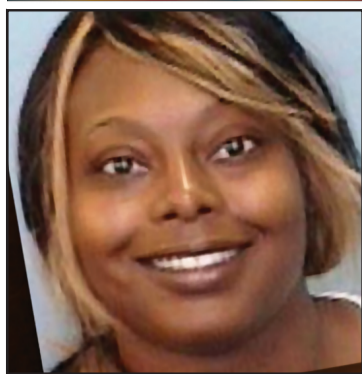


MISSING



EBONEE SPEARS

Wilmington Police are continuing their search for 30 year old Ebonee Spears of Wilmington. The local Crimestoppers organization has joined with the Wilmington Police Department in offering a reward of up to \$5,000 for information on Ebonee's whereabouts. If you know where Spears may be, call Wilmington Police at (910) 343-3600 or use Text-a-Tip.

**OUTside
Looking IN**

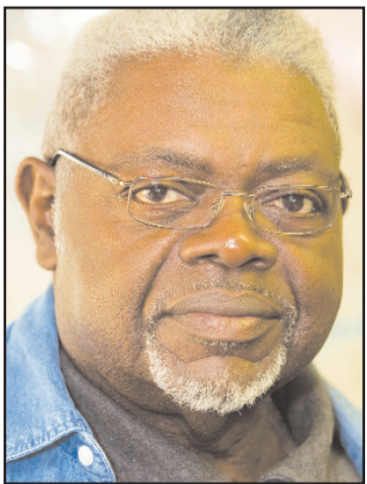


Black doctors earn less than White doctors
PAGE 7



Jobless rate increases for Black men
PAGE 7

BRUNSWICK COUNTY UPDATE



BERNEST HEWETT

REMINDERS

BY BERNEST HEWETT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Please don't forget that Quinton McCracken is coming to his hometown of Southport Saturday morning, April 29, 2017 at 11:00 a. m. At town hall, Mayor Dove will read him a proclamation and Senator Rabon will present him a high sign that will be erected in Southport with his name on it.

Then, at 4:00 p. m., the NAACP will have their Mother of the Year contest at St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Bolivia. Come out and support both affairs.

We shall overcome, but only if we begin to do something besides talk.

Bernest L. Hewett is President of the Brunswick County Branch of NAACP.

THE WILMINGTON
JOURNAL

News from the African American perspective without fear or favor

VOLUME 90/No. 17

APRIL 27, 2017 - MAY 3, 2017

FIFTY CENTS

EXCLUSIVE

Civil rights museum files complaint against Duke Energy for cutoff

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

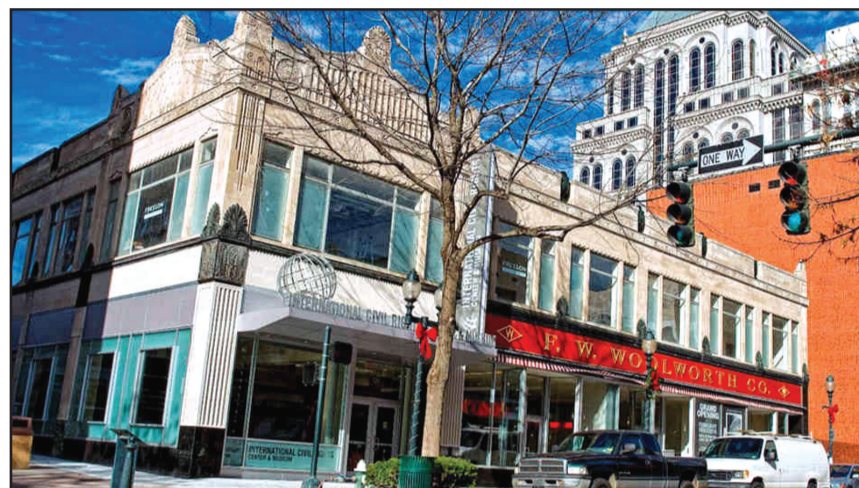
An attorney representing the International Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro has filed a complaint with the North Carolina Utilities Commission against Duke Energy, alleging that the public utility concern has threatened to shutoff electrical service to the facility at 134 South Elm Street "...unless it posts an \$18,224.00 deposit, in addition to paying the regular electric bill."

However, according to the complaint, filed Monday, the ICRM's account with Duke Energy "...is now up-to-date and current..." but that didn't stop the utility concern from unex-

pectedly turning off the electricity for several hours without warning in February, a week after the museum paid its bill in full.

The complaint asks the NC Utility Commission "...that the service be ordered to remain on until the Commission can rule on this complaint in a final ruling and that no deposit be required until there are further orders of the Utility Commission."

A top historic attraction in downtown Greensboro, the ICRM is housed in the former F.W. Woolworth Store, where four NCA&T State University



FILE PHOTO

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

Please see **COMPLAINT**
Page 3

CONNECTIONS AT WORK



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MIA KEEGAN, A NORTH CAROLINA CONNECTIONS ACADEMY STUDENT

Wilmington student excels in online school, trains for army

BY JESSICA HAMILTON
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After several years of homeschooling, the Keegan family from Wilmington enrolled their 13-year-old daughter, Mia, in North Carolina Connections Academy, a tuition-free K-12 online public school. Through virtual education, she can work at a flexible schedule, while

actively participating in extracurricular activities.

With the flexibility Connections Academy offers, Mia tailors the amount of time she spends on each subject based on how quickly she's grasping the concepts. She enjoys having a different teacher for each subject, unlike homeschooling, and likes the interac-

Please see **ONLINE STUDENT** / Page 2



THE LAW REQUIRED VOTERS TO PRODUCE A PHOTO ID

Federal judge rules Texas voter law was enacted to discriminate against Blacks

SPECIAL TO
THE TRICEDNEYNEWSWIRE.COM
FROM NORTHSTARNEWSSTODAY.COM

A U.S. District Court judge has ruled that Texas' 2011 voter photo ID law, the nation's strictest, was written and passed by the Texas legislature with the intention of keeping African American and Hispanic voters away from the polls in what is fast becoming a swing state instead of a Republican stronghold.

The law required voters to produce a photo ID card to cast a ballot. Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos wrote in her opinion that evidence establishes that discrimination was at least one of the substantial or motivating factors behind passage of SB 14 which took effect in 2013. In Judge Ramos' decision, she focused on how the Texas legislature rejected efforts to soften the "racial impact" of SB14, such as reducing the costs of obtaining ID or allowing voters to use more forms of ID. The law accepts hand-

Please see **VOTER LAW** / Page 2

Diversity of HBCU speakers in upcoming commencements

BY CASH MICHAELS
OF THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

Once again, Black families across North Carolina that have students graduating from historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are preparing for May commencement exercises, where leaders in the fields of business, education, politics and entertainment come to deliver keynote addresses to new graduates about the world that awaits them and how they should handle it.

In Durham, the 2017 Spring Commencement for North Carolina Central University undergraduates in O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium on Saturday, May 13th at 8 a. m. will fea-

ture retired astronaut, **Joan Higginbotham**. She spent 308 hours in space during the Space Shuttle Discovery mission in 2006, the third African-American woman ever to travel in space. Currently she is a Lowes Companies, Inc. executive, and serves on the NCCU Board of Trustees. On Friday evening, May 12, **Justice Mike Morgan** of the NC Supreme Court will address the Graduate and Professional Commencement Ceremony in McDougald-McLendon Arena. Justice Morgan is an alumnus of the NCCU School of Law.

Nationally syndicated radio host,

Please see **COMMENCEMENT** / Page 2



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and T.C. Jervay, Sr., Founder of
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An offspring of the Cape Fear
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not necessarily represent the policy
of this paper.

The Wilmington Journal cannot
accept yard sale and dinner sale
announcements as briefs. These are
considered advertisements.

Community and religious briefs are
designated for public service
announcements, which are free and
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All news must be submitted two
weeks in advance by Fridays at
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photos. All briefs will run for a max-
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ONLINE STUDENT
Continued from Page 1

tion among other students in
her LiveLessons.

Connections Academy pro-
vides Mia with a challenging
curriculum and receptive,
state-credentialed teachers.
Through online school she
can move quickly in subjects
she's mastered and take extra
time on subjects she struggles
with. Notably, Mia will be
inducted into the National
Junior Honor Society this
year because of her stellar
grades.

In addition to excelling in
her coursework, Mia partici-
pates in the Civil Patrol, a

weekly auxiliary program to
the air force, where cadets
experience a variety of real-
life training. In 2016, Mia was
named Honor Cadet at the
Noncommissioned Officer
Academy.

Many students in North
Carolina have enrolled in
online school seeking similar
benefits. Enrollment is now
open for the 2017-18 school
year. NCCA's website is
[http://www.connection-
sacademy.com/north-carolina-
virtual-school](http://www.connection-sacademy.com/north-carolina-virtual-school)

School Facts
(SOURCE: [www.connect-
sacademy.com/north-
carolin-a-virtual-school](http://www.connect-sacademy.com/north-carolin-a-virtual-school))
North Carolina Connec-
tions Academy (NCCA) is a

free online public school serv-
ing students in grades K-11.

•The school will add one
grade per year until serving
students in grades K-12.

•Serves students through-
out North Carolina.

•Families with a demon-
strated financial need may
request technology assis-
tance upon enrollment.

•Nearly 94% of NCCA par-
ents agree that the
Connections Academy cur-
riculum is high quality.

**What Is A Virtual School?
The Benefits of Online
Learning**

Get a comprehensive
overview of the virtual
school experience at

Connections Academy
schools, including K-12
online curriculum, online
education technology, teach-
ers, school community, and
socialization opportunities.

**North Carolina
Connections Academy
Fulfills Intent of
Charter School Law**

North Carolina Connec-
tions Academy fulfills the
intent of the North Carolina
legislature in the Charter
School Law to "increase stu-
dent achievement through
academic and organizational
innovation" by reaching stu-
dents for whom a cutting-
edge online education pro-
vides the best pathway to

school success.

NCCA is not just a virtual
charter school. It's a tight-
knit virtual school commu-
nity offering all the services
and resources needed to cre-
ate a well-rounded student
experience with:

•Field trips and social
events that help students con-
nect to one another, their
communities, and their les-
sons

•Dozens of clubs and activi-
ties that foster social devel-
opment and academic growth

•Dedicated and highly
qualified teachers

•An involved community of
students and their families

(Wilmington Journal staff
contributed to this story.)

COMMENCEMENT
Continued from Page 1

Tom Joyner, will be the
keynoter for Shaw
University's 2017 Commence-
ment Exercises on Saturday,
May 13, at the Raleigh
Convention Center, starting
at 10 a. m.

Also in Raleigh, on
Saturday, May 13, St.
Augustine's University will
hold its Commencement
Exercises on the campus
quadrangle, starting at 9:00
a. m..

Lamell McMorris, the
keynote speaker, is the
founder and CEO of the
Washington, DC-based group
of companies bearing the
Perennial name: Perennial
Strategy Group, Perennial
Sports and Entertainment,
and Perennial Law Group. In
his work, Mr. McMorris
offers strategic insight and
external affairs services to
some of the nation's leading
decision makers in the pri-
vate, public, and nonprofit
sectors.

At Bennett College in
Greensboro, a person fami-
liar to the school will deliver
the commencement address
on Saturday, May 6. US
Congresswoman **Alma
Adams**, (D-12- NC), who pre-
viously taught art at the all
female HBCU for over 40
years, will be speaking dur-
ing the 10 a. m. ceremony on
the campus quadrangle. Rep.
Adams formerly served in
the NC House for many years
before being elected to
Congress in 2014.

A few miles away on
Saturday, May 13, NC
Agricultural and Technical
State University will wel-
come undefeated boxing
champion, author and TV

hostess, **Laila Ali**, daughter
of legendary champion,
Muhammad Ali, as the
keynote speaker during the
main Commencement cere-
mony, beginning at 8:30 a. m.,
at the Greensboro Coliseum
Complex.

Ms. Ali, born in 1977 to her
father and Veronica Porsche
Ali in 1977, began her boxing
career at the age of 18, turn-
ing pro at age 22. She retired
undefeated after eight years
with a record of 24-0. Her
world renowned father died
less than a year ago at age 74.

Winston-Salem State Uni-
versity's 2017 Commence-
ment, scheduled to be held in
Bowman Gray Stadium on
Saturday, May 19, at 9:45 a.
m., will feature noted attor-
ney and CNN political com-
mentator, **Bakari Sellers**, as
the keynote speaker. Sellers
is a former member of the
South Carolina House of
Representatives and a 2014
Democratic nominee for SC
Lieutenant Governor.

Sunday, May 21, at 8 a. m. is
the date and time to see grad-
uates walk to get their hard

earned degrees during
Commencement Exercises
for Johnson C. Smith
University in Charlotte. The
ceremony will take place at
the Irwin Belk Complex.
Suzanne Walsh, Deputy
Director of the Post-second-
ary Success in the US pro-
gram of the Bill and Melinda
Gates Foundation, is slated to
be the keynote speaker.

At Fayetteville State
University, also on Saturday,
May 13, Commencement
Exercises will be held at
Crown Coliseum at 9 a. m.

Retired Brigadier General
Arnold Gordon-Bray will
deliver keynote remarks.

Brigadier General Gordon-
Bray assumed command of
the 2nd Brigade of the 82nd
Airborne Division, known as
the "Falcon Brigade." He led
the Falcon Brigade during
the early months of the Iraq
War in 2003 and then served a
second tour of duty in Iraq
from 2006 to 2007 as the prin-
cipal advisor to the Iraqi
Ground Force Commander.
He retired from the military
in 2012.

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VOTER LAW

Continued from Page 1

gun licenses to establish a
voter's identity, but student
IDs, military IDs and passports
are not accepted forms of iden-
tification. The law also does
allow driver's licenses as voter
IDs.

"Many categories of accept-
able photo IDs permitted by
other states were omitted from
the Texas bill," Judge Ramos
wrote. The Republican-led leg-
islature claims it passed the
bill to reduce voter fraud. The
Texas Attorney General said
Judge Ramos's decision disap-
pointed him. Plaintiffs, includ-
ing the Texas State Conference
of the NAACP Branches and

the Mexican American
Legislative Caucus of the
Texas House of Representa-
tives challenged the law
under Section 2 of the Voting
Rights Act, arguing that the
Texas law has the effect of
discriminating against
minority voters and that the
legislature passed the law
with the intent to discrimi-
nate based on race, accord-
ing to the Brennan Center
for Justice at New York
University School of Law.

This was the fifth time
courts have ruled that the
law had or was intended to
have a discriminatory effect.
Some are predicting Texas
could become a swing state
in 2020 because of its large
Hispanic population.



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STATE JOBLESS RATE FALLS BELOW 5% IN MARCH

[CHARLOTTE] For the first time in eight months, North Carolina's unemployment rate dropped below five percent in March. The February job-



less rate was 5.1%. However, according to the NC Dept. of Commerce, the state lost over 4,400 private sector jobs. That, however, was offset by the creation of 4900 government jobs statewide, along with 2600 manufacturing positions. Analysts say while North Carolina's employment is improving, it's happening at a slower rate than anticipated.

REPUBLICANS OVERRIDE GOV. COOPER'S VETO OF ELECTIONS BOARD/ETHICS BOARD LAW

[RALEIGH] Once more, legislative Republicans are daring Democratic Gov. Pat McCrory to take them to court, this time after they overrode his veto this week their law combining the state

Elections Board with the NC Ethics Board. Cooper successfully sued over the first version of the law, saying that the new version is unconstitutional and does not protect voting rights. Republicans, however, say the new version encourages bipartisan cooperation because Democrats and Republicans would serve in equal numbers.

COOPER APPOINTS DEMOCRAT TO FILL SEAT OF RETIRING GOP APPELLATE JUDGE

[RALEIGH] When Republican state Appellate Court Judge Doug McCullough surprised everyone Monday by announcing his early retirement, Gov. Cooper wasted no time naming his replacement that same day - John Arrowwood, a

Democrat. Cooper three days earlier vetoed a GOP bill that would have cut the number of appellate court judges from 15 to 12. GOP lawmakers now have to override Gov. Cooper's veto, meaning that this case may also end up in court between the governor and Republican lawmakers.

COMPILED BY CASH MICHAELS

COMPLAINT

Continued from Page 1

students boldly ordered food at the "Whites Only" counter on February 1, 1960, thus reigniting the civil rights movement. The facility was reopened on the fiftieth anniversary of the sit-in as a civil rights museum in 2010 and opens its doors to school children and visitors from around the world.

Addressed to the commission's chief clerk, the letter from Greensboro Attorney Douglas S. Harris is on behalf of Sit-in Movement, Inc., a non-profit corporation that runs the ICRM and owns the South Elm Street property.

Harris tells the commission,

which regulates public utilities in North Carolina, that the museum was "...under some temporary financial pressure due to financial charges associated with the successful completion of..." two federal tax credit programs related to historic properties and "financially distressed areas."

Duke Energy, as "working with" the museum during this time, Attorney Harris continued, and was informed by the museum that "...all past due power bills [would be] caught up by the end of February and be completely current...(which was accomplished)," he added.

Duke Energy sent a written notice to the museum on Jan. 25, 2017 stating that if the bill was not caught up by February 16, that power would be discon-

nected, the letter continued. So checks were sent to Duke "...the week previous to the due date which checks should have cleared and did clear..." but on February 16 at 8 a. m., power was cut off without any notice, written or otherwise, to anyone at the museum.

A source confirms that the museum's checks were at Duke, which ended up putting the power back on at 11:30 a. m. that same day.

"Our director, John Swaine, ...contacted Duke Energy who confirmed that they did have the checks; two hours later, Duke Energy cut the power back on without a deposit or reconnection fees by reason that it was their error and not the museum's," Attorney Harris wrote.

However, the power interruption did force the museum to refund \$765.00 to a "...large group of eighty-one disadvantaged school children" who had been bused in from Union County to take a tour. A corporate conference had to be moved across the street, forcing the ICRM to refund \$800.00 for that.

And a group from Durham also had to have their tour cancelled and money refunded.

"All of this happened because Duke Energy varied from its usual routine..." of informing Director Swaine that there was a problem," Harris wrote in the complaint.

The ICRM attorney further charged that the museum was being treated differently from "other companies which used

more power and had hundreds of thousands of dollars in electric bills overdue for months [and] did not have the power cut off and did not have to provide a deposit."

Attorney Harris charges that the Duke Energy liaison to the museum did not inform Director Swaine of the cutoff in order to "...help those forces who wished to take over the Museum..." and in the past has expressed "concerns" about the ICRM's leadership and direction.

That Duke Energy liaison "...injected [himself] into the situation to help put financial pressure on the museum, embarrass the museum, and to hurt fundraising with the end result that the Black run Civil Rights Museum in Greensboro

would collapse..." Attorney Harris continued.

Paige Layne, a Duke Energy spokesperson, said, "Disconnecting a customer's service is the very last step in our collections process and it's an action we never want to take. We work closely with all customers who have difficulty paying their bills so service interruptions can be avoided, and we've worked with this customer for years. While it's unfortunate that our efforts to assist the museum's leaders with their delinquencies have resulted in a formal complaint to the NC Utilities Commission, we will cooperate fully within the process to ensure facts about the experience, including the basis for the deposit requirement, are presented."

Remember MOTHER'S DAY Sunday, May 14

Honor your mother or a very special lady in our Mother's Day edition to be published on Thursday, May 11, 2017. For information, please call Shawn Thatch at 910-762-5502 or stop by the office at 412 South 7th St. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

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THE WILLISTON ECHO
VOL. 1 NO. 1 WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA NOVEMBER, 2016

VIEW NEWEST DISPLAY
of artifacts & images highlighting Student Life at Williston High School

Williston High School biology lab, 1954
From 1954 Williston High School yearbook

Williston High School band performs on the field, no date (Enhanced image)
Courtesy of Linda Pearce Thomas

Join the Williston Alumni Association and Cape Fear Museum as we celebrate enhancements to Williston Auditorium.

Learn more about this historical school and its alumni. View a new case of artifacts and images from the 1900s to 1970s. The display will be rotated periodically to highlight the varied experiences of Williston students. From academics and athletics to extracurricular activities and occupational trades, see the important ways the Williston experience has shaped our community.

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for City Council

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THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL

The Wilmington Journal was founded on the principle of the Black Press Credo. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

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Our Voice

CASH IN THE APPLE THE O'REILLY FACTOR

Science tells us that dinosaurs became extinct tens of millions of years ago when something huge happened to the world, forcing the big beasts to perish against their will.

But that's not what happened to one of our modern-day media dinosaurs named Bill O'Reilly. In his case, he became extinct on the Fox News Channel last week when the venerable New York Times reported that both he and his employer paid \$13 million to five women who alleged that "Billo" had sexually harassed them in the workplace. That was followed up by two women - one of them black and from North Carolina - who also accuse O'Reilly of the same prehistoric behavior, forcing upwards of sixty advertisers to desert his "O'Reilly Factor" program like the plague.



Cash Michaels

That exodus forced the Murdoch family, owners of Fox News, to decide to show their company's biggest star (and money maker) the street after over 20 years.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Without question, the O'Reilly ouster was among the biggest stories across the nation last week, and it was, indeed, a victory for those progressive forces who have been trying relentlessly for years to get Billo ditched. The problem was, until last week, despite clear evidence of O'Reilly being an alleged sexual harasser since 2004 when one of his female producers accused him of some clearly desperate behavior (and yes, Fox News paid her once the smell of lawsuit hit the air), the man was virtually invincible. And his arrogance of having the Number One channel in all of cable, let alone cable news, behind him made him even worse.

But let's bring this O'Reilly thing for just us folks, shall we? Black folks have known for the longest time that whatever else Bill O'Reilly is, being racially intolerant was at the top of the list. Some have even called O'Reilly a "racist." All we know is anytime the subject turned to the African-American community, rarely...indeed VERY rarely, did Bill O'Reilly have anything reasonable or sensible to say about us.

Many thanks to comedian Trevor Noah of Comedy Channel's "The Daily Show" for replaying clips of some of O'Reilly's most infamous racially insensitive remarks during his tenor on-air. Who could forget (and this was from his short-lived national radio show) when O'Reilly was talking to his black "buddy" Juan Williams about the time years ago when he went to the world famous Sylvia's Restaurant in Harlem to eat lunch with the Rev. Al Sharpton, and how amazed he was that black people, in this black restaurant, were sitting down and enjoying their meal, just like civilized people normally do. If fact, O'Reilly was so amazed, he remarked, "Nobody yelled out, 'Hey m-fer, how about some more ice tea!'"

When a powerful white man gets on the air and tells his audience that he actually had the unique experience of sitting done and having a meal with decent and civilized black people, and he still has a job after that, you know racism is alive and well in the old USA.

Or how about when O'Reilly told one of his black guests TO HIS FACE that he looked like a drug dealer? Seriously?

Or most recently when he went on TV and said Congresswoman Maxine Waters had a "James Brown hairdo" just because she spoke out against Pres. Trump?

So hell yeah we're glad Bill O'Reilly is gone, and we wholeheartedly applaud everyone who came together to make it happen. Given what we face over the next four years with Trump in the White House, it is a mall, but significant victory indeed. But let's not rest on our laurels. There are plenty more battles to be fought, plenty more scoundrels to bring down.

And more times than not, it will be their own careless, senseless behavior that will do the trick.

But for now, let's rejoice. Television's biggest dinosaur is finally extinct!

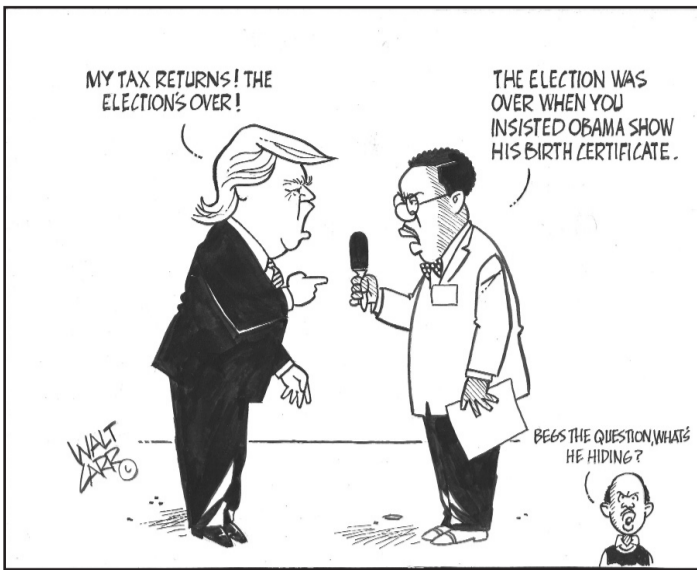
Cash Michaels is a journalist and reporter for The Wilmington Journal, Winston-Salem Chronicle, and Greensboro Peacemaker. He is also a member of The Wilmington Journal's editorial board.

VOICE YOUR OPINION!!



WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

Visual Voice



Your Voice

PROMOTING BOOKS BY BLACK AUTHORS

When you look at various book clubs or similar entities among Black People there is a growing interest in reading books by authors of color. One of the important factor, is we are making choices, but not in the numbers that we could.

There has to be more attention given to what we read, how we read and how we use what we have read.

"What We Blacks Need To Do," by James J. Hankins will not be on the Amazon list, but it should be on your reading list. It is a book about family values that we have forgotten and should remember as these are

challenging times.

Hankins writes about the importance of believing in GOD, education and the need for more family unity. He writes about the importance of remembering and using the traditions that prepared our communities to stand up and challenge injustice. he writes more about solutions than the

problem which is refreshing. For more information about this book, call (910) 799-1046. By reading books about our People and social issues we are generating other thoughts for improving conditions to reshape the paradigm.

Haywood Fennell Boston, MA

Matters of Opinion

Lessons from Fox and O'Reilly

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

The O'Reilly Factor dominated the 8 p.m. weekday hour, drawing more viewers than any other cable network.

Don't cry for Bill O'Reilly. He is leaving Fox News with "tens of millions of dollars" in a settlement. Be concerned, instead, for the women who have had to put up with his odious behavior. Be concerned for those who didn't come forward to get paid because they were afraid for their jobs, or because they feared they would not be believed. Be concerned for the Black woman that O'Reilly allegedly called "Hot Chocolate", grunted when he saw her, and behaved so badly that she was frightened for her safety. Why didn't she leave? She valued her job. She didn't know if she could find another one. An African American woman who heads a household and had, on average, just \$4400

in liquid assets, (compared to \$20,519 for white women). With such a tiny cushion, an African American is likely to think twice before airing a sexual harassment complaint. African American women are also less likely to be believed than white women are, at least partly because of the way the world views black women. So, right on, to the sister who called the Fox Hot Line to report her harassment. She, and many of the other Black women who have protested the culture of sexism at Fox, need to have champions that are as vocal as the champions Megyn Kelly and Gretchen Carlson had. Indeed, one might look at the fact that Megyn Kelley pushed Tamron Hall off her perch as the only Black woman anchor at the Today show as evidence of how much more highly valued white women are than Black women. What do we learn from this, though? We learn, especially, that advertisers are controversy-averse. They don't want to be associated with an accused sexual harasser, especially when the accusations are persistent and are backed up with numerous settlements to women who have experienced



Dr. Julianne Malveaux

harassment. Advertisers saw their brand tarnished, and their consumer base angered, by O'Reilly's behavior. Too many of the companies that abandoned the O'Reilly show have increasing numbers of women in senior management, in advertising, and on their boards. While Roger Ailes, now himself dismissed from Fox for his harassing behavior, excused O'Reilly's antics with "Bill will be Bill", increasing numbers of women (and some men) in charge find Bill's behavior not only odious but also illegal. Increased sensitivity to issues of sexual harassment helped make it clear that O'Reilly's behavior was simply unacceptable.

What would it take for advertisers to draw the line on racial discrimination and/or discrimination against African American women? Racial discrimination does not cause the same repugnance that sex discrimination does. Indeed, companies that engage in widespread race discrimination might even get high fives from consumers who might like to practice racism themselves. The only way that African Americans could spark an

advertiser exodus would be to either work with partners who would put their feet down strongly, or boycotting the goods and services that a discriminating company provided. But there are few African Americans who would emulate those who boycotted busses for 381 days in Montgomery during 1955 and 1956. It seems unlikely that a critical mass of African Americans would inconvenience themselves to punish a discriminator. African American leaders would do well to study the O'Reilly case and to ask what it would take for us to send as strong a signal about race discrimination as the O'Reilly dismissal did about sexual harassment. Many thought O'Reilly was invincible, but he wasn't. Race discrimination isn't invincible, either. We just have to decide what we want to do about it!

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.julianmalveaux.com..

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RAINBOW COALITION

Jeff Sessions is rolling back basic rights

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

As Donald Trump nears the end of his first 100 days, media commentary focuses primarily on how little he has achieved in comparison to other presidents. It's a mistake, however, to discount the threat that the Trump administration poses to our fundamental rights. His attorney general, former Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, is a case in point. Sessions has set out with a vengeance to transform the Department of Justice into a Department of Injustice. He's been hindered by the incompetence that characterizes this administration. He's home alone in his department, with no nominations offered for the heads of top DOJ units - the civil rights, criminal or national security divisions. His deputies - Nos. 2 and 3 in the DOJ - have been nominated but not confirmed.

That has slowed but not stopped Sessions' efforts to rollback basic rights. He's

reversed the Justice Department's position of challenging voter identification laws; he deems the Voting Rights Act too "intrusive." Now the DOJ will intervene in favor of states that pass discriminatory measures to restrict access to the ballot. The right to vote - the fundamental right of a democracy - will now depend on the willingness of judges to stand up for the truth, as U.S. District Court Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos did in ignoring the DOJ intervention and ruling that the Texas ID law was "passed, at least in part, with a discriminatory purpose."

Sessions has issued orders to revive the old, failed war on drugs. The promising bipartisan efforts to reform sentencing provisions to end the mass incarceration of nonviolent drug offenders are to be abandoned. Sessions wants to revive private prisons and insure them a steady stream of prisoners. People of color, particularly young African-American men, will be the greatest victims of this injustice. Sessions has called for a "review" of all the reform agreements that Obama's Civil Rights Division has reached with police forces. His DOJ sought to delay

implementation of a consent decree reached in Baltimore in the wake of the Freddy Gray killing. Sessions scorns these agreements as "political expediency" that will "handcuff the police." In Baltimore, the judge ignored the DOJ's efforts to impede reform. But despite the outcry at the killings of young black men and women, Sessions is clearly telling police they can act with impunity once more.

And Sessions has been point on the administration's efforts to ramp up deportation, terrorize immigrants and defend the president's unconstitutional Muslim ban. He expressed amazement that a "judge sitting on an island in the Pacific" could overturn the president's order. That judge was a federal district court justice in the state of Hawaii, part of the union for 58 years. Sessions has issued letters to nine sanctuary cities, counties and states, including the state of California, New York City, Chicago and Cook County, threatening to deny federal grant funds - largely funds for local law enforcement - unless they commit to cooperating with the administration's sweeping assaults on immigrants. This arbitrary assertion of

federal power is particularly remarkable from Sessions, who as a senator declaimed endlessly about the glories of states' rights. Luckily, Sessions wasn't at Herod's side when Mary and Joseph sought sanctuary in Egypt with the baby Jesus. The sanctuary jurisdictions have vowed to resist Sessions edicts. Speaking for Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, spokesman Matt McGrath noted: "The administration's plan to deny federal funds to cities that are standing up for their values is unconstitutional, and Chicago is proud to stand with 34 cities and counties across the country in asking a federal court to prevent the federal government from illegally withholding federal funds."

New York Mayor Bill DeBlasio declared that New York City will "remain a city welcoming of immigrants who have helped make our city the safest big city in the nation. Any attempt to cut NYPD funding for the nation's top terror target will be aggressively fought in court. We won't back down from protecting New Yorkers

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JACKSON

Continued on page 5

JACKSON

Continued page 4

from terror - or from an overzealous administration fixated on xenophobia and need-less division."

The assault on rights - for the LGBT community, for people of color, for women, for immigrants - is clear. Efforts to roll-back voting rights, civil rights, police reform and sentencing reform have already begun. The resistance - from courts,

from decent public officials, from activists and citizens of conscience - has been and will be fierce. Sessions' Department of Injustice is measure of the damage that Trump can do. Instead of making America a more perfect union, Americans

will have to mobilize to defend their rights from the very department that is tasked with protecting them.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition.

TO BE EQUAL

FORCED OUT AT FOX:

The King of Cable News gets canceled

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

"Bill O'Reilly has helped set the bar for the normalization and dissemination of right-wing hatred, offering incendiary commentary about sexual harassment and assault, gender, race and ethnicity, low-income people, the LGBTQ community, Muslims and refugees, immigrants, and reproductive rights..." - Media Matters for America

Bill O'Reilly's public downfall was a long time in the making-set in motion by a string of sexual harassment claims and the hemorrhaging of high-profile advertisers from "The O'Reilly Factor," a Fox News channel mainstay and money maker.

According to reporting by the New York Times, for a period that spanned 15 years, O'Reilly and 21st Century Fox-the parent company for Fox News-together settled five separate allegations of sexual harassment brought by female Fox employees-which included accusations of verbal abuse, unwanted advances and explicit comments-for \$13 million. And since that report was published, more women have come forward alleging gross and inappropriate behavior by Fox's biggest star.

O'Reilly's cable news program was-and remains-a cash cow for Fox News. It is nothing short of a testament to the show's money generating power and vaulted cable ratings perch that Fox News kept O'Reilly on payroll as the company quietly purchased the silence of his accusers for over a decade. In a nod to television's obsession with re-runs, the so-called swift end to O'Reilly's career at Fox News was preceded by a similar scandal involving Roger Ailes, the network's co-founder and then-chairman. Accused of multiple acts of sexual harassment, 21st Century Fox paid out \$35 million to Gretchen Carlson, a former Fox News anchor, and several unidentified women to settle their lawsuit against Ailes. Fox News also lost two top hosts, Greta Van Susteren and Megyn Kelly (who later accused Ailes of sexual harassment) and paid \$40 million in severance to Ailes in the ensuing fallout.

Following the ouster and made-for-television-scandal of Roger Ailes, 21st Century Fox released a statement that vowed to, "continue our commitment to maintaining a work environment based on trust and respect. We take seriously our responsibility to uphold these traditional, long-standing values of our company." Yet, O'Reilly remained on the payroll-his last contract even included a clause for his termination in case any new cases of harassment came to light-and women who claimed to have suffered under his abuse were being quieted, as per usual.

It is clear that if Fox News could not be moved by decency to maintain a "work environment based on trust and respect," it was certainly moved by dollars.

O'Reilly was also a problematic figure in many other ways. He has a long and well-established history of making racist remarks. Days before his expulsion from Fox News, O'Reilly watched a speech Rep. Maxine Waters gave from the House floor discussing patriotism in our nation's current political environment, and his response was to mock her hair, calling it a "James Brown wig." Outraged that a college president was criticized as racist for posting a picture of his staff dressed in sombreros and mustaches, O'Reilly claimed that if you go to any Mexican restaurant in the world, staff comes out, "singing "Guantanamera" with the sombreros on." I've had my own brushes with O'Reilly, including an interview where he demanded that leaders such as me "stop the BS" in relation to reducing what he coined "the Black crime problem." But it was neither racism, nor the bitter fruits of sexism that ended O'Reilly's storied rise at Fox News.

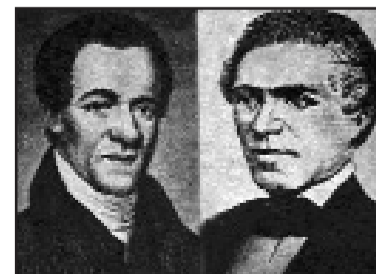
Fox News had a choice to make: keep O'Reilly, whose ratings were still strong despite the scandal, or hurt the bottom line and lose 90 advertisers, and counting, who had stampeded away from the taint of scandal. Despite O'Reilly's repeated denials of the harassment claims and support from people like Sean Hannity, a Fox news contributor who is now facing his own accusations of sexual harassment, and President Trump, who has his own colorful history with women, including boasting about grabbing them, and dealing with his own accusations of sexual harassment, Fox News could no longer bear the cost of keeping their star contributor.

But while O'Reilly may be down, he is far from out. His permanently tarnished reputation aside, we haven't seen the last of Bill O'Reilly. Just days after his unceremonious ouster from Fox, O'Reilly is making his media comeback online, resuming his "No Spin News" podcast. His publisher has said he will continue to publish O'Reilly's books. And he received a sizeable parting gift from Fox News in the amount of \$25 million-a year's worth of his salary.

There is a victory to celebrate here, but it is a qualified one. If, at the highest levels of leadership, we commit to the belief that "women, children, and men have inherent dignity that should never be violated." The rise and money-padded fall of O'Reilly sends a mixed message, to say the least, to women and men in the workplace.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

"We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us."



SAMUEL CORNISH AND JOHN RUSSWORM, FOUNDERS

1827, Front page of *Freedom's Journal*, the first African-American owned and operated newspaper published in the United States

On the brink?

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

Among other non-academic activities in our contemporary society, all public school children are introduced to vital, emergency life saving drills. Fire drills, lock-down drills, shelter-in-place drills and tornado drills are all common to our students and welcomed by parents and concerned family members. If asked, most students can easily explain the purpose and intricacies of assuming the "Duck and Tuck" position. First one locates a position away from glass and loose debris that can be dangerously propelled by high winds. Next, facing a wall or other solid, protective edifice, one assumes a vertical fetal position with his/her head lowered as far as possible between his/her knees. The "Duck and Tuck" position is employed in every public

school tornado drill. Although now used almost exclusively for tornadoes, I'm old enough to remember when the primary purpose of the "Duck and Tuck" was as a drill for students to prepare for nuclear attack. Then, the world had fresh recollections of the destruction and devastation of such attacks. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not just historic events. I have been both places and memory of the horrors are still real. I can appreciate the serious and solemn approach world leaders, specifically American leaders, took in navigating through world events with the goal of maintaining peace. Even Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, principle physicist in developing the atomic bomb, understood the monster he unleashed upon humanity. With clarity of thought he stated, "Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ZhhpHYjZpc&t=600s>), was recommended to me as a stark refresher of what a nuclear war could mean. I shudder to think that this depiction could have an ele-

ment of truth, yet I believe that in reality our fate would be far worse.

Truth could be stranger than fiction. Specifically, through its development and threat of deployment of nuclear weapons, North Korea holds South Korea, Japan, China, and, possibly, parts of the United States hostage to the fear of nuclear holocaust. A US Navy Aircraft Carrier Battle Group now sails, more or less, toward the Sea of Japan on course to achieve what only God knows. Conflicts in mid-eastern Asia serve as a potential tipping-point for widening conventional warfare that may force us to a combative point-of-no-return. Terrorists turn the hatred and xenophobia that is running rampant in the United States into recruitment propaganda for an internal and external assault upon our social stability.

As I write this, a megalomaniacal US President has taken great enjoyment in upsetting any logical order in international relations. He, seemingly, derives genuine pleasure in offending long-standing allies and courting

the allegiance and camaraderie of nations that we have long numbered among our historic adversaries. We now reject the values that have made our nation great and embrace the hatred and divisiveness that weaken us spiritually and morally.

Years ago, Five-Star General Omar Bradley predicted our current circumstance. He said, "Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount."

The threat to our species is critical. Our only choice is to heed the call for active political involvement. Through our engagement we must demand that our current impractical and unrealistic leadership plot a more reasoned course to the future.

Dr. E. Faye Williams is National President of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. 202/678-6788. www.nationalcongressbw.org

Marching for climate while Black

(Via TriceEdneyWire.com)

This past Saturday, April 22nd, at the March For Science in Washington DC on Earth Day, I was assaulted, roughed up, and detained by police in the shadow of the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture.

It was not part of an action or planned civil disobedience. It was sadly a much more regular event - an interaction between police and a person of color gone very wrong. I have spoken at the Earth Day event on the National Mall in years past. But this year I was particularly excited to attend the March for Science to hear Mustafa Ali speak.

Mustafa, if you don't know, courageously resigned as the head of Environmental Justice at the EPA after 24-year career. He is now Senior Vice President of Climate, Environmental Justice, and Community Revitalization for the Hip Hop Caucus. Mustafa and the rest of our Hip Hop Caucus team were already at the march. I had spent the early morning driving around handling daddy duties and was arriving at the rally about mid-way through.

I was walking in the rain and carrying an umbrella down Constitution Ave. from the National Archives Building towards the Washington Monument. Constitution Ave. was closed and I was excited to see so many people out for the Science March. As I approached 14th St. on Constitution, the walk sign was on, but there was an MPD officer in the middle of street letting cars proceed across 14th

so I stayed on the curb. I waited as the crossing signal turned red and then it turned back to walk, signaling clearance for all of us on the curb to cross, which we started to do.

I was the only person of color in the immediate area. The police officer then told everyone to get out of the crosswalk. By then I was about half way across the street. I paused in the middle of the street and then decided it was easier to proceed to the other side of the street, in effect getting out of the crosswalk. The officer then ran up to me, grabbed me forcefully by my jacket and swung me around, slamming me up against a food truck. I yelled, "What are you doing? Stop grabbing me." He told me to stop resisting, to which I responded that I wasn't. I dropped my umbrella, and put my hands up. I told him I was there for the Science March. He said he had to detain me because I "could be on drugs."

YES, he really said that. By this time I'm surrounded by five police officers, still in the street, next to the food truck into which I had been slammed. It was very serious. I was in fear for my life. The officer then asks if I had an ID because he wanted to check for outstanding warrants. He asked if I had heard him, I said not until I was in the middle of the crosswalk, when I, like everybody else had started walking. I asked why he was detaining me and why he roughed me up. He told me to shut up and to give him my ID.

I unzipped my rain jacket, which revealed two things - my clergy collar showing that I'm a minister and a VIP badge for the March for Science. At that moment the officer's demeanor changed, as his perception of me changed slightly. It was as though until that moment he didn't believe I was "supposed" to be there. Yet, he still

detained me, ran my ID, and when he found nothing, told me it was easier to rough me up then stop cars from coming into the crosswalk, and then ultimately, he let me go. As unfortunate as it is to say, this interaction with the police is not the first or worst I've had of this kind, and it is all too common for people of color in Washington DC and all over this country.

But the deeply disappointing truth of this Earth Day case of racial profiling, was that none of my fellow science marchers stopped or took issue with what was happening. They didn't question or pause to witness in a way that one would for a member of one's community. There was one young woman with bright pink hair, who asked if I was okay, told the cop she knew me, and asked if I wanted her to make a phone call for me. She was encouraging. Otherwise, not a move was made at a march about protecting our planet and communities, to speak up or attempt to correct an injustice that was happening right in front of them. I am a prominent leader in the climate movement. It is not hyperbole to say, if this can happen to me, than imagine what it feels like for a young person of color who might be coming to a march like this for the first time.

When something like this happens, I think first of my two teenage sons and all that might go wrong for them in an interaction with police, and it scares me as only a parent can get scared at the thought of losing a child as so many have. I also think of all the various efforts within the climate and environmental movement that are meant to broaden and grow the movement in numbers and diversity.

And I think, all those efforts will not be as successful as they should be until

there is true recognition of what it means to march for climate as a person of color, and until there are meaningful things put in place to create a multicultural movement that accounts for the different experiences we have even at the same climate march, let alone in the same country, and certainly on the same planet. I hope my platform in this movement and the reality that I was profiled and assaulted by police at a climate march further brings to light the work we need to do to change the culture of our movement by first defining what a truly inclusive movement is from the perspective of the very communities we want to have more deeply involved in the issue of climate change. Still, I'll be marching again next weekend at the People's Climate March in DC.

Can't stop, won't stop, as we say in Hip Hop, because too many lives depend on us solving climate change and revitalizing vulnerable communities. Although I missed Mustafa's speech on Saturday among many other powerful speakers while being detained, I caught them on video later. Please watch Mustafa's powerful words on revitalizing vulnerable communities because together we can win. All power to the people!

Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jr. is a minister and community activist who is also an influential member of political hip hop. Yearwood currently serves as President of the Hip Hop Caucus, a national non-profit, nonpartisan organization that empowers young people to participate in elections, policymaking and service projects.[1] Yearwood has led or been involved in a number of high-profile campaigns to engage young voters, as well as working on human rights issues in the Gulf Coast region after Hurricane Katrina.



"If the lions do not write their own history, then the hunters will get all the credit."
—AN AFRICAN PROVERB