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Critical Race Theory Fast Cancelling Martin Luther King, Jr.

By Peter Bramble

We are witnessing an evil phenomenon as it evolves rapidly across the country. This phenomenon is called Critical Race Theory and it is being aggressively taught in our schools to the detriment of the unity and cohesion the society needs to advance itself.

What is Critical Race Theory (CRT?)

In simple terms it is a belief that Black people in America are descendants of slaves and have been systematically treated as people of lesser being by their oppressors who are the descendants of white slave owners. In other words, Blacks are permanently disadvantaged simply because of their color and whites are permanently advantaged by their race—hence the trending phrase: “white privilege.” And in order to get to this position, the promoters of CRT begin the story/history of Blacks in America in the year 1619.

Although the above is a simplification, in essence it is a good description of what CRT is, and this is a total and complete contradiction of what The Dr. Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. taught us and what he in effect, died for. King taught us that we humans must be measured by “the content of our character and not the color of our skin.”

CRT states the opposite and is not only false but stupid!

Now, in order to install 1619 as foundational in their thinking, the proponents of CRT need to skip over many significant dates and happenings.

Continued on page 12

Remembering General Colin L. Powell 'An Officer and a Gentleman'



(Left-right): Frank Fountain, Chairman, Walter P. Chrysler Museum Foundation; Alma Powell, wife of General Colin L. Powell, and General Powell holding then three-year-old Tiara Jonte Ward (granddaughter of Dena Wane) during the unveiling ceremony of General Powell's wax figure at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum, 1601-03 E. North Avenue. Seated behind them is the late Senator Clarence W. Blount. General Powell, the first African American U.S. Secretary of State, died at the age of 84 on October 18, 2021 of complications from COVID-19. The Four-Star General and diplomat is credited with shaping American foreign policy in the last years of the 20th century into the early years of the 21st century. (See article on page 8). Photo: The Baltimore Times Archives/Gar Roberts

Harford Civil Rights Project Launches Digital Exhibition, Mobile App

NEH-funded project focuses on African American civil rights in 1950s and 1960s

Harford County, Md.— Harford Civil Rights Project, a digital exhibition and a mobile app focusing on various aspects of the African American civil rights movement in Harford County in the 20th century, debuts on October 28, 2021.

The project was funded with a \$97,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in addition to funding from Harford Community College and the Harford Community College Foundation. Led by Dr. James Karmel, professor of history at Harford Community College, research was conducted over the past three years by the College's faculty and students.

"The NEH grant was great for allowing us to engage our students in this important history and culture. Thanks to the grant, more than 500 Harford Community College students in English, history and computer information sciences conducted oral histories, archival research, literary reviews, wrote critical essays, produced digital projects, participated in community discussions and completed other activities for the project," Karmel said. "In addition, the digital exhibition and mobile application will enable future students at Harford and elsewhere to learn about the



Dr. James Karmel, professor of history at Harford Community College, led research conducted over the past three years by the College's faculty and students for the Harford Civil Rights Project. Courtesy Photo

regional 20th century civil rights movement and connect it to civil rights of the 21st century."

The digital exhibition focuses on African American civil rights activities in the 1950s and 1960s in Harford County and includes topics ranging from desegregating schools, restaurants and movie theaters to the fair housing movement, the Harford Interracial

Dialogues and more. Current and historic photographs along with oral history videos are posted with each of the stories.

The digital exhibition may be found at harfordcivilrights.org after October 28, 2021.

Among the topics covered are the 1953 protest and a sit-in to desegregate the Read's lunch counter in Havre de Grace; visits by Freedom Riders on December 16, 1961, to Route 40 restaurants including The Flying Clipper, The Aberdeen Diner and The Musical Inn.

Also featured is the June 1961 denial of service to Ambassador Adam Malik Sow of Chad at the Bonnie Brae Diner in Edgewood and other African diplomats at restaurants on Route 40 in Harford and Baltimore counties. The denial of service was covered nationally and regionally, including a story in *Life* magazine. *The Afro American*, a newspaper based in Baltimore, provided extensive coverage and also sent its own Black reporters (dressed in diplomatic and African attire) to several restaurants along the Route 40 corridor to see how they would be treated. The resulting coverage led to the Maryland Civil

Rights Law being passed in 1962, the first law in the nation to go into effect on the state level before the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The mobile app, available to download for free in the Apple app store and in the Android app store, includes several tours focusing on school desegregation, the Freedom Ride on Route 40 and key sites in Havre de Grace.

In addition, Dr. Karmel plans to create a manual so community residents along with high school and college students can add to the digital exhibition in the future.

Dr. Karmel plans to continue the Harford Civil Rights Project in the future, with research on topics that may include the 1963 March on Washington, the role of local churches, voting rights and their connections to Harford County. In addition, he anticipates the project may include research and stories about the connections between the civil rights movements of the 20th and 21st centuries, including the 2020 civil rights protests that took place in and around Harford County amidst the wave of national reaction following the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.

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Heartwarming story of resilience and love during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By Andrea Blackstone

Although the fear of starting over could feel immobilizing in unhealthy relationships, Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October is an ideal time to celebrate resilient survivors who broke free from domestic or sexual abuse.

According to The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, one out of three women, and one out of four men, have endured some type of physical violence displayed by an “intimate partner.”

Constance Craig-Mason, 42, is a shining example of an individual who knows the sting of being impacted by this sort of crisis. She grew up in Baltimore with a dream of becoming an architect but at 16, she landed in an unhealthy relationship with the father of her two eldest children. Approximately four months into her pregnancy, Craig-Mason said that she was choked. Although the police were called, the abuse continued.

“The final most traumatizing experience with him was when I was held captive for three days at his friend’s house and was physically and sexually assaulted, while I was pregnant with our second child, and in front of our 10-month-old son,” Craig-Mason said.

Without money for college, no babysitter for her children, and struggles in an abusive relationship, Craig-Mason’s goals shifted towards crafting an exit plan. After a little over two years, the survivor managed to implement life-changing strategies.

“I moved, changed jobs, unlisted my phone number and cut off communication with him and everyone who knew him. The threats and mind



Domestic violence survivor, Constance Craig-Mason empowers others to live out-loud authentically. The international speaker specializes in women’s empowerment, leadership, entrepreneurship and finances. She became a graduate of Dr. Cheryl Wood’s Vocalize Women Speakers Academy in November 2020.

Photo Credit: Photography by Ace LLC

manipulation still lived with me even though he was not near me any longer,” Craig-Mason said. “I felt like the world was moving around me and I was stuck in a mental, emotional jail.”

Craig-Mason found a local church led by a woman evangelist who ministered “to wounded men and women.”

Spirituality and a church family provided the strength and support Craig-Mason needed to inspire her into wanting better for herself and children.

Upon reflection, Craig-Mason said that she now realizes that living in a home with a mother and stepfather who had a toxic, abusive marriage led to her low self-esteem. This, she believes was the root cause of her pursuing a refuge with one of the first males who showed interest in her.

Despite it all, Craig-Mason found her second wind. The international speaker, best-selling author, and licensed financial advisor, has a long list of accomplishments, which include being the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate Degree from Trinity International University Ambassadors School of Business Honors Program in 2021.

Love found Craig-Mason, too. She now resides in York, Pennsylvania, with her husband of 16 years, Anthony Mason.

The pair met at a bus stop in Baltimore when Anthony was a professional bus driver on layover. Constance was awaiting a different bus while heading home from a part time job. An impromptu conversation led to new chapters in life. Anthony was willing to be a loving mate and “step-up dad” to her

young children. The couple also went on to have a biological son together.

“I made it easy for her (Constance) to entrust me with very private details about her past. She always tells me that people need to hear about the hurts of others in order to heal their own hurts. I didn’t fully understand that, until she encouraged and helped me to heal my own,” Anthony said. “We talk about everything— raising our kids, grandkids, goals and dreams— even uncomfortable things. I am patient and gentle with Constance. I am by her side for little and big moments in her life. Healing is a marathon, not a sprint, and we are both here for the entire journey.”

Constance and Anthony continually embrace life’s opportunities with optimism. They launched an inaugural book project entitled “Money TALK\$: Uncut Convos With Power Couples About Love, Money & Entrepreneurship” with 23 other African American, married, entrepreneur couples this year.

“During civil unrest and a global pandemic, we didn’t want to complain about the negative realities, we wanted to do our part to bring about hope, inspiration, empowerment and resources to small business owners and families. Volume II will be launching February 2022, with a second group of co-authors,” Anthony said. “We wanted to give back and inspire others [to show them] that even through adversity married couples in business could be successful. And, we created an unofficial village of support to champion each other’s challenges and achievements!”

For more information about Constance and Anthony Mason, visit: www.realconnected.co or <https://ccraigmason.com/>.

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Guest Editorials/Commentary

Study shows how medical community neglected African Americans with COVID-19

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

It's well documented that the COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc in communities everywhere, but African Americans mainly have borne the brunt of the disease's impact. Now, a new study published by the University of Michigan delves further into yet another systemic problem.

Findings from the study show that Black patients experienced the lowest physician follow-up post-discharge and the most protracted delays (35.5 days) in returning to work.

More than half of hospital readmissions within the 60 days following discharge were among non-White patients (55 percent), and the majority of post-discharge deaths were among White patients (21.5 percent).

"The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected Black and Latinx communities in the United States compared with White communities in both morbidity and mortality," the study authors wrote.

The report noted that hospitalization rates for Black and Latinx patients who have tested positive for COVID-19 are approximately three times higher than those of similar White patients.

"It is therefore unsurprising that of the 216,635 COVID-19-related deaths in the United States to date for which we have race and ethnicity data available, 29.3 percent have been Black (34,374) or Latinx (29,063), which correlate with US population norms," the authors continued.

White persons in the United States account for approximately 76 percent of the population and 61.1 percent of deaths (132,315).

Notably, Black and Latinx adults have an increased prevalence of comorbid conditions such as obesity, diabetes, and chronic kidney disease, associated with an increased risk of severe illness due to COVID-19.

Further, significant numbers of Black and Latinx adults have occupations considered essential, requiring close contact with others, thereby hindering the ability to effectively socially distance, self-isolate, or work from home, the study revealed.

"Health disparities, or preventable differences in health outcomes, are known to be driven by a variety of economic, environmental and social factors, including institutional or structural racism and bias in health treatment," authors of the report conceded.

For example, researchers cited a recent study that evaluated patients with COVID-19 among five US emergency departments. That study found that Black patients accounted for the majority (56.7 percent) of readmissions within 72 hours, whereas White patients only accounted for 16.7 percent.

The study investigated variation in 60-day post-discharge clinical, financial, and mental health outcomes of diverse patients with COVID-19.

"I think people only think of Covid in terms of death, you know, or having like a mild cold," Dr. Sheria G. Robinson-Lane, a gerontologist and the study's lead researcher, wrote. "They don't think about all of those spaces in between where people are having these effects post-Covid."

Robinson-Lane said one of the most surprising findings was the lack of follow-ups with physicians, noting that hospitals need to improve discharge plans to serve patients better. The physician shortage and stigma to going into the doctor's office when infected with Covid might contribute to the lack of follow-ups, Robinson-Lane said.

"So, we need to do a much better job about coordinating care, to find out what it is that people need," she said. "Because we're seeing a significant number of people also that are dying within those 60 days after hospitalization."



Community Affairs

Social Security benefits to increase 5.9 Percent for 2022

Washington, D.C.— The Social Security Administration announced Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 5.9 percent in 2022.

The 5.9 percent cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2022. Increased payments to approximately eight million SSI beneficiaries will begin on December 30, 2021. (Note: some people receive both Social Security and SSI benefits). The Social Security Act ties the annual COLA to the increase in the Consumer Price Index as determined by the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security

tax (taxable maximum) will increase to \$147,000 from \$142,800.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal *my* Social Security account. People may create or access their, *my* Social Security account online at:

www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

Information about Medicare changes for 2022, when announced, will be available at www.medicare.gov. For Social Security beneficiaries receiving Medicare, Social Security will not be able to compute their new benefit amount until after the Medicare premium amounts for 2022 are announced. Final 2022 benefit amounts will be communicated to beneficiaries in December through the mailed COLA notice and *my* Social Security's Message Center.

The Social Security Act provides for how the COLA is calculated. To learn more, visit:

www.socialsecurity.gov/cola.

Life in Baltimore when \$641 million comes to town

By Lou Fields

The City of Baltimore has been given another huge pot of money, some \$641 million under the American Rescue Plan Act. New money from the Federal government to help state, county and local governments in their efforts to provide much needed financial assistance to their citizens as a result of the deadly ravages of the COVID 19 pandemic. In recent years, the City has utilized taxpayer dollars to finance fancy, costly waterfront developments, stadiums, casinos, commercial and residential developments downtown. Certain neighborhoods are flourishing even sparking some nightlife in Federal Hill, Fell's Point, O'Donnell Square and Harbor Point.

We see kibbles and bits of this new development along North Avenue and on Greenmount Avenue. Pennsylvania Avenue and Edmondson Avenue are waiting their turn. So what's the young Mayor to do with \$641 million? First step, he creates the Baltimore City Office

of Recovery, staff it and let them develop the eligibility criteria, certain policies and procedures on how these ARP funds will be utilized, allocated and eventually released to the winning proposals.

The first round of applications (\$250k minimum) were limited to City agencies

one of the City's wealthiest businessmen.

As seen in times past in Baltimore, even the good guys are crooks. Two City police chiefs went to jail, almost two Mayors went to jail, one did, an entire unit, the BCPD Fugitive Gun Trace Task Force went to jail for lengthy sentences.

college degree than African Americans of the same age.

Nationally, over the past 30 years, the average household wealth of White families has grown 84 percent to \$656,000, while that of African Americans only increased 27 percent to \$85,000. Too many Baltimore Black families suffered financially before COVID, during COVID and without equity in the allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act funding, Black households living in poverty will not only to continue to suffer but will be in a much worse situation.

In a 2016 report titled, "The Track to Ending Two Baltimores," writer Ajmel Quereshi of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund stated, "The City has a long history of social and economic challenges, leading to the perception that there are "Two Baltimores"— one wealthy and largely White, the second impoverished and predominantly Black." Quereshi goes on to write [Life in Baltimore] "many African Americans continue to live in neighborhoods where jobs are scarce, unemployment is high, and substandard housing is rampant. Racial and socioeconomic segregation in Baltimore lies at the root of the Two Baltimores."

If the \$641 million American Rescue Plan Act funds are to have any tangible benefits not just to the BDCs, city agencies and quasi city government agencies, but to the more citizens, there must be daily oversight, monitoring, transparency and accountability. Otherwise, we might as well get on to another bridge to nowhere.

Lou Fields is a freelance journalist based in Baltimore. Lou hosts the Black Women Owned Business Showcase & Marketplace. He can be reached at bdxradio@gmail.com.

"So what's the young Mayor to do with \$641 million? First step, he creates the Baltimore City Office of Recovery, staff it and let them develop the eligibility criteria, certain policies and procedures on how these ARP funds will be utilized, allocated and eventually released to the winning proposals."

and quasi-city agencies such as the infamous Baltimore (White) Development Corporation (aka) BDC, which is run by a lifer, a city hall insider, a former deputy mayor for economic development whose track record lacks any visible or tangible results in Black Baltimore. Yet, the BDC had already snatched up \$2 million of the ARP money before the ink was dry on the Mayor's Office of Recovery.

Recently, the office hosted virtual workshops supposedly to educate the community on how to access the application and apply for funding with the minimum request being \$250,000. Few community groups have the capacity or the infrastructure to undertake such a massive windfall, thusly cutting out 99.9 percent of the community groups who really need funding.

Uptown Baltimore has watched the City underwrite beaucoup downtown developments, visitor centers, two stadiums, Pratt Street initiatives, Hyatt Regency, Hilton Hotels, Harbor East, Harbor Point and on top of all that city taxpayers almost choked on a bad deal that gave a whopping \$600 million tax credit to

Writer Ron Cassie described it this way "The crimes were committed by the plainclothes unit were part of an organized conspiracy of thievery, thuggery, and drug dealing." Now, he was talking about cops not crooks until they were busted.

Question becomes who is going to be watching over this \$641 million? For more information, visit: www.arp.baltimorecity.gov.

City Hall won't even open its doors to the citizens and taxpayers of Baltimore.

Second question: who at City Hall would you trust to handle \$641 million? Let's talk about Diversity, Inclusion and Equity. \$641 million in new money in a City where Blacks are the overwhelming majority population; a City where the Black poverty rate is past 25 percent; a City where white households have 11 times more wealth than Blacks; a City where Black unemployment is three times the amount of Whites, a City where the median income of Blacks is \$34,600 compared to white households at \$63,700— almost double; and a City where whites who are 25-years old or older are four times as likely to have a

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Is the EV disruption starting without you?

By Sheryl E. Ponds
Special to The Baltimore Times

Did you know that at this very moment you, yes YOU are standing at the gateway of a new automotive era? This moment in history is called the electrification of transportation. Under the banner of electrified transportation, you will find passenger vehicles; light, medium, and long haul trucks; motorcycles; and school buses— all using battery stored electricity as their “fuel” source.

It's natural that the idea of an electric vehicle raises our curiosity. To some it's outlandish, if not impossible. What inquiring minds really want to know is, “How will electrification transform the future of our beloved, yet gasoline thirsty cars and SUVs?”

I'm glad you asked the question. The most straightforward response is Electric Vehicles aka (EVs) will disrupt ways Americans travel, energize, and maintain their cars in the future.

FIRST and fundamentally, most electric vehicles currently manufactured today (there are plans for over 55 new models by 2023), are very similar to operating the rechargeable remote-control car you received “back in the day” as a holiday gift. Do you get the picture?

Electric vehicles that travel on our roadways weigh thousands of pounds more and are not controlled with joysticks. These cars are operated by drivers who are everyday people. These folks will turn steering wheels, push accelerator and brake pedals, and shift the gearboxes, just as they would in a traditional car. However, there are points of differentiation. Allow me to give you simplified explanations how EV's differ from traditional gasoline fueled automobiles.

Electric Hybrids or Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) have two motors. PHEV's utilize two fueling sources. One of the motors is powered by a traditional internal combustion engine (IC engine or ICE). The second is powered by an electric motor. These vehicles have the capabilities to switch back and forth between fuel sources on



DaiTechCorp installs electric vehicle charging stations for residential and commercial settings. One of the company's prime objectives is to help potential electric vehicle drivers from urban areas overcome range anxiety by equitably increasing their access to Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. Photo Credit: ClipArt.com

the fly. Most PHEV drivers operate their cars on electric power when they are taking short trips within the electric battery's mileage limits, which is usually between 25 to 50 miles. PHEV drivers have the flexibility to flip a switch and select gasoline power when they are ready for an excursion exceeding the electric mileage threshold.

On the other hand, 100 percent EV's (aka 100 percent electric passenger cars and SUV's) have one to two motors, both fired-up with electricity that is stored in the vehicle's battery pack. What's obvious about a 100 percent EV is there is no throaty hum typical of gasoline engines, and no carbon emissions spewing from the tail pipe. Water droplets are the typical exhaust product from an all-Electric Vehicle. They run quiet and clean.

Not all EV battery packs are equipped to travel the same mileage range. A 100 percent EV described, as a “City” car is a short distance automobile that may travel 100 to 120 miles when the batteries are 80 —100 percent energized. Mid-range and long-range EV's are equipped with larger battery packs. Mid-range drivers can enjoy nearly 250 miles per full charge. The 400-mile mark will soon be the standard for long-range EVs.¹

Eventually, Range Anxiety (the fear of getting stuck on the road aka RA) compels PHEV and EV drivers recharge their batteries at an Electric Vehicle Charging Station (EVCS). My firm, DaiTechCorp installs EV charging stations for residential and commercial settings. One of our prime objectives is to help potential EV drivers from urban areas overcome RA by equitably increasing their access to EVCSs.

Predictably, the costs of purchasing or leasing a PHEV or EV, is tens of thousands of dollars more expensive than our remote-control car example. Moreover, the upfront costs of buying or leasing an EV, is more expensive than a similar ICE version, or a comparable gas-fired competitor. However, studies are showing that the overall cost of EV ownership is less.

The savings add up after the initial purchase and over the lifetime of the electric vehicle. Here is the rundown:

a) Most EV's are eligible for federal

tax credits (up to \$7500) upon presenting a bill of sale.

b) A few states are still offering cash and incentives for investments in electric automobiles.

c) The cost per mile is less vis a' vis electricity versus petroleum.ⁱⁱ

And, the bonuses continue to pile up when you take into consideration:

d) EV's require less routine maintenance and trips to the mechanic. The wear and tear on EV's are significantly reduced, because the number of moving parts drop by nearly a factor of 10. EV powertrains are normally built on 20 moving parts, the same functionality for IC engines requires nearly 2000 parts.ⁱⁱⁱ

e) There is a new freedom associated with EVs. You can energize an EV in places where you live, work, and/or play. AND, there's a good chance that once you go electric, you may never return to a gasoline pump again.

“Is the EV Disruption Starting Without You?” is a three part series that will get you thinking about electric vehicles and their ecosystem. In this series, I'll share why EV's are good news. I'll also explain why exploring the impact of this new automotive technology will unfold phenomenal benefits for you and African American communities at-large.

Sheryl E. Ponds is a Clean Tech Entrepreneur and Electric Vehicle Charger Infrastructure developer. She is the founder and CEO of Dai Technologies Corporation, the nation's first, if not only Black and woman owned firm that specializes in supplying, selling and installing EV charging stations for residential and commercial applications. For more information, visit: www.DaiTechCorp.com. Connect on Instagram @DaiTechCEO.

Sources:

ⁱ <https://www.caranddriver.com/shopping-advice/g32634624/ev-longest-driving-range/>

ⁱⁱ <https://thehill.com/changing-america/sustainability/energy/559971-finally-heres-the-exact-cost-of-owning-an-electric-car>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://driveelectric.org.nz/individuals/what-is-an-ev/>



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Preproduction computer-generated image shown. Available starting spring 2022.

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Remembering General Colin L. Powell *'An Officer and a Gentleman'*

By Ursula V. Battle

Recalling General Colin L. Powell's departure from the Great Blacks in Wax National Museum on North Avenue after the unveiling of his wax figure in 1996, Dr. Joanne Martin shared what the youngest and first African American Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff did as he walked down the street.

"By the time we had this event, everyone knew Colin Powell would be at the Great Blacks in Wax Museum," recalled Dr. Martin, who founded the museum with her husband, the late Dr. Elmer Martin. "There were houses on the block at the time, and people sat on their steps and folks parked on the other side of the street waiting to get a glimpse of him. Cars were driving by honking their horns. Colin Powell emerged from the museum and began walking down the street. He put up his hands in a "Black Power" salute and said, 'Hello my Brothers! Hello my Sisters!'"

She added, "He stepped out of this image that was this strict military ruling person and just engaged with people at the event and throughout the night. That was the most impressive thing for me."

Powell's wax figure was commissioned by *The Baltimore Times* and Chrysler Corporation. He attended the event with his wife Alma. The memorable unveiling ceremony of his likeness drew many notables including the late Congressman Elijah Cummings, the late Senator Clarence Blount, then-Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke, and former Maryland Governor Paris Glendening.

"This honor has touched me deeply," said Powell. "I am able to be added to the Great Blacks in Wax Museum because of the sacrifice and suffering of every one of the people whose likeness is in that museum. This is not only African-American history — it's American history."

General Powell's figure currently sits in the museum's "Blacks in the Military" exhibit alongside fellow Four-Star Generals Daniel Chappie James and Benjamin O. Davis, and is slated for permanent placement in the "Gallery of



The Powells stand alongside the wax figure of General Powell.

Photos: The Baltimore Times Archives/Gar Roberts

War, Conquest and Valor" after museum renovations are complete.

General Powell, the first African American U.S. Secretary of State, died at the age of 84 on October 18, 2021 from complications from COVID-19. The statesman and diplomat is credited with shaping American foreign policy in the last years of the 20th century into the early years of the 21st century.

"People talk about the fact that General Powell defended what turned out not to be true about weapons of mass destruction, and he said that he knew that would be mentioned in his obituary and in documentaries" said Dr. Martin, referencing, Powell's advocacy for the Iraq War, a decision he later said he regretted 'because the information was wrong.' "That may have been a

negative," continued Dr. Martin, "But he achieved so many positives. What made us proud of General Powell was that in the midst of all the challenges we face as Black people trying to advance in the military or corporately, along with surviving issues of race in America, he did achieve. That's a big burden to have to bear, but one that is indicative of our past and present in our country, where we have had to fight against so many obstacles that are tantamount to us."

She added, "That's what made people want to see a wax figure of him in the museum, and that's what made people sit out on their steps and wait to get a glimpse of him walking out of the museum. We have so much pride in General Powell."

General Powell grew up in The Bronx, New York and was the son of Jamaican immigrants. A trailblazer who broke barrier after barrier, his military career took him from the rough terrain of Vietnam to the White House, becoming the first African American security advisor during the close of Ronald Reagan's presidency. He was once considered a serious contender for the U.S. presidency, but opted not to run, and was highly regarded for his role in the United States-led coalition victory during the Gulf War.

Sharing fond memories of the unveiling of General Powell's figure at the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum on December 17, 1996, *The Baltimore Times* founder and publisher, Joy Bramble remembered the highly-decorated soldier as "An Officer and a Gentleman."

"With all of his achievements, General Powell was so humble," said Bramble. "He was pleasant and greeted everybody. He also took out his handkerchief, tied it around his head, and danced with me to Calypso music. I will forever treasure that memory. The unveiling of Colin Powell's wax figure is among my greatest *Baltimore Times* highlights. We were honored to put a statue of him in the Great Blacks in Wax Museum and he was so gracious when he was here. He spoke to everybody and was just wonderful."



General Powell greeting attendees.

Photos: The Baltimore Times Archives/Gar Roberts



National Great Blacks and Wax Founders Dr. Joanne Martin and Dr. Elmer Martin at the podium during the wax figure unveiling ceremony.



(L-r): Baltimore Times Founder and Publisher Joy Bramble; Senator Paul Sarbanes; Dr. Elmer Martin; Dr. Joanne Martin; General Colin Powell; Alma Powell; Dr. Ben Carson, and Congressman Elijah Cummings.

Bramble said Chrysler Corporation was instrumental in bringing the wax figure to fruition, and noted Frank Fountain, Chairman of the Walter P. Chrysler Museum Foundation attended the event.

“It was The Baltimore Times’ 10th Anniversary, and I wanted to do

something significant to mark the occasion,” she said. “I’m big on supporting Black businesses. I thought it would be a wonderful way to celebrate 10 years in business, support the great Blacks in Wax as a Black business, and pay homage to Colin Powell. Dena Wane stepped up and worked alongside



General Powell and former Baltimore Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke sharing a hearty handshake.

the Great Blacks in Wax and Chrysler to bring the project to fruition.”

Dena Wane is Director of Special Projects for The Baltimore Times.

“I remember the Great Blacks in Wax being packed and everybody having a great time,” said Wane of the 1996 event. “It was such an honor and a

privilege for me and my then three-year-old granddaughter, Tiara, to meet General Powell. He has played such an integral role in our nation’s history. I salute General Powell for his contributions to our nation and the world.”

“If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.” — Colin Powell

Rambling Rose

Mount Hebron Presbyterian Church Hosts Jazz Concert



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, I sure hope you enjoyed this past weekend. I sure did. I attended the Charlie Tilghman and Sphinx Club celebration down on Division Street. It was a very nice event and they were able to complete the program and the live entertainment before the rain started. I want to thank all who bought my books and allowed me to autograph them for you. It was so great seeing some of the old timers that used to hang out on Pennsylvania Avenue back in the day. I saw Wayne Poulson; Brice Peterson; Danny Henson; Seleh Rahman the Master Furrier; brothers, Milton and Charlie Dugger; Justin Hugh, member of Arch Social Club; Robert Burkett; Rev. Willie Ray; Van Anderson; and Kaleb Tshamba representing the Arch Social Club, just to name a few.

Now for this weekend, there will be a jazz concert hosted by the Baltimore Jazz Education Project featuring renowned saxophonist, Clara Daly, a four-time winner of the Downbeat Critic's Poll and winner of the Jazz Journalist Association. Leading her own jazz groups and passing on to her next generation the gift of music, has been the mission of her life. Performing with her is Gregory Thompkins, who is also a renowned saxophonist and one of our own. He is an early jazz and commercial music graduate of Towson University, receiving his bachelor of science in 1989.

Thompkins has studied music with Hank Levy; Glenn Cashman; Ron Diehl; George Garzone; Sara Nichols; and Denis Karp. In the 30 years of his music career, he has performed with all Mighty Senators, Lafayette Gilchrist, David Murray, George Garzone and Dave Ballou just to name a few. As a

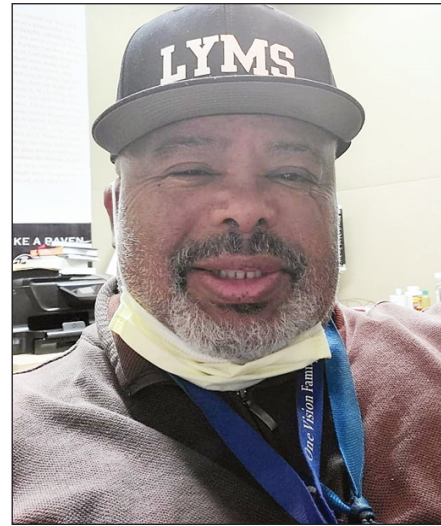
saxophone teacher, his students have performed in first chair positions in their local school bands. Thompkins is the music director of The Baltimore Jazz Education Project, a nonprofit that seeks to raise funds to musically educate underserved youth in the greater Baltimore area that started in 2007. I so admire this musician because he reminds me of what I did for over 25 years with the Rosa Pryor Music Scholarship Fund, Inc. God bless you Greg. If there is anything I can do to help, please contact me.

I will end by reminding you that every Thursday, DJ Mike Jones got the Not Just Crab Restaurant and bar jumping up and down doing the "James Brown" from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., located 8731 Liberty Road in Randallstown, Md. It is also "Lady's Night."

Well my friends, I have to go now, I am out of space and out of time. But 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!**



Folks came from all over the community to the Charlie P. Tilghman & the Sphinx Club celebration at the Cab Calloway Legends Park on Saturday, October 16, 2021. Photo: Anderson Ward



Larry Young, Radio Personality and host of the "Larry Young Morning Show" on WOLB 1010 AM for the past 25 years was the Master of Ceremonies for the celebration of the Legacy of Charles Tilghman and the Sphinx Club. About 150 folks attended, including Mayor Brandon Scott; State Senator A. Hayes; the Sphinx Club Band; Anthony Pressley; Jackie Cornish, Druid Heights Community Development Corporation; and the Tilghman family with Kendrick Tilghman, Randy Tilghman's son, Charles Tilghman, Jr., and Randy Tilghman, which was held at the Cab Calloway Legends Park in the 2100 Block of Division Street last Saturday. Photo: Anderson Ward



Charles Tilghman, Jr. and Kendrick Tilghman, Ronnie Tilghman's son and Randy Tilghman, (not in Picture) represented the Tilghman family this past Saturday. Photo: Anderson Ward



Claire Daly, baritone saxophonist and Gregory Thompkins, tenor saxophonist with their musicians; Skip Grasso on guitar, Blake Meister on bass and Robert Shahid on drums will perform in concert on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Hebron Presbyterian Church located 2330 Mount Hebron Drive in Ellicott City, Maryland. For more information, call 443-854-5876.

Courtesy Photo

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Critical Race Theory Fast Cancelling Martin Luther King, Jr.

Continued from page 1

They need to step over the achievements of President Barack Obama and now Vice President Kamala Harris; they need to cancel the achievements of the civil rights movement that culminated in the life, work and ultimate death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They need to cancel Justice Thurgood Marshall, Malcolm X and James Brown who once told us to “sing it loud, I’m Black and I’m Proud;” they then need to wipe out the work of Booker T. Washington and Du Boise, the Emancipation Proclamation and 14th Amendment before getting back to 1619 as the definitive time in our history.

More, they must also ignore the successes of great Blacks like Oprah Winfrey; Tyler Perry; Kanye West; Tiger Woods; the Williams sisters; and a host of other Blacks who have demonstrated that despite all the negatives in society, they could overcome them and succeed far beyond what most whites (their CRT oppressors) could ever come close to achieving. My mother always told me the ‘exception proves the rule!’

I think that any Black leader, be they politicians, civil rights leaders or teachers who upholds a theory that says their race is inferior to any other group is simply stupid. No race allows others to demean them like this and certainly, any race of people who joins others in demeaning them(selves?) with a theory of inferiority and oppression, as is inherent in CRT, deserves what they

get. All sensible people describe themselves “up,” not down. What race of people allows others to define them as losers who need help? And when one considers the great things accomplished by Blacks in America in a short span of time, how could anyone tasked with interpreting historical developments conclude that it is advantageous to emphasize the weaknesses while ignoring the great achievements of a people who were deliberately held down, but still found ways to advance themselves. Sensible leaders accentuate the positive and challenge the faltering to rise up and emulate the Oprahs, Baracks and all the other people who succeeded despite the obstacles placed in their way.

Then these promoters of CRT say that all whites are privileged. What nonsense! A very large percentage of whites in America are relatively recent immigrants who fled to this country because of famine and oppressions. The Irish came fleeing a potato famine. They and many others like them who came to this country never owned Black slaves and many were serfs before they escaped the oppression experienced in their countries of origin. In Baltimore, as I drive along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, I see many desperate white people begging and often turn to my wife to point out some current examples of “white privilege.”

It is also very false to begin Black history, by dating it in 1619. Before this nonsense got a hold, Black leaders

taught that Blacks came from greatness. They used to say that they came from kings and queens. This is true when we realize that in Africa there were many tribes each with their ‘king/chief’ who often participated in the slave trade themselves by capturing and holding their captured rivals to be sold as slaves in the West. In a sense, slavery actually saved many of our ancestors because until the slave trade, the men from the defeated tribes were often killed so they could not revolt, while the women and children were absorbed into the capturing tribe. If that is true, slavery in a strange way saved the lives of many of the ancestors of Blacks who otherwise would have been killed. Interpretation!

The worse thing about CRT, however, has to do with how its proponents plan to correct it—by introducing the concept of Equity. Equity? What is that? It sounds so good, but it plans to dumb down the population to the least common denominator. Just think about this for a moment. If equity is the goal and we have a genius child with an IQ in excess of 160 and another child with a

normal IQ of about 100, there is only one way to achieve equity. Dumb down the genius to meet the ordinary. Also, a more extreme analogy would be that in order to get Equity between a blind person and one who could see, we may have to pluck out the eyes of the seeing person so that both will become blind. Where is there room for excellence within the theory of Equity? My mother used to tell me that I needed to be twice as good as the white man to succeed. And although it seems unfair, if I became twice as good, that was good! Good for me! Follow CRT and watch China “eat our lunch” academically!

To conclude, CRT is detrimental to Blacks and to the society we are trying to build. It is contrary to the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who asks that we judge by the content of one’s character and not by the color of one’s skin. That is very good advice and we should follow King and cancel CRT.

In conclusion, we need to emphasize excellence in achievement as we race to the top. We should not seek equity, but excellence in achievement.



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Hundreds of students, alumni honor TU's first dean of minority affairs

By Kyle Hobstetter

Special to The Baltimore Times

As Towson University (TU) celebrated Homecoming on October 16, 2021, hundreds of alumni and students honored Julius "Dean" Chapman, TU's first dean of minority affairs. During a ceremony, the lawn between the Media Center and Stephens Hall was officially renamed the "Dr. Julius Chapman Quadrangle."

In fall 2019, TU dedicated a bronze bust to Chapman. It was then that President Kim Schatzel declared the area around it would be dedicated to his work and service.

"Two years ago, I announced on that glorious day, there could be no better or fitting outcome than to name and dedicate this beautiful space right in the heart of campus," Schatzel said on Saturday. "Dr. Chapman, it is my honor and privilege to dedicate this quad in your name this morning."

During his 12-year career at TU, Chapman recruited and mentored African American students while establishing the Black Student Union; the Black Fraternity and Administrators Association; and the Black Cultural Center.

Before Chapman started in 1968, Black student enrollment was less than one percent of the total student population. Today, 5,311 Black students are enrolled at Towson University,



Towson University President Kim Schatzel and Julius "Dean" Chapman, Towson University's first dean of minority affairs, unveil a rendering of the National Pan-Hellenic Council Tribute Project at the newly dedicated Dr. Julius Chapman Quadrangle.

Photo Credit: Kanji Takeno/Towson University

which Schatzel said is more than any other university in Maryland.

In fact, TU's 2021 incoming freshman class is its most diverse, with 59 percent identifying as racial or ethnic minorities. In reading these statistics to the crowd, Schatzel wanted to make sure everyone knew this evolution began because of the work done by Chapman.

"I can promise you, Dean Chapman, that we will not stop the righteous transformation you began 50 years ago," Schatzel said. "A transformation to a diverse, inclusive university of excellence that has become a hallmark

of TU's nationally ranked academic enterprise and student life."

Chapman, who was in the front row for the ceremony, received a standing ovation when he approached the stage.

"Every time I come back to Towson, I get a good feeling," he said. "I get a feeling that it's a new day. I want to thank you again and again for this opportunity and the support."

Dr. Vernon Hurte, vice president for student affairs, introduced Chapman at the ceremony. TU, he said, thrives today because of Chapman's innovative work.

"Dr. Chapman," Hurte said, "thank you for the decades of leadership you provided here at TU, and for laying the foundation for those like myself to come and continue the mission of providing an experience where all our students can live authentically and experience whatever success they desire."

Alumni representing Towson University's National Pan-Hellenic

Council's (NPHC) historically African American fraternities and sororities were in attendance, wearing their colors and letters proudly.

Chapman brought historically Black Greek organizations—sometimes referred to as the Divine Nine—to campus 50 years ago. He couldn't help but smile as the older and current generations celebrated him and each other.

During the event, five chapters of TU's NPHC fraternities and sororities participated in a step show. Introduced by current NPHC President Naomi Bryant, the organizations shared their histories while honoring the alumni in attendance.

The event ended with a special announcement: the installation of a tribute honoring the NPHC organizations. Officially revealed by President Schatzel and Dean Chapman, the tribute will be a brick walkway through Chapman Quad lined with nine brick pillars.

They will be topped with plaques featuring full-color crests, mottos and founding dates for each of the NPHC sororities and fraternities. And on the front of each pillar will be a plaque listing each chapter's charter members.

The project, which will be funded completely through fundraising, received its first \$10,000 donation from alumni members of Towson University's Iota Phi Theta chapter. Rayvon Daniels, who spoke on behalf of his fellow fraternity members, said this walkway and quad are perfect ways to recognize Chapman.

"We are honored that we had an opportunity to embark upon our journey, starting with you," Daniels said. "I stand here today as Iota Phi Theta celebrates its 48th year at Towson University, and the direction that this institution is moving in has us excited."

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Ravens Ronnie Stanley plagued by injuries once again

By Tyler Hamilton

Just a couple of short years ago, Baltimore Ravens left tackle Ronnie Stanley was considered as one of the best offensive linemen in football. The No. 6 overall pick by the Ravens in 2016 came off an All-Pro season in 2019 and signed a five-year contract extension worth \$98.75 million before the 2020 season started.

However, that year things took a turn for the worse. Stanley suffered a severe ankle injury in Week 8 of the 2020 season against the Pittsburgh Steelers, which landed him on injured reserve.

The Ravens managed to deal with his injury by moving third-round pick Orlando Brown Jr. from right tackle to left tackle. Knowing Stanley would eventually return and take his left tackle spot back, Brown requested a trade. His wish was eventually granted and Brown was dealt to the Kansas City Chiefs in exchange for four draft picks before the season started.

The Ravens signed veteran offensive lineman Alejandro Villanueva to take over at right tackle.

A rigorous rehabilitation process allowed Stanley to return in 2021. Unfortunately, the injury bug bit Stanley once again. He played in the season opener but another ankle injury landed him on the injured reserve list once again.

Stanley will have season-ending surgery on his injured ankle. That's definitely not the fate the Ravens



Left tackle Ronnie Stanley was the No. 6 overall pick by the Baltimore Ravens in 2016. Stanley will have season-ending surgery on his injured ankle this year after a severe ankle injury in Week 8 of the 2020 season against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Photo Credit: Will Newton/Getty Images

envisioned when they signed Stanley to the husky contract. He didn't envision it either.

"As I sit here in my hospital bed post surgery, I have a lot of mixed emotions. On one hand I'm angry, sad, upset, depressed knowing things could've been different. I should be gearing up for our Super Bowl run but instead I'm back in the same hospital I was in almost a year ago," Stanley posted on Twitter. "Not being able to fight, compete—physically sacrifice for my teammates,

for the second season in a row is mentally debilitating. On the other hand I'm grateful, hopeful, excited that I get another opportunity to do this the right way. I have a chance to be everything I need to be for my team, and that wouldn't be possible without this surgery. I'm thankful for all the support from my family, teammates, friends, and

the best fans, #Ravensflock. I will take full advantage of the chance I've been given. It will be challenging but with God's grace and will, I'm confident."

To help replace Stanley, the Ravens have converted Villanueva from right tackle to left tackle, the position he played throughout his career with the Steelers.

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