

The Annapolis Times

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African American Authors & Empowerment Book Expo



The 7th Annual African American Authors & Empowerment Book Expo was held at Morgan State University's Student Center Calvin and Tina Tyler Ballroom October 14-15, 2016. There were over 50 authors and panelists on hand giving expert advice in a number of areas. Tonya Wilson, author of "Portrait of a Hustler" and "The Chronicles of Toni" under Polk Publishing House, Baltimore, Maryland (back row, black top) is surrounded by excited Expo attendees, (See article on page 12)

Photo credit: Patricia Johnson-Harris

Colgate's 'Bright Smiles Bright Futures' celebrates 25 years

By Deborah Bailey

Students and teachers at Arlington Elementary/Middle School joined Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Steve Smith, Jr. and Baltimore City Public Health Commissioner Leana Wen and a host of volunteers and friends at the school on Monday, October 3, 2016, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Colgate-Palmolive Companies' Bright Smiles – Bright Futures campaign.

"We have made great strides in raising awareness about the importance of oral care and encouraging families to take their children to the dentist and establish good dental habits," said Mayor Rawlings-Blake during the kick-off to the morning's activities.

According to the Baltimore Health Department's Health Disparities Report Card, almost one third of families earning less than \$15,000 have gone two or more years without visiting the dentist. Close to 50 percent of Baltimore families earning between \$15,000 and \$24,000 skip the annual visit to the dentist's chair.

"Educating children about proper oral hygiene health habits and helping underserved communities is at the heart of the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program, said Dr. Marsha Butler, Colgate's Vice President for Global Oral Health.

The 200 Arlington Elementary/Middle



Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Baltimore City Comptroller Joan Pratt, Arlington Middle and Elementary School Principal Emily Hunter, representatives from Colgate Dr. Marsha Butler and Dawna Fields, Ravens Wide Receiver Steve Smith Sr. and Baltimore City Public Health Commissioner Dr. Leana Wen joined Arlington Elementary/middle School students to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures Campaign. Courtesy Photo

school children involved in the event were treated to free dental screenings and an outdoor arcade of fun oral health games to get them involved in being advocates for their own health care.

Other representatives from the Mayor's Office and Colgate, including Dr. Leana Wen, spoke to students during classes about the importance of oral health. Dr. Wen asked students if they had ever experienced a toothache and as the students nodded and raised their hands, she explained the connection between oral health and school success.

"When it's really painful, it is difficult to focus in the classroom or do our work, right?" she said to the children.

The Bright Smiles, Bright Futures campaign has provided free dental screenings, oral-health education and treatment referrals in urban and rural communities across the United States since 1991. Baltimore is one of the 1000 cities and towns across America that is treated to the free screenings. A fleet of nine fully equipped dental vans reaching millions of children. The program's award winning in-school curriculum is used worldwide.

"So many of our students miss days because of health related issues," said Emily Hunter Principal of Arlington Elementary/Middle School, who was grateful for the focus on health at her school.

Hunter pointed out that the day was well spent because her students learned the connection between oral health and health concerns throughout the body. Dental care remains the greatest unmet health need among children in the United States, according to American Pediatric Association. Low-income children are almost twice as likely to develop cavities as middle-class and wealthy children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We are grateful for the support that the Colgate mobile van has provided in helping us dive home the importance of this issue," said Rawlings-Blake.

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Guest Editorials/Letters

After the election, back to important things

By James A. Haught

Soon, thank heaven, the 2016 election will be over. Americans can stop fussing over how many women Donald Trump molested, or what Russian hackers found in Hillary Clinton e-mails. Then, I hope, thinking people can focus again on issues that really matter:

Can America finally gain complete universal health insurance covering all citizens as a human right— a government-run national system suppressing medical costs, as exists in most democracies and all industrialized nations?

Can economic changes reduce the amassing of wealth by the billionaire one percent, and give the middle class a better chance?

Can controls manage the pistol saturation that gives America the worst murder rate among civilized nations?

Will pollution enforcement finally reduce the catastrophic menace of global warming?

Will marijuana become legal nationwide, ending the police-and-prison prohibition that works no better than Prohibition of alcohol did?

Will “black lives matter” become a reality, reducing police killings of unarmed African American men?

Can better birth control prevent millions of unwanted pregnancies that drive desperate women and girls to seek termination?

Will the barbaric death penalty finally cease in the United States, as it has in virtually all democracies?

Will white supremacy fade as the rising tide of Hispanics, Asians, blacks, Pacific Islanders, Muslims, etc., makes America more multicultural, with no majority?

Will college become free for all Americans capable of advanced study?

Will U.S. militarism -- by far the world's largest -- continue costing taxpayers \$1 trillion per year (counting veteran expense and interest on past spending done with borrowed money)?

Will America continue imprisoning more than two million people, giving this country the worst incarceration rate among modern societies?

Can changes prevent U.S. corporations from laying off American workers and shifting production to low-wage countries— and prevent U.S. corporations from stashing profits overseas to duck taxes?

Can human rights grow more entrenched around the world to reduce cruelty?

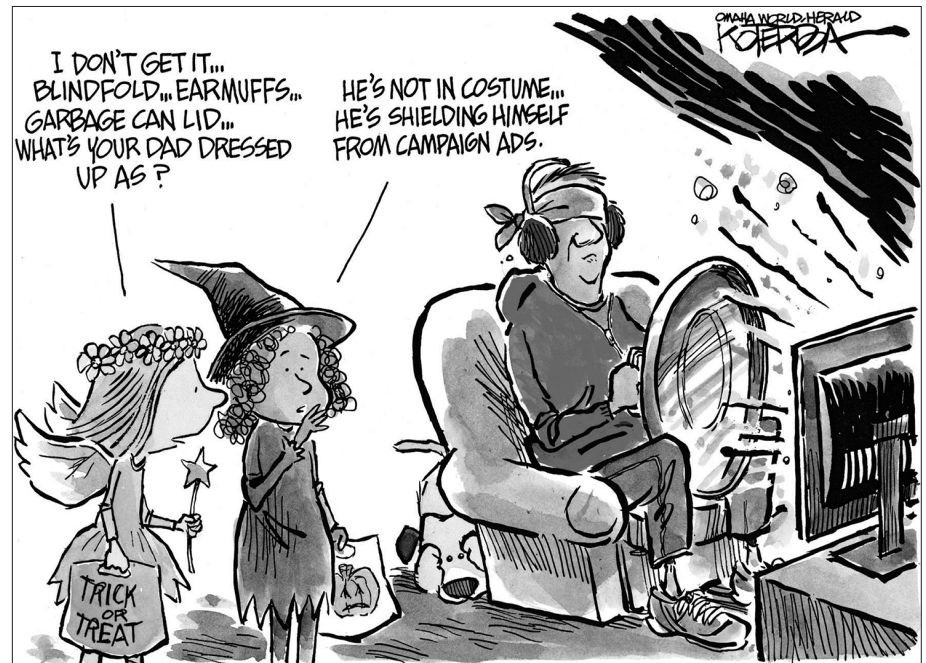
Etc., etc.— After the tumult and shouting of the 2016 campaign ends, goals like these should get new attention. They concern liberal democracy, the system of government of the people, by the people, for the people.

During the past century, liberal democracy won enormous gains: Women won the right to vote. Couples won the right to practice birth control. Retirees won Social Security pensions. Jobless workers won unemployment compensation and other safety net provisions. Labor won the right to organize. African Americans escaped Jim Crow segregation. Medicare and Medicaid expanded health treatment. The disabled and workers hurt on the job gained protections. Censorship of books, movies and magazines was wiped out. The Affordable Care Act expanded health treatment further. Gays won, first decriminalization, then the right to marry.

In all these struggles, conservatives fought fierce resistance, but liberal progressives finally carried the day, improving humanity and western civilization. I hope this pattern continues forever.

The 2016 election has been a carnival, a circus, a farce. In only a few days, it will fade into the past. But the deep public questions— things that really matter— still will stare us in the face.

James Haught, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is editor emeritus of West Virginia's largest newspaper, The Charl



Letters to the Editor

Editor:

Re: *International Stuttering Awareness Day*

October 22nd is International Stuttering Awareness Day. Did you know that 70 million people worldwide stutter— more than the population of France?

For nearly 70 years, the Stuttering Foundation has offered free information about stuttering and its treatment. To mark this year's awareness day, we've compiled information for all ages from speech-language pathologists around the world who specialize in the treatment of stuttering. This invaluable info can be found at www.StutteringHelp.org.

We hope to reach everyone with accurate and informed information about stuttering.

Jane Fraser, president
The Stuttering Foundation
Memphis, TN

Editor

Re: *Two Untrustworthy Candidates*

We know that many politicians make promises they cannot keep and they typically use manipulative and ambiguous language to hide their true ideas and feelings. They hope the public will for-

get their false statements.

However, Trump and Clinton might have the record for the most lies conveyed to the public during the campaign for President.

James Green in a letter in the Londonderry NH Times referenced the fact checking website politifact and exposed the false statements by the Presidential candidates.

Approximately 29 percent of Clinton's statements were either mostly false, false or pants on fire. Trump fared even worse. Approximately 71 percent of his statements were either mostly false, false or pants on fire.

Trump cannot be trusted when he says he will bring jobs back to America. He has outsourced jobs to China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh and Mexico. He employs many foreign workers.

Unfortunately, Johnson, the Libertarian candidate for President, has made two significant gaffes in recent interviews, and he appears to lack knowledge of world affairs.

We can't trust Clinton or Trump to tell the truth. I am writing in myself for President.

Donald Moskowitz
Londonderry, NH

Race and Beyond: Say It Ain't So, Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Sam Fulwood III

Senior Fellow

Center for American Progress

Out in the wilds of the Internet exist two sets of memes establishing Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as a champion of progressive idealism.

In one of them, Justice Ginsburg assumes the alter ego of the so-called Notorious R.G.B. This Tumblr fabrication equates the diminutive and eloquent jurist with the robust and bawdy rapper Christopher George Latore Wallace, also known as Biggie, Biggie Smalls, or—as is pertinent to this column—the Notorious B.I.G.

In the other, well-trafficked meme, Ginsburg is the shero of feminism, expressing her displeasure at the inability of her male colleagues on the Supreme Court to comprehend a woman's right to control her body.

With nothing more than a compilation of side-eye facial gestures, Ginsburg shows her disdain for mansplaining.

As these images went viral, a pop culture icon emerged: There are now

t-shirts bearing Ginsburg's likeness and breathless online articles to prove it.

So it is akin to an "Et tu, Brute?" moment for her erstwhile unquestioningly adoring, progressive fans to learn that she harshly criticized the San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick and a handful of other professional football players and their supporters for refusing to stand for the national anthem prior to the kickoff of their games.

During a wide-ranging interview earlier this week with Yahoo News' Katie Couric, Ginsburg shared her feelings about the football players' silent protest: "I think it's really dumb of them," she said. When asked to elaborate, she added:

Would I arrest them for doing it? No. I think it's dumb and disrespectful. I would have the same answer if you asked me about flag burning. I think it's a terrible thing to do, but I wouldn't lock a person up for doing it. I would point out how ridiculous it seems to me to do such an act... If they want to be stupid, there's no law that should be preventive. If they want to be arrogant, there's no law that prevents them from that. What I would do is strongly take issue with the point of view that they are expressing when they do that.

Reactions from her fans were swift and negative. A stoutly progressive friend and colleague of mine shook her head in sadness as she lamented, "It's so sad. The woman who detests mansplaining is now raceplaining."

A more prominent voice, singer and songwriter Ne-Yo, profanely disagreed with Ginsburg and expressed disappointment about her comments in an interview with the entertainment news website TMZ. "She's right," he said in a recorded message about the justice. "There is no rules to stop people from

being stupid the same way there is no rules to stop her from saying the dumb s*** she just said. ... I expected better."

Other notable voices challenged the justice, as well. For example, writing for The Nation, Dave Zirin takes Ginsburg to task:

I am less struck by the words "dumb," "stupid," and "arrogant" than by the words she does not say: "police," "racism," "injustice," or "death." There is no reckoning with the reason why so many people feel driven to kneel in protest and raise their fist in the name of black lives.

Whether you love or hate the San Francisco 49ers quarterback, his political principles and actions are anything but arrogant. ... Instead, he is risking his precarious place in the sports world by choosing this moment in his career to stand up. That's not arrogance. It's conviction. To even call Kaepernick "arrogant" sounds much too close to "uppity" for comfort.

As painfully disappointing as Ginsburg's comments are—and they are profoundly upsetting—this is yet again another teachable moment in the country's ever-evolving struggle to recognize how institutional racism—which is so deeply embedded in the national conscience—cripples even those who are allies in the struggle for equality.

Ginsburg is a product of her world. She is an 83-year-old woman who has devoted her life to the law. As Mark Joseph Stern points out in an insightful Slate article, Ginsburg "was never really 'Notorious RGB.'" Instead, he writes, "Ginsburg's social and professional cohort is largely limited to an elite circle of friends in the arts, the law, and academia. She is not a rabble-rouser and probably does not know any rabble-rousers."

Thus, as her comments suggest, Ginsburg believes there is a right and a wrong way to protest, to which those who support Kaepernick's view take fitful exception. Her thinking on this matter fails to accept that values are more important than tactics and that protest is a legitimate, necessary, and uncomfortable process to wrest change in a society that is more comfortable with the status quo.

What this candid peek into the mind of a modern-day liberal icon should tell us is that sometimes even favored allies won't—or perhaps, can't—walk the walk in every cause because sometimes they are incapable of seeing the world from where others stand. It's a good reminder, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. noted in his famous piece "Letter from a Birmingham Jail": "Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

Ginsburg is no less an ally to progressivism in the wake of her imprudent comments than she was before she made them. Her record on the bench shows her as a stout and outspoken advocate for women, civil rights, and equality. In all likelihood, her opinions to come from the Supreme Court will still affirm progressive causes and issues. It's just that in this case, it hurts to see her exposed mind because she's so painfully wrong.

Sam Fulwood III is a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress and Director of the CAP Leadership Institute. His work with the Center's Progress 2050 project examines the impact of policies on the nation when there will be no clear racial or ethnic majority by the year 2050.

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Fly Girl Network seeks to empower young African-Americans

By Stacy M. Brown

Tiffany Ginyard is adamant that a strong sense of perceived self-efficacy is an important and contributing factor to both the prevention of diminished self-concept and self-sufficiency in young adulthood.

And, when the former teacher who now works for the Baltimore Times started the nonprofit, The Fly Girl Network in 2010, she did so with a mission to create opportunities for development and enterprise for young women by providing the resources that would position them for promising futures.

The organization offers mentorship to local women, particularly African-Americans to fill any gaps left by broken homes, foster care or in those who might encounter other disadvantages.

Ginyard says the Fly Girl Network represents a valuable resource for any young woman who might be trying to cope with adolescence.

The nonprofit serves young women by hosting and sponsoring social, academic and cultural events and activities designed to strengthen adolescent and young adult females, helping them to make positive and productive decisions that could help lead to a bright future.

"I've realized by my upbringing how important it is to have access to support services, and how important it is to help push our young women forward," said Ginyard, whose organization will host 30 young women at its inaugural Fly & Fearless Empowerment Conference at Stratford University from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 29, 2016.

Ginyard, a Baltimore City College graduate says the purpose of the event is to inspire young women to fall in love with themselves and to live fearlessly in pursuit of their wildest dreams. The event's theme is "First Love You," and its goal is to encourage participants to engage in candid conversations about being a female.

Workshops will be held on topics that reflect the core values of The Fly Girl Network including: self-awareness, integrity, courage, enterprise, spirit, poise, service and sisterhood, according to Ginyard.



Fly Girl Network founder Tiffany Ginyard (sitting left) with Fly Girls Network volunteer Danielle S. Lee (sitting middle), assistant principal, KASA Middle/High School, and fly girls celebrate at the organizations annual Family & Friends Cook-out. Journalist and former public school teacher, Ginyard has dedicated her life's work to being a resource, a coach and a big sister to any young woman who crosses her path at the Fly Girl Network.

Photo Photo

"Our goal is to make this event free for all young ladies living in underserved communities and low-income families interested in attending," she said. "I've expanded the age from 13 to 17 to 14 to 24 because we realized that we can't stop when a girl graduates high school. Life is now real for them because they're on their own and they have to find their resources and some of them have children."

Among the programs and services, the nonprofit offers are the BMF Media Institute, which Ginyard says is an enriched experience in media production, social development, and service learning. Through that service, young women learn concepts in several disciplines including media literacy, journalism, podcasting, photography, videography, and creative writing. Par-

ticipants also publish their own works using video, audio, and the Internet.

Ginyard noted that it is for African-American girls to be themselves in a culture that discourages individuality. So, as part of the organization's mission to encourage young black women to cultivate their own concept of beauty that embraces their own skin and enhances the beauty within, The Fly Girl Network offers a program called The Butterfly Profiles Project, where participants express their personal statements of beauty through videography and photography.

"I don't profess to know it all but we're raised to compete as black women with the media images and we're raised to keep a certain façade up," Ginyard said. "On the inside, however, there are insecurities that needs to be cleaned up."

To further her effort to inspire a coalition of healthy, purpose-driven and confident young women, Ginyard insists that those who work with her Fly Girl Network are prepared to offer more than just mentoring and coaching services.

"Transportation is needed. I'm a strong believer in a grassroots approach because I've been doing this work for 15 years and I know that transportation is a really big thing and if people can't get around, if it's not convenient, they won't do it and these girls need transportation and we must have mentors and coaches who are willing to provide that transportation," Ginyard said.

For more information about the Fly Girl Network, or to sign up or to become a volunteer, and details about its upcoming conference, visit: www.theflygirlnetwork.org.

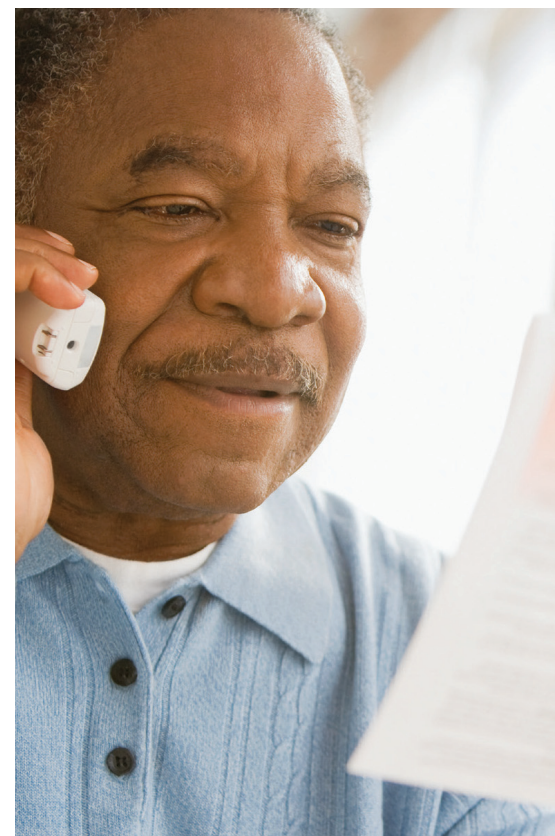
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Ravens loss shows Jimmy Smith's value can't be measured by stats alone

By Turron Davenport

The Baltimore Ravens lost a close game to the New York Giants on Sunday, October 16, 2016. Protecting a lead with 1:24 seconds left, the Ravens gave up a touchdown on a 64-yard catch and run by Odell Beckham Jr. won the game.

The play came on a fourth and one situation. Defensive coordinator Dean Pees made the call for man-to-man coverage, but Baltimore's best cover corner, Jimmy Smith was not on the field.

Smith left the game with a concussion and did not come back onto the field to start the second half. Unfortunately for the Ravens, not having Smith on the field has been a frequent occurrence.

The Ravens signed Smith to a four-year contract extension worth \$48 million with \$21 million guaranteed in 2015. Smith battled lingering effects from a four injury that landed him on the injured reserve list in 2014.

Despite the discomfort from the injury, Smith posted three interceptions last season. The sixth-year cornerback's impact cannot truly be measured by his personal stats, however.

Baltimore has relied upon his coverage skills to minimize the effectiveness of opposing wide receivers. For example, when Smith was in the game against Beckham Jr., the dynamic receiver only had two catches for 11 yards and did not score a touchdown.

Beckham ran wild once Smith was out, posting six catches for 211 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winning score.

Much has been made about Beckham's antics after the whistle when it comes to



Baltimore Ravens cornerback Jimmy Smith pumps up the crowd at M&T Bank Stadium before a play during the 2015 NFL season.

Courtesy Photo/foxports.com

interaction with opposing cornerbacks. Smith had a message for Beckham leading up to the game.

"All that extra hitting and talking is not going to fly," Smith said on Thursday. "Hit me after the whistle—there's going to be a fight."

Another example of how Smith can impact a game without it showing the box score came on the Ravens final goal line stand in Super Bowl XLVII. The Ravens were once again protecting a late lead.

It was fourth down and the Super Bowl was on the line. San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick went to his top target, wide receiver Michael Crabtree throughout the game.

Crabtree lined up against Smith and Kaepernick lofted a touch pass in his

direction in the corner of the end zone. Smith jammed Crabtree at the line and prevented him from getting into position to make the catch. Smith's defensive

play sealed the Super Bowl win for the Ravens that year.

At 6' feet 2" and 206-pounds, Smith is the ideal blend of size and athleticism to play cornerback. His long arms allow him to be disruptive at the line of scrimmage.

The Ravens pass defense is ineffective when Smith is not in the game. Smith is not viewed as the clear best at his position like Deion Sanders or Darrelle Revis were, but like them, he allows the Ravens defense to do a lot more schematically when he is in the game.

Pees, does not have to worry about rotating coverage over the top of Smith to help him cover the speedy receivers that are featured throughout the NFL. Smith has the speed to turn and run with most receivers if he does not get a quick jam on them at the line.

His coverage ability allows the defense to focus on taking out other aspects of the offenses that they face. When healthy, Smith can be relied upon to take care of the best receivers.

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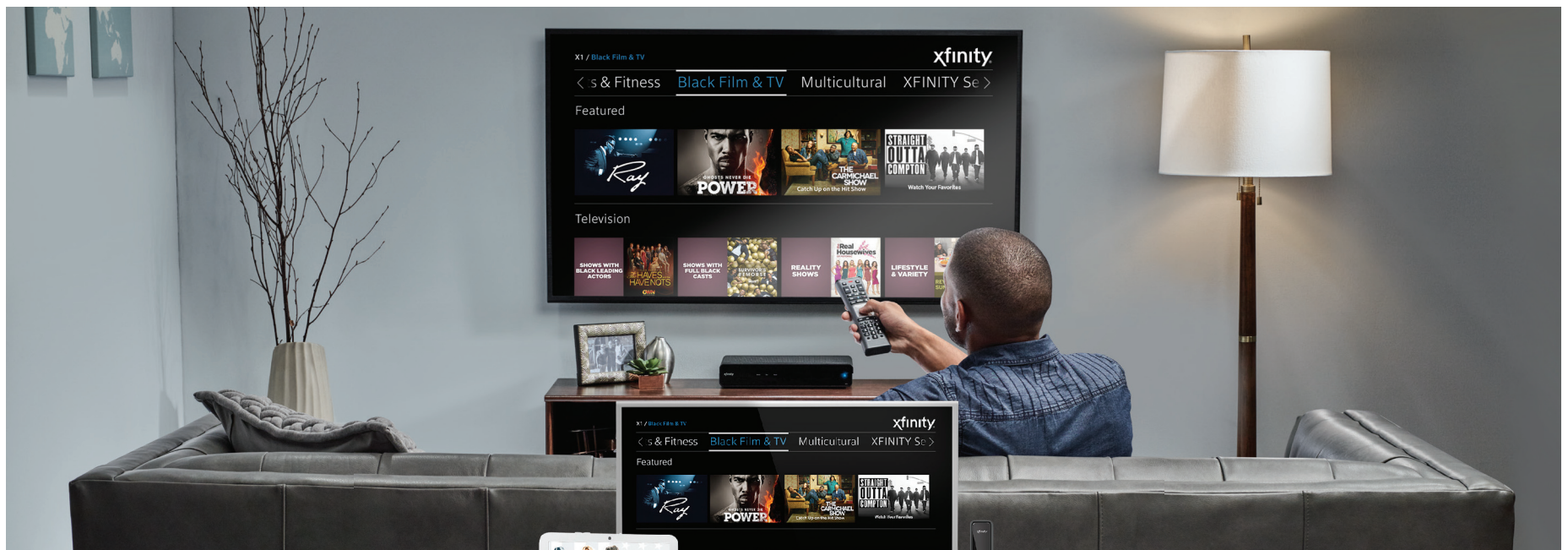
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‘Boys of Dunbar’ is a winner!

By Bill Hughes

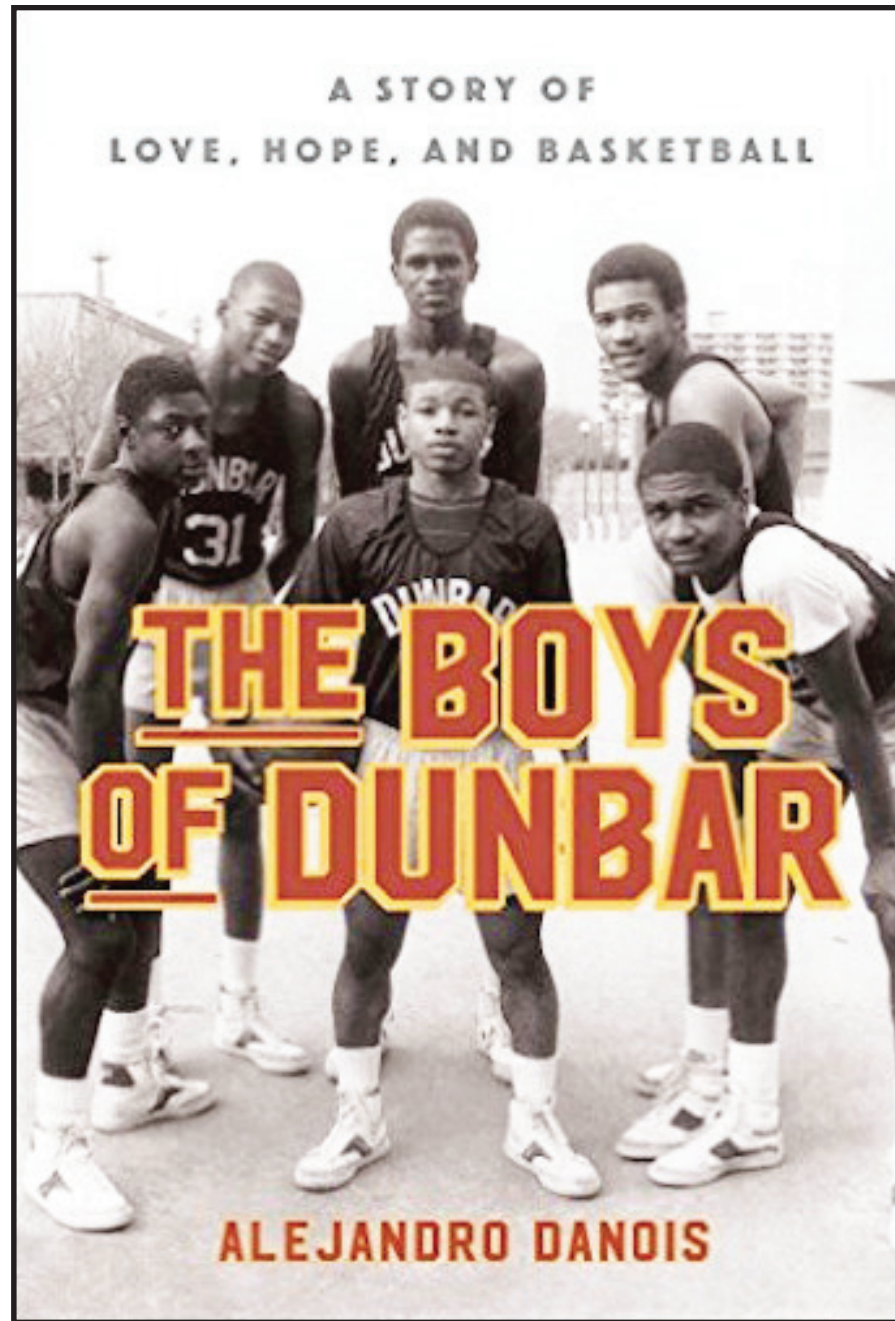
The Boys of Dunbar: A Story of Love, Hope, and Basketball. It’s hard to put down this book. Alejandro Danois, a native of Brooklyn, New York has curated a well-written account of the Dunbar Poets, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School’s nationally acclaimed basketball team.

“Boys of Dunbar” is more than a book about basketball. At a deeper level, it’s an inspiring tale about the magnificence of the human spirit played out in the lives of young people on and off the court. For Tyrone “Muggsy” Bogues, Gary Graham, David “Gate” Wingate, Reggie “Russ” Williams, Reggie “Truck” Lewis and Tim Dawson, and nine other darn good players, attending Dunbar and playing basketball taught them how to cope with the struggles they faced growing up in the crime-ridden public housing communities. They learned how to survive difficult, challenging and often, dangerous times.

At center stage in their story is Dunbar’s 1981-82 (29-0), undefeated basketball season. The team was led by the stellar 5’3” point guard Muggsy. The head coach, revered as a father figure among members of the team, was Bob Wade. Prior to taking the reigns, he served as assistant coach at Dunbar to the incomparable, late William “Sugar” Cain, who passed the torch after 32 successful years.

Wade, also an ex-NFL cornerback, comes across in the book as a mix of a brilliant basketball strategist and a hard-as-nails U.S. Marine Corp drill instructor. Wade once played under NFL’s legendary coach Vince Lombardi, (then, with the “Washington Redskins”). So, it’s evident where some of that tough guy, take-another-lap-around-the-field persona came from.

The 1980-81 season ended on a bummer note for the Poets. They lost to the Calvert Hall Cardinals, coached by the Catholic League legend, Mark Am-
atucci, (94-91), at the Towson Center before a capacity audience. The game went into triple overtime. The Poets were “actually winning by nine points



with less than two minutes to play in regulation,” writes Danois.

After that bitter defeat, Wade and his team, were committed to the 81-82 season— not only for the win, but to also extract some sweet revenge on the “boy-ohs” from Towson, who wore the cardinal and gold uniforms. From the first practice session—incidentally they usually lasted about four hours— Wade pushed hard to create a mindset of victory, no matter how high the price.

Danois takes readers through this phe-

nomenal season game by game. Noting, poignantly at times, what was going on inside the sometimes difficult family lives of the players. His words ring with the pain-filled truth of how these youth soldiered forward despite the roadblocks and the setbacks their families faced.

Lurking on the perimeter of this story are the ubiquitous drug dealers who are responsible for the havoc and ravaging of inner city neighborhoods. The 81-82 Dunbar carried with them the memory of what happened to one of the school’s’

greatest basketball stars, Allen “Skip” Wise, who was “the man” in the early ‘70s. Wise only lasted one year at the University of Clemson, turned pro and then became a serious drug user. He also served time for drug related offenses.

Wade’s players knew that this could be their fate too, if they hung around with the “wrong characters.”

Besides drugs, Danois also mentions another curse that seriously impacted all the blue-collar, neighborhoods in the city in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s, and particularly in black East Baltimore— deindustrialization.

During this era, globalists pushed through trade agreements, like NAFTA, that robbed the U.S. of many of its steel mills, shipyards and booming manufacturing plants, such as the Bethlehem Steel’s Sparrows Point plant.

There are a host of unsung heroes in the communities around Dunbar High that also shaped the lives of the players and other students at the school.

One of them is Leon Howard. He ran the Lafayette Projects’ Recreation Center. He was Muggsy’s first mentor. Another hero was the long time principal of Dunbar, the late Julia B. Woodland. She was a first class motivator, who insisted on the surrounding communities being an “integral part of the school community.”

Does Wade’s Dunbar team get its revenge on Calvert Hall in the end? You will have to read the book to get the answer to that one. In addition, Danois also addresses how the lives of the members of the team played out post Dunbar, including perhaps, the “eighth wonder of the world”— Tyrone “Muggsy” Bogues.

Summing up, Alejandro Danois has written a gem of a sports story. It belongs in the library of all lovers of high school athletics. Danois definitely takes home a win for this one.

Bill Hughes is the author of “Baltimore Iconoclast.” His book is available at: <http://bookstore.iuniverse.com/Products/SKU-000076922/Baltimore-Iconoclast.aspx>

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African American Authors & Empowerment Book Expo delivers a menagerie of talent

By Andrea Stokley

Excitement filled the air along with countless expressions of content and delight as authors, book lovers, book clubs and artists came together to network on Baltimore's historical campus of Morgan State University.

This past weekend, the University's Student Center Calvin and Tina Tyler Ballroom housed the 7th Annual African American Authors & Empowerment Book Expo and with clear blue skies and comfortable temperatures, a perfect backdrop for this year's event.

On Friday, October 14 an awards banquet kicked off the festivities as participating authors were celebrated for their literary achievements; work in the communities and participation in this year's event. Each author received an award, which was presented by Baltimore Mayor Candidate Catherine Pugh.

The fun continued Saturday, October 15 with speaker panels, workshops, arts and crafts, live entertainment, health and wellness seminars and children activities all free and open to the public.

"My sister dragged me out of the house this morning, but I am so glad that she did," said aspiring author Nina Chalker at the beginning of the festivities. "I didn't know what to expect, but this was a perfect day for a book expo. All of the authors are so personable, I am so glad that I came."

Organizers of the event had been anticipating large crowds to support the annual affair and there seemed to be no shortage of attendance in spite of traffic alerts and warnings of possible road closures and delays due to Baltimore's Annual Running Festival being held on the same day.

Baltimore native, Pamela Woods admitted that she wasn't sure what to expect.

"I saw on the news all week long about other local events like the Running Festival, fleet week and air shows in downtown Baltimore so I expected [that] myself and others to get caught in traffic, but that wasn't the case for me



Cherrie Woods, PR Consultant/author (left) and Author Blaque Diamond.

Photo credit: Patricia Johnson-Harris

and it doesn't seem like it was the case for others," said Woods.

Wood's sentiments seemed to echo throughout the event as other attendees got a chance to mingle with some of

their favorite authors and artists while gathering some much needed information.

There were over 50 authors and panelists on hand giving expert advice in a

number of areas. From relationship expert, author and media personality, Ladawn Black, to hip hop recording artist, Philadelphia Freeway, to New York Times and USA bestselling author Brenda Jackson, attendees got a chance to purchase books, have them signed, and receive professional advice all while snapping a few pictures to add to their collections.

"Patricia Johnson-Harris surprises us each year by outdoing the previous year," said Brian Lemmell, a repeat attendee of the event. "It's a standard of excellence unmatched by any other book expo that I've ever attended. I love how she has something for everyone. She leaves no stone unturned, even the kids can join in on the fun."

Even celebrity fitness expert, Monte Sanders got in on the fun. Sanders conducted a workshop on the importance of health and wellness and how it relates to the mind, body and spirit.

"This was an amazing day for me. I've collected so much information on book publishing, writing and health and fitness," said Michael Scott another attendee and aspiring author mentioned after attending Mr. Sanders workshop. "I initially came to see Freeway and Prodigy of Mobb Deep because I breathe hip hop, but listening to these brothers speak about growth in the business along with certain sicknesses affected by unhealthy eating gave me more information than I came for. This was the fire I needed put under my butt to not only finish my book, but to also eat better,"

The aspiring author added that he started writing a book of fiction years ago, but stopped because he needed pointers on character development and book publishing in general.

"The authors were extremely forthcoming in all that it takes to write and publish a book. They even gave insight from different perspectives on various publishing deals. I will definitely be coming back next year and implore everyone else to do the same," Scott added.

Baltimore resident founds organization to serve Rwandan refugees

By Stacy M. Brown

Eugenie Mukeshimana was a young adult and eight months pregnant when the genocide began in Rwanda in 1994.

She gave birth while hiding from extremist Hutu genocidaires and, at the end of the genocide, the widow was forced to rebuild her life, finding solace in working with communities that have been divided and disintegrated as a result of the dastardly massacre waging in central/eastern Africa.

Last month, Mukeshimana traveled to the nation's capital to participate in the Refugee Congress, an advocacy and advisory organization comprised of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless individuals from each of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia.

Their mission is to promote the well-being, integration, and dignity of all refugees, asylum seekers and stateless individuals in the U.S. and beyond by bringing their voices and experiences to inform decision makers on domestic and international issues and policies that affect those groups.

"I have been raising awareness about conflicts that cause people to leave home in search for a safer place to rebuild their lives," Mukeshimana said. "I use my voice as a survivor of one of the worst conflicts to educate students and teachers, policy makers both at the UN and U.S. lawmakers, and the general public. The hope is that they would put pressure on their representative to do more to help those in need as well as reach out to others in their community to continue the support for humanitarian programs that help refugees around the world," she said.

Mukeshimana, who settled in Baltimore, has even spoken to cadets at West Point Military Academy about gender risks in armed conflicts and she's also worked with legal counsels and other professionals to assist individuals who are in the process of adjusting their immigration status.

"I provide social and emotional support, language and cultural integration guidance to newcomers. Many have gone through unimaginable pain," she



Eugenie Mukeshimana (left) and her daughter Ariane Umutoni immigrated to the U.S.A. in 2001 after surviving the Rwandan genocide. Courtesy Photo

said. "Now that they feel safe here, they often are in a better place to deal with feeling and pains that they have been suppressing and pushing aside for so long," Mukeshimana said, adding that she also helps to organize events like retreats to strengthen the sense of community among survivors and use those gatherings to provide training for critical skills.

"One of such retreats was held two years ago at Harvard Law School, and brought together over 40 genocide survivors," she said.

Mukeshimana, emigrated to the United States in 2001 to pursue a degree in social work at the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York. She soon noticed that her classmates and teachers had little to no knowledge about the tragedy she had personally suffered seven years earlier, which inspired her to embark on a new mission to educate students, teachers, and other community groups

about the crime of genocide.

After graduating, Mukeshimana worked with homeless families in New York and New Jersey, helping them to regain housing stability and jumpstart their lives.

In response to the increased demand for assistance by fellow genocide survivors emigrated to the United States with no support system to help them address the unique challenges they faced coming to America, Mukeshimana founded the Genocide Survivor's Support Network. The charitable organization's mission is to help genocide survivors rebuild their lives and educate communities about genocide.

"Sometimes, under the circumstances of heavy grief and pain, you forget the normalcy of life. It's not normal to dig up mass graves and attend funerals every weekend like we did in Rwanda in the years that followed the genocide,"

she said. "Every refugee carries scars of the horrors they've experienced. Some are visible, others are invisible. Despite this burden, when given a chance, they try to carry on and make life better for themselves and their children.

"I want people to remember that refugees are people too. Like everybody else, they too have dreams, skills, are faithful, and want to live a peaceful life. They share in our cultural values such as quality education, hard work, and perseverance," she continued.

"They may not get off the plane loaded with skills, but are fast learners and will make it here if we give them a chance. After all, they have been tested in life in ways that words can't even describe and yet, they still believe in humanity and have not given up on living. How can we give up on them?"

Deadline approaching to participate in 10th Annual Disney Dreamers Academy

October 31, 2016 is the last day students can apply for a once-in-a-lifetime inspirational program at Walt Disney World Resort

Lake Buena Vista, Fla.— Time is running out for high school students nationwide to be a part of the 2017 Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and ESSENCE Magazine— the innovative, outside-of-the-classroom, mentoring program is in its 10th year at Walt Disney World Resort. To be among the 100 selected to participate in this unique experience, high school students around the country must apply at DisneyDreamersAcademy.com by October 31, 2016.

Each year, students participate in engaging and immersive workshops related to a variety of career paths, ranging from animation to zoology. Each participant learns important skills such as communication techniques, leadership values and networking strategies from Disney experts and world-renowned entrepreneurs and executives. Moreover, motivational speakers and celebrities such as syndicated radio and television personality Steve Harvey and ESSENCE President Michelle Ebanks connect with students to share their stories and provide insight into how to achieve success and DREAM BIG.

Immersed in the imaginative and magical setting of Walt Disney World Resort, Dreamers go behind the scenes to learn what inspires Disney storytellers, as well as use the theme parks as energetic 'classrooms,' leading to career discoveries, the pursuit of dreams and fun memories to cherish.

"Giving back to our youth— our future— is something I am so passionate about," said Harvey. "This is a milestone year, where the success and collaboration with Disney continue to pay dividends for the lives of over 900 Disney Dreamer alumni and with the addition of the class of 2017, we will have influenced over 1,000 aspiring young leaders. I encourage all high school students to take the time to apply for the 10th annual Disney Dreamers Academy because I truly believe that a young person's dream deserves constant nourishing."



Three high school students from Georgia learn the science behind the magic of Walt Disney World Resort in an engineering workshop during the 9th annual Disney Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey and Essence Magazine at Disney University in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The Disney Dreamers Academy is a career-inspiration program for distinguished high school students from across the United States. Photo by Matt Strohane/Walt Disney World Resort

Applicants must answer essay questions describing their stories, the people who are most influential in their lives and their dreams for the future. Students are selected based on a combination of attributes, including a strong character, positive attitude and determination to achieve their dreams.

Selected Dreamers, along with a parent or guardian, will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World Resort in Florida for the event March 9-12, 2017.

Applications are open to United States high school students, ages 13 to 19, until October 31, 2016.

A distinguished panel of leaders will judge the applications in November and selected students will be announced in December.

For more information about and the Disney Dream Academy and applications, visit: DisneyDreamersAcademy.com. Follow the Dreamers on Facebook.com/DisneyDreamersAcademy or on Twitter.com/DreamersAcademy.

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Baltimore entrepreneur carves out a 'Taylor-Made' business

By Stacy M. Brown

Owning an event-planning business was not what Amethyst Taylor's parent's had in mind for her future. They couldn't believe that she was not pursuing a career in chemical engineering after they had invested over \$100,000 in her college education.

However, now that Taylor-Made Creations is thriving, they know that their daughter's intelligence extended far more than her degree, and that pursuing passion is priceless.

"The plan was to continue with law school and begin my future as a patent attorney. But God had other plans for me," said the 25-year-old Baltimore native.

"The success of Taylor Made Creations stems from my awesome support system and biggest cheerleaders, my mom, my father, and my sister and my best friend, Anita," she said. "Also, my fantastic business partner, Annie Standley who is a true Godsend. Our partnership with some of the best talent in Maryland like

Lady C, S Totography Brand, DJ Mike, and Yummy just to name a few, and the application of the godly principles my parents instilled in me."

Taylor-Made Creations offers planning and hosting services for traditional events (baby showers, weddings, and birthday parties) with extra photography and DJ services, moon bounces, photo booths, and delectable desserts," said Taylor, who holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University.

"I have always had a passion for planning events. Although Taylor-Made Creations officially launched on June 6, 2015, my very first event was assisting with the planning and execution of my best friend Tiffany's Sweet 16 party," she said. "I remember her mom, Ms. Terri, telling my mom how well the party went and that I was born to do this. The seed was planted, thank you Ms. Terri."

Her business now has expanded and



Amethyst Taylor is enjoying the success of her event planning business, Taylor-Made Creations. For more information about the services provided by Taylor-Made Creations, visit: [Facebook.com/TMCTaylorMadeCreations](https://www.facebook.com/TMCTaylorMadeCreations).

Courtesy Photo

Taylor says there are obvious reasons for her success.

Ultimately, she says the key to the success of her business is her faith, passion

and drive, humility, commitment, focus, networking, and mentorship.

"We have so much to offer the world. I hope they are ready," she said.

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Rambling Rose

*The 'Baltimore Times'
Celebrates 30 Years*



Rosa Pryor Trusty

Hello everyone, I hope everything is well with everyone— if not, keep praying.

I am so excited this week because I am celebrating The Baltimore Times' 30th anniversary!

I have a sense of pride knowing that I have been-- and am still a part of-- this fantastic newspaper since June 1987. I started writing for The Baltimore Times when Joy Bramble was working from her dining room table in her home at 1800 Madison Avenue, where she birthed Baltimore's premier publication for positive news just a year before. She asked me if I would like to be her entertainment columnist. Believe me, it is a long and funny story and hopefully I will get to tell you all about it at the Baltimore Times 30th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 22, 2016 at the Reginald Lewis Museum. I do want to tell you that I have never in my life written a duck-plucking thing until I wrote my first 15-page entertainment column for Joy (long-handed) which was supposed to have been an half page column.

Joy and Peter had a heck of a time trying to condense it into a half page. Inside that month she asked me to write about the night-clubs, the entertainment, and the

people who hung out in the clubs. Well, my friend, her not knowing, during that time, I must have been to about 20 clubs and social events and I wrote about all of them, in great detail leaving nothing out. A couple of months later she went weekly and the rest is history.

Being the entertainment columnist for The Baltimore Times has allowed me to travel the country and to other countries, including Barbados many times to cover jazz and crop-over festivals. I remember St Lucia, the beautiful island nation in the Caribbean, when I traveled to cover the very first gospel and jazz festivals produced there. I will never forget being chosen by the Clinton Administration to cover presidential Inaugural Ball.

Thanks to all of you too, my fans and friends who read "Rambling Rose" every other week. I truly appreciate you. I will see you at the Gala. Girlfriend, I promise you, we will have a ball! Call The Baltimore Times at 410-366-3900, or pick your tickets up at the office located at 2513 N. Charles Street.

What?? Oh my, I just found out it's sold out! So that means you'll have to get your tickets early for the next Baltimore Times event.



Troy Burton, director of the Eubie Blake Culture Center located at 847 North Howard Street in Baltimore City. Burton is not only the Director of Eubie Black, but also a playwright. His original production, "Ballin' the Jack" held at the Arena Players.



Tevin Brown will entertain you with an evening of soul at the Eubie Blake Cultural Center as an integral part of the "Eubie Blake Cabaret Company" created by the center director, Troy Burton on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 7 p.m.

Well, my friends, I have a lot more pictures this week, so I am out of space. But please 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.

Be My Neighbor Day with Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Saturday, October 22, 2016



A neighborly day awaits you at the William Paca House and Garden! Come meet Daniel Tiger in person and celebrate what makes our neighborhood special and unique. Historic Annapolis is pleased to partner with Maryland Public Television and PNC to bring this fun and educational show to Annapolis!

Activities will include:

- Opportunity to meet and take pictures with Daniel Tiger;
- Meeting representatives from the Annapolis Fire and Police Departments, the United States Postal Service, Anne Arundel County Public Library, and the United States Naval Academy;
- Writing cards for active military heroes;
- Creating cards and drawings for seniors;
- Music, storytelling, face painting, crafts, and much more!

CLOTHING AND FOOD DRIVE!

Bring your gently-used clothing and nonperishable food items to Be My Neighbor Day for a drive to benefit Light House and Stanton Center.

All nonperishable food items will be accepted, but the greatest-needed items include:

- Large canisters of ground, caffeinated coffee
- Canned fruit
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned ravioli and SpaghettiOs
- Brownie and cake mix, frosting
- Canned tuna or other meat

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Location: William Paca House and Garden, 186 Prince George Street

Cost: FREE, no reservation required



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Maryland consumers warned to be wary of automobile extended warranties

Baltimore— Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh urges consumers to be wary of offers of any automobile extended warranties that many consumers may receive in the mail.

The marketing mailings appear to be an important notice from the consumer's car dealer or auto manufacturer. There is always an eye-catching warning on the front of the card, such as: "Final Notice: Expiring Auto Warranty."

The marketers warn that the consumer's car warranty is about to expire, and urges the consumer to call a toll-free number to be connected to a representative in order to renew their warranty. To avoid becoming a victim of this scam, Attorney General Frosh offers the following tips:

- Beware of any mailings that appear to offer extended warranty coverage;
- When considering an extended war-

ranty, or any other mail solicitation, always insist on getting the complete terms and conditions of your agreement in the form of a written contract before you agree to sign up, pay any money or provide your credit card or personal information.

· Before entering into any contract, make sure you fully understand its terms and coverage.

There are many things to consider when you're offered an "extended warranty" or "service contract." Consumers should beware that certain extended warranties do not always provide the peace of mind and financial protection that consumers expected. Many of these contracts, when closely scrutinized, exclude so many items that they really provide very little coverage for outrageous prices.

Do not take the information on the

mailing at face value. Many times the mailing will claim that your vehicle warranty is about to expire when it actually may be far from expiring, or it may have already expired. A dealership can look up the exact date your warranty expires (assuming you are under the mileage limit).

Make sure you are dealing with a reputable, stable company. Some consumers have found when they sought to take advantage of the extended warranty or service contract that the company from which they purchased the extended warranty or service contract had gone out of business.

Check out a business with your state Attorney General's office, your local Better Business Bureau, or a through a quick internet search before you agree to do business with them.

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