ Obviously, there’s a disconnect— people would say they can’t get a job and they can’t reconnect back in the community; and I’d hear all the ways they feel challenged and I think somewhere in those moments of being hopeless, bad decisions were made or individuals just went back to doing what was familiar.”

Hodge, who is also a certified life coach says a big part of her mission is

offering hope and an opportunity.

“That’s what people need, an opportunity which gives them hope, and for many that means showing them how to become entrepreneurs,” she said. Hodge was profiled in Black Enterprise Magazine where it was noted that her organization received a \$50,000 Small Business Administration grant in 2014, to help respond to the needs of the roughly 70 percent who have served time in prison and are unable to find employment.

While Mission Launch is just one of the two businesses started by Hodge and her daughter, Black Enterprise reported that it appears that their most powerful financial game changer will be R3 Score, which

can be thought of as a FICO score for the formerly incarcerated.

It allows for a chance to level the playing field for ex-inmates who seek financial security by means of entrepreneurship.

“Often when bankers do a credit check or a background check, they [will] find out that you have an arrest or conviction record. In finding out that information, they are uncomfortable with giving you money,” Hodge said. “I am not a techie. I don’t know how to code a line but I brought a software engineer in and asked, ‘Could this rubric be turned into technology?’ He said, ‘Yes,’ and we’ve been developing it for two years [and] we are now ready to launch R3 Score.”

As spelled put on the Mission: Launch website, here is how it works: R3 Score is an online platform that enables individuals with records to respond to a few questions and, in turn, receive an equitable numerical score that can be used during the application process for occupational licensing, bank financing, commercial contracting or other such opportunities.

By creating a risk analysis tool, which uses an algorithm for background screening that is fair,” promises to improve the lives of those with criminal records by increasing access to jobs, entrepreneurship and financial products.

“Our focus is on, ‘you’ve been to prison, now what?’” Hodge said. “We get people from other organizations that have our same mindset and for those of us who’ve gone to prison, we can’t undo that— it’s a matter of what we will do with the rest of our lives.”

For more information about Mission: Launch and R3 Score, visit: www.mission-launch.org.



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Baltimore author encourages black men to seek treatment for mental health challenges

By Dareise A. Jones

Tsanonda Edwards, co-founder and director of Community Engagement for Above it All, a mental health and psychiatric rehabilitation program for Baltimore youth and their families knows all too well how difficult it is to deal with the mental health effects of trauma and loss.

So when Al Wiley, owner of Wiley Funeral Homes approached him and a group of his close friends with the charge to create an organization to help interrupt the behaviors and criminal activity that many Baltimore youth engage in which lead to their deaths, they decided to start an organization that provides therapeutic services, as well as community programs that teach life skills, promote self-love, personal values and offer positive self-talk.

These services are dear to Edwards, a Baltimore native and graduate of Morgan State University and the University of Baltimore, who says for many years he wore a mask, replete with a smile



Baltimore native Tsanonda Edwards is the author of the book, "The Extraordinary Mr. Nobody: A Beginner's Guide to Self-Healing," which tells his story about his journey to healing from the effects of trauma and loss on his mental health.
Courtesy Photo

These outings soon turned into sessions where she helped him uncover the trauma of losing his father to suicide when he was 12; to deal with his depression and anxiety; the way he viewed himself; and the need to work on his relationship with his mother and others close to him.

Edwards believes the stigma associated with revealing and seeking treatment for mental health issues, especially for black men, stems from the fear of appearing weak; fear of letting their parents and community down; and prevents them seeking treatment.

"[It's] almost like, fake it until you make it. Even if you're not okay, [you should] put your big boy or your big girl clothes on and get to work. So, I think part of it is not trying to let our parents down and wanting to appear sometimes stronger than we are in the moment. Because a lot of times we tend to think especially in the black community that any [sign] of weakness is total weakness. There are sometimes when we have to allow ourselves to be vulnerable."

Edwards says his advice for men or anyone dealing with depression, anxiety or any type of trauma is to work on scaffolding their vulnerability into a strength and to ask for help, because trying to cope alone or with drugs or alcohol only creates more problems— rather than dealing with the root of the issue.

Edwards wrote his book long before it was published. It helped him get much of what he was feeling out, but the fear of being vulnerable about his struggles with depression, anxiety and managing relationships stifled his journey to becoming an author and advocate for mental health treatment.

What he now calls a divine connection with a therapist at a middle school where he taught not only led to him getting his book published, it was also the beginning of therapeutic services that changed his life. He shared an office with the school therapist and was happy to show her the ropes and help her build relationships with students and staff. They would go out to lunch where he started sharing information about his book.

Our stories when shared with the right mental health care professional, friend or family member, can be the impetus for healing. "The Extraordinary Mr. Nobody: A Beginner's Guide to Self-Healing," tells readers his story, with takeaways that provoke thought and self-reflection, offers activities and resources for readers to start or continue their journey secure in the knowledge that they matter, their stories are important, and they too can find peace on the other side of trauma.

For more information about Tsanonda Edwards or to purchase his book, "The Extraordinary Mr. Nobody: A Beginner's Guide to Self-Healing," visit: www.tsanondacares.com

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UV to Hold 1st Annual Pastor Sandra (Sandy) Johnson Theatrical Festival

Ursula V. Battle's 'DisChord In The Choir: Pitch Please!' To Be Performed June 22-23

BALTIMORE (4/15/19) – As part of its 1st Annual Pastor Sandra (Sandy) Johnson Theatrical Festival, Unified Voices of Johns Hopkins (UV) will present Ursula V. Battle's *DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please!* The performances will take place Saturday, June 22, 2019 (2 p.m. & 7 p.m.); and Sunday, June 23, 2019 (5 p.m.) in Turner Auditorium, located in the Johns Hopkins Turner Building, 720 Rutland Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21205.

The gospel stage play is being directed by Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch (Theatrical), and Howard "Buddy" Lakins (Musical). Baltimore gospel singing trio Serenity will be performing in the production, which returns by popular demand.

The presentation is also part of UV's 25th Anniversary Calendar of Events, which also includes the "25th Anniversary Concert" being held May 19, 2019. *DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please!* is in loving tribute to the late Pastor Sandra (Sandy) Johnson, founder of Fresh Water Ministries, and a longtime member of UV. Johnson passed away on June 23, 2017. The beloved pastor was a member of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Pastoral Staff, and her many community outreach efforts included organizing Cease Fire marches in an effort to help stop violence.

"We are excited and honored to present The First Annual Sandy Johnson Theatrical Festival," said Dr. Branch, who also serves as Executive Director of UV. "The Theater Festival is being presented in commemoration of UV's 25th Anniversary and in memory of the late Rev. Sandy Johnson. Many knew her as a Women of The Cloth and a motivational speaker, but she was also a creative, talented, and inspirational singer and actress."

He added, "The Festival also takes place during the time of Sandy's birthday on August 11. We are asking everyone to come out and pay homage to this remarkable woman by supporting the Theatrical Festival and the Anniversary Concert, while also celebrating 25 years of UV's great work of spreading hope, health, and healing through harmony at



Pastor Sandra (Sandy) Johnson

Hopkins. Through this presentation, people can expect to laugh, cry, and most of all, to be uplifted as Hopkins turns into the Hippodrome."

DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please! is inclusive of soul-stirring singing, side-splitting comedy, gripping drama, and powerful ministry. The musical's riveting storyline centers around the dramatic chain of events which follows the sudden death of The United in Victory Tabernacle on the Hill Freewill Baptist Catholic and Episcopal Church of God's longtime musician, "Dr. William Nelson Madison, III".

The production also touches on addiction – particularly the struggle of a youngster named "Junior Jacobs" who becomes addicted to crack cocaine after running with the wrong crowd. Through ministry and song, this production illustrates how we can overcome addiction. *DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please!* features a powerful cadre of some of Baltimore's most talented musicians, singers, actors, actresses, and other performers.

Ursula V. Battle's "DisChord in The Choir" was last presented at Hopkins in 2015, and drew sell-out audiences and rave reviews. The reprised production – *DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please!* returns with several original cast members along with many new faces and even more hilarious, unforgettable characters.

Founded in 1993, UV is a gospel choir that consists of a diverse group of individuals with different personalities, lifestyles, and backgrounds working together to bridge the gap between the medical institution and the historic East Baltimore community.



DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please! writer Ursula V. Battle and director Dr. Gregory Wm. Branch. Courtesy Photos



Dr. Branch and gospel group Serenity, who will be performing.

Dr. Branch has directed numerous productions including *The Wiz* and *A Raisin in The Sun*. He also serves as Director of Health and Human Services for Baltimore County. Playwright Ursula V. Battle is a journalist, Public Relations professional, and CEO of Battle Stage Plays.

DisChord in The Choir: Pitch Please! is the latest work by Battle to be presented by UV and directed by Dr. Branch. Other productions include Ursula V. Battle's *The Teachers' Lounge*, *Serenity House: From Addiction to Deliverance*, *FOR BETTER OR WORSE* and *My Big Phat Ghetto FAB-ULESS* Wedding.



Leonard Stepney, Jr. returns as the charismatic preacher

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. To purchase tickets or for more information call Unified Voices at (410) 955-8888, or visit www.unifiedvoices.com. You can also call Battle Stage Plays at (443) 531-4787 or visit www.battlestageplays.com.

Mack 'Papi' Allison IV Continues on Road to Boxing Greatness

By Stacy M. Brown

When Mack Allison IV next steps inside the boxing ring at the Waldorf Cultural Center on Saturday, May 4, 2016, the 21-year-old Baltimore lightweight hopes he'll emerge with another victory that pushes him closer to a world title bout.

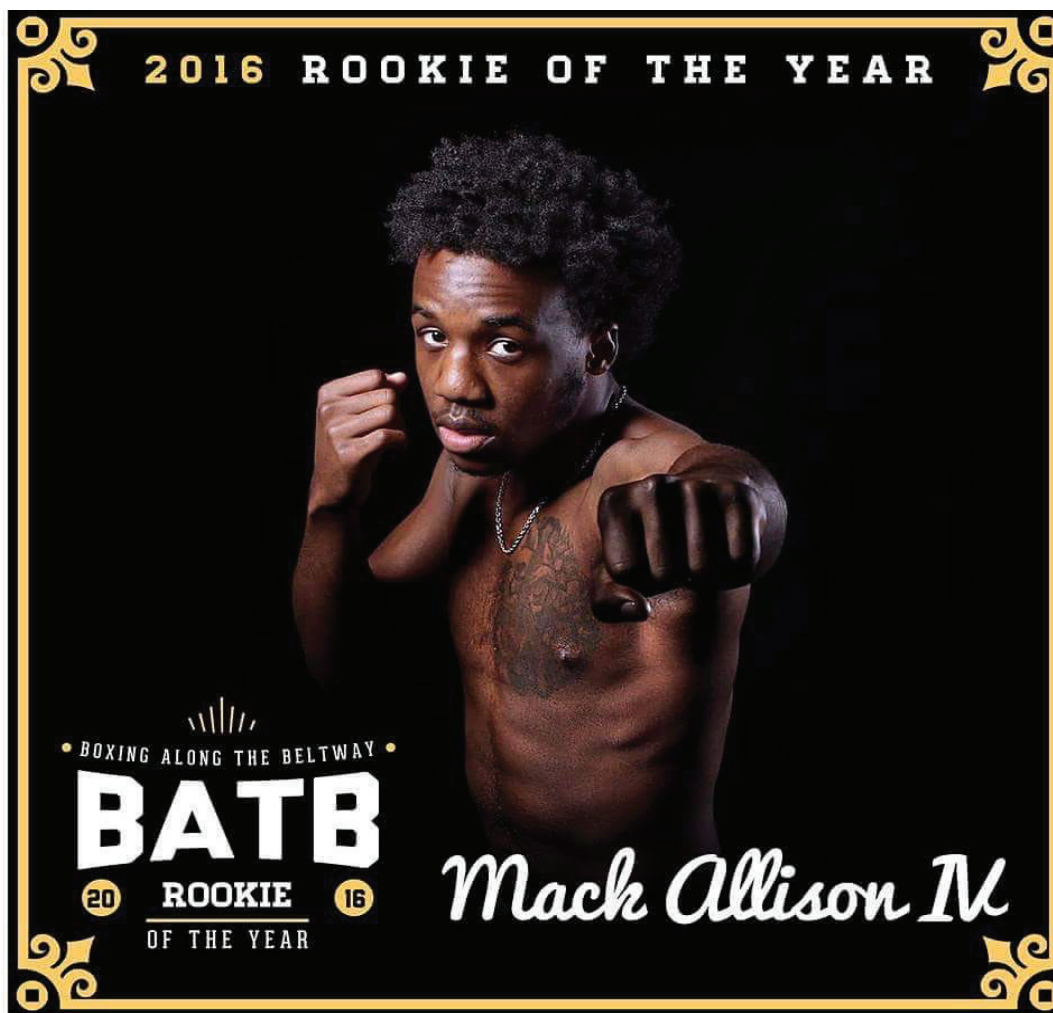
Known as "Papi," the scheduled match will be the 13th of Allison's young career, one that has been heavily influenced by his father, Baltimore legend Mack Allison III.

"My dad was the reason I started boxing," Papi Allison said. "When I was four years old, I used to watch him work out and hit the bag, and it was love at first sight."

With a professional record of nine wins, two defeats and one draw, Allison is seeking to solidify his reputation as a budding contender.

Fighting since the age of five, Allison finished his 121-fight amateur career with a 94-21 record and 15 amateur titles. Under the tutelage of his famous father and trainer Dave Sewell—both of whom are boxing hall of famers—Allison has also won numerous Golden Glove championships.

He made his pro debut on July 16, 2016 and quickly became the busiest first year fighter in the sport. He made history by jumping out to a 4-0 record within his first 21 days in the ring. Allison also earned the United States Boxing Union championship as a featherweight and he won the 2016 Rookie of the Year in the Baltimore-



Washington Metropolitan area.

"My goal is to become the undisputed World Champion, a legend, and to be able to help the most people I can," Allison said.

To that end, it only takes the opposition to further amp up the young gladiator.

"When I enter the ring, I know the person across from me is trying to keep

me away from conquering my goals," Allison said. "Any fighter can become successful by using his tools correctly and by listening to his corner."

His corner, of course, is manned by his father who has guided so many at the Time 2 Grind Boxing Gym in East Baltimore. That's where Allison III is referred to as "Coach Mack," and where

he has trained many Baltimoreans who also aspire to greatness in and outside of the ring.

Earlier, Allison III told The Baltimore Times that his main goal is to teach the value of having high self-esteem.

"I want them to be able to hold their heads up and say that they're special and that they can achieve whatever it is they want to," Allison III said, who can rest assured that his son is paying close attention to his every word.

"My coaches—my dad and Dave Sewell—know a lot about fighting. I pay attention to all their techniques and skills they show me because I know they're valid," Papi Allison said. "They both have a lot of experience in fighting, so I know they won't steer me wrong. My manager James Hogan also teaches me a lot. He has a lot of experience with boxing too."

Like his dad, Allison possesses a passion for helping others. He also offers sage advice:

"The advice I give young ones is that nothing in life is easy, especially the goals you want to accomplish. You can do it, just stay focused, and don't quit no matter what," he said.



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Rambling Rose

A little bit of this
and a little bit of that!



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, I hope everything is well with you. There is so much going on in Baltimore for the next couple of weeks, so I'm just going to get started right away. I am going to warn you that you are going to need plenty of gas in your car. First, check out the pictures on my page and mark the dates of the events on your calendar.

I want to send out my deepest condolences to the Orange family for the loss of their loved one—Rodney Orange Jr. passed away last week.

Calendar of Events:

***The Baltimore Chamber Jazz Society** concludes its 2019 season with a concert with the Christian Sands Trio on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 5 p.m. at the Baltimore Museum of Art located 10 Art Museum Drive, in Baltimore.

***Caton Castle presents the Dennis Chambers Band** with Eddie Baccus Jr. & Craig Alston, a tribute to Stevie Wonder & Donny Hathaway on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 6 to 10 p.m. at 20 S. Caton Avenue in Baltimore.

***The Stephan Crump's Rosetta Trio** with Liberty Ellman on acoustic guitar, Jamie Fox on electric guitar and Stephan Crump on bass on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 7 p.m.; Rhizome D.C. presented by Transparent Productions, 6950 Maple Street NW in Washington D.C.

***Dance Baltimore** presents "Ageless Grace" featuring former and current professional recreational dancers on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 4 p.m. at the Creative Alliance at the Patterson, 3134 Eastern Avenue in Baltimore. Check it out at: www.freativealliance.org.

***Charm City Tourism Awards Banquet & Fundraiser** hosted by the African American Tourism Council will be held at the Forum Caterers, 4210

Primrose Avenue from 6-10 p.m. on Friday, May 10, 2019. For more information, call Louis Fields at 443-983-7974.

***Moon Man Media Groups** presents a "Pre-Mothers Day Show & Dance" on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the Patapsco Arena located at 3301 Annapolis Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. featuring the Stylistics Review; Philly Intruders; The Ebonys; BADD; Jim Bennett; Lady YaYa; and Ten Karat Gold with Robert Shahid of WEAA 88.9 FM a emcee. For more information, call 443-857-2771.

Well, my friends, I am out of space and out of time. Enjoy your week, and remember if you need me call me at 410-833-9474 or email me at rosapryor@aol.com. UNTIL THE NEXT TIME, I'M MUSICALLY YOURS.



Rodney A. Orange, Jr., director of the Arena Players and the son of Dr. Rodney A. Orange, Sr. former Baltimore President of NAACP passed away last week. His Memorial Services will be held at Wylie's Funeral Home, 701 N. Mount Street on Friday, May 3, 2019. Family Hour from 10 a.m. to 11a.m. and the Funeral Service from 11a.m. to noon, which will be followed by a repast at the Arena Players Theatre located at 801 McCulloh Street from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Condolences to Rodney and his family.



Dr. Phil Butts 17 piece Big Band will perform at the Avenue Bakery, 2229 Pennsylvania Avenue in the Courtyard on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Baker Street on Saturday, May 4, 2019 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. hosted by owner of Bakery, James Hamlin. It is free and open to the public. Bring your lawn chairs and come out and enjoy. Food and drinks are on sale.



Worldwide Gospel singer Hezekiah Walker will be performing at the Hollywood Casino at Charles Town Races in Charlestown, West Virginia on Friday, May 10, 2019 at 9 p.m. in the Event Center. For more information, call Emily at 410-986-1209 and tell her that "Rambling Rose" told you.



Dr. Louise Johnson, president of the Maryland Unified Licensees Beverage Association is hosting the Beer & Wine Liquor Expo Day Party on Saturday, May 11, 2019 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the 5th Regiment Amory. For more information, call Dr. Johnson at 410-925-4056.



The Baltimore Chapter of Bennett College Alumnae is hosting its Annual White Breakfast on Saturday, May 11, 2019 at the Hilton Double Tree Hotel in Pikesville. For more information, contact Kelly Cole Carter at 301-767-5295.

Keeping Your Sanity: Getting Started in the Music Business, Part IV

By Imani Wj Wright

As most of us may already know, crafting and mastering a skill takes a lot of time, hard work and dedication. Over three different periods in my life, I have had the opportunity to delve into the book “Outliers,” written by author Malcolm Gladwell. In this book, I read about the theory of the “10,000-Hour Rule,” which has stuck with me since I was 10 years old. Gladwell writes that if you practice a craft for 20 hours a week over a time span of 10 years, you will become a master at that skill.

However, I have come to realize that you don't always have to be on task to be on task. In Part IV of this series, I want to focus on how using other mediums of art can influence, inspire and enhance whatever your current art form may be. By that I mean I don't always have to use music as my only resource to becoming a better musician. My father has always told me, “You don't have to eat hair to grow hair.”

Having several visual artists in my circle, I've have been able to engage in many conversations in relation to the use of light— lighting in photography, film and even paintings. The trend that seemed to be consistent in these conversations was how one can convey a mood or message by the choice of lighting. Being a musician, I obviously don't use light as a tool for setting the mood in a song but I have started to mold my sound by specific choice of timbre, tone and color in my voice. I am no longer just singing to “sound good,” I am now creating a more dense and complex sound, styled more dynamically than before.

Muammar Muhammad, a guitarist with a hub based in Baltimore has performed in New York, San Francisco, Florida, Denver and Chicago over these last few months. I caught up with him recently to ask if and how he uses other



(Left) Guitarist Muammar Muhammad at a Sofar Sounds show in Tampa Bay, Florida. (Right) Talented poet m.ello. Both artists say they are influenced by exposure to other art mediums other than their own art forms.

Muhammad Photo/Courtesy of Sofar Sounds and m.ello Photo/Courtesy of m.ello

mediums of art to influence or propel his music.

“As a musician, my ultimate goal is to venture into world music. As the name implies, I wanna subject myself to various cultures and traditions around the world centered around music, Muhammad said. “I am a huge anime fan, and if it's one thing I learned from anime, it would be the way their culture is always on front display. I learned about Japanese religion, their political system, their educational system, the food, their entertainment, and of course their music. A lot of the music played throughout anime is heavily western-based with heavy rock instrumentation. Not only that, but they also combine western music with their own traditional music to fuse what is known as J-pop or J-rock. I have been watching and listening to

anime and the various soundtracks from them for well over a decade. It's safe to say that it has been a major influence in the way that I create my own music.”

This exposure to other forms of art isn't just important to musicians. I had an opportunity to catch up m.ello, a talented poet on tour in St. Petersburg, Florida, a few months ago. I asked her a very similar question to the one I asked Muhammad because I wanted to know how other art forms influenced her. This is what she had to say about the way music influences her poetry.

“Poetry and music are both about feeling something— anything. When I write, I write out of that internal movement, that same heavy feeling of a song, starting low, then ending with crescendo. There have been times where I hear the same chorus over and over in my head

and I start singing it low in the kitchen, for example. Those words become a thread that finds it's way gently from my heart, winding through my arms until it reaches the tips of my fingertips, electric. This is where I find a pen. This is where I scribble the lines until it becomes different, the shadow of a song. My heart, the generator will take the notes and flip them into poetry.”

So artists out there, the next time you see a movie, check out a painting or listen to song, do it with a purpose.

Follow Muammar Muhammad on Instagram @mim0630 and m.ello @by_m.ello

In the meantime... Stay Virtuous. Stay Idealistic. Stay Progressive. To contact Imani Wj Wright, email: iwright@btimes.com

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Ping Vocal Ensemble to perform at Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis



Ping vocal ensemble from St. Mary's College of Maryland presents a program of choral music from six centuries on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis at 3 p.m. Lasy year, Ping was the featured vocal ensemble at the Alba Music Festival in Alba, Italy. Courtesy Photo

Annapolis— Ping, the elite vocal ensemble of St. Mary's College of Maryland, presents choral music from six centuries Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 3 p.m., as part of the Arts in the Woods music series at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis (UUCA), 333 Dubois Road in Annapolis.

Directed by Professor of Music Larry Vote, the Ping ensemble consists mostly of music majors and minors at the college. It was founded about 10 years ago to give serious and advanced singers an ensemble in which to achieve excellence in the performance of choral music from all periods. It takes its name from a word connected to Sonar where a ping is a sharp resonant sound meant to attract attention. This year's group has per-

formed in the St. Anne's Concert Series, at Washington National Cathedral, and at the reconstructed chapel at St. Mary's City where they present concerts on a regular basis. In 2018, Ping was the featured vocal ensemble at the Alba Music Festival in Alba, Italy.

The May 5 program at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Annapolis includes both sacred and secular offerings, among them works by Orlando Gibbons, C.V. Stanford, J.S. Bach, Jake Runestad, Kate Busby, and Paul Simon. Rie Moore will be featured as pianist in a performance with Ping of Johannes Brahms's "Schicksalslied." Tickets are \$15 at the door; free for youth 16 and under. For more information, visit www.uuannapolis.org or call 410-266-8044.

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Annual William Paca Garden Plant Sale on Mother's Day Weekend



Annapolis— The William Paca Garden will hold its annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, 2019. This is the chance to take home a piece of history and watch it bloom in your garden. You can find shrubs and trees from this historic garden and seedlings grown in the greenhouse. Garden staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions and recommend just what you need for your growing conditions.

For the shade garden, there are dwarf and full-sized Oakleaf Hydrangeas, a new Astilbe 'Aphrodite' in shades of deep pink, a variety of ferns including a new offering, the tall Dixie Wood Fern, and a flowering annual alternative to Impatiens, the Wishbone Flower. There is a selection of hard-to-find native woodland bloomers like Foamflower, Bloodroot and May Apple.

Bring a rainbow of color to sunny spots with a gorgeous new Buddleia 'Hot Raspberry' and a new Coneflower called 'Green Twister,' that flaunts lime green and purple petals. St. Johnswort, a durable groundcover, now comes in brilliant chartreuse-yellow foliage. Mexican Sunflower, the Polka Dot Plant and the Easter Egg Plant are annuals that will charm children and you as well. Vines have a lot to offer: sweet-smelling Carolina Jasmine is new this year; Snail Vine, with curious spiral flowers, is another fragrant climber. Hyacinth bean, frequently seen spilling over fences in

Annapolis, will garland your garden with purple flowers and bean pods. Morning Glories will brighten your morning and Moon Flower will invite you out to the garden at dusk.

For the conservation-minded, plants such as Eastern Redbud, Summersweet and Virginia Sweetspire contribute to a native habitat. The native Honeysuckle 'Magnifica' attracts hummingbirds. Perennial Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Bee Balm, Calamintha and Cardinal Lobelia attract a variety of pollinators and butterflies. The Plant Sale catalog notes special properties of all the plants.

Vegetable starts and herbs will make for delicious salads and side dishes this summer. Eleven varieties of tomatoes, half of them heirloom and one selected especially for patio pots; hot and sweet peppers; three types of eggplant. Your favorite herbs will bring fresh flavor to favorite dishes: dill, chives, Italian basil, lemon balm, Thai basil, lemon grass, and of course parsley, sage, rosemary and thyme.

All plants are grown by volunteers, and the Plant Sale benefits the Historic Annapolis's William Paca Garden. Plant Sale hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 11. Historic Annapolis members may enter at 9:30 a.m. Sunday hours are noon to 4 p.m. No early entry on Sunday. Enter at #1 Martin Street in Annapolis. Catalog is available for sale and online at www.annapolis.org.

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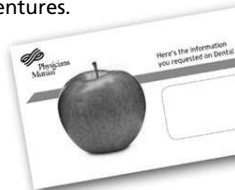
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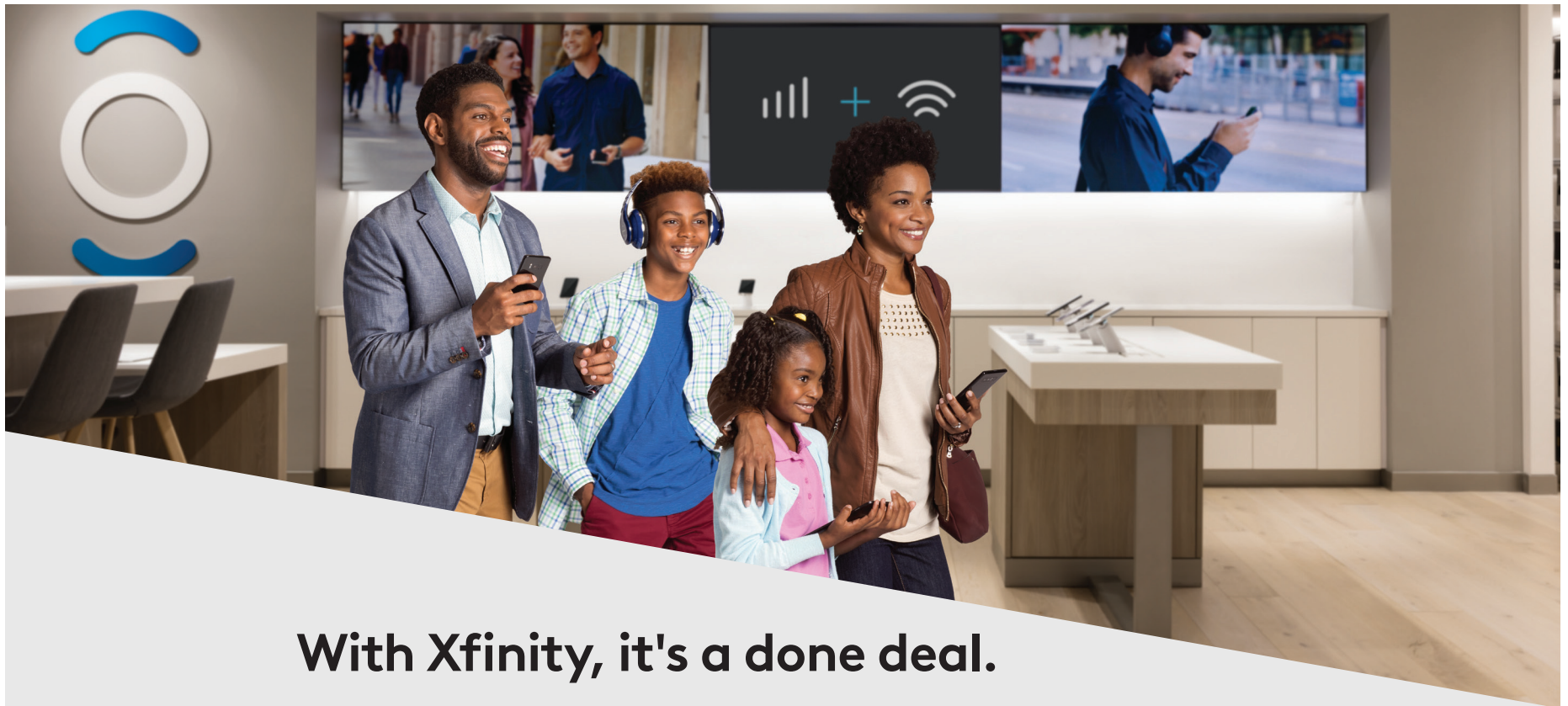
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