

Voters Must Focus on What, Not Who

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Your Resource for Over 15 Years

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Long Beach Leader

news@tri-countybulletin.com

"I wholly disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" – Voltaire

A Precinct Reporter Group Publication – The Community's Newspaper – Serving Long Beach and Surrounding Communities

Vol. 18 - No 52

Alyssa Simmons Gets Volunteer Top Award

By Dianne Anderson
Staff Writer

At 13 years old, Alyssa Simmons has seen more pain more often than most kids her age, or adults for that matter.

The hospital, where she has spent countless months of her life recovering, has become like her second home.

Even so, it hasn't stopped her from going back and volunteering 1,500 hours on her good days, offering comfort and speaking to hundreds of other kids fighting chronic blood disease.

In ways, she has become the face of Sickle Cell, with a strong message for others in times of crisis.

"Know that you were put in this position for a reason, maybe so that you could advocate for others that have sickle cell, or just so that you can become stronger," she said.

Usually, she is in a lot of pain, but her experience has not dampened her resolve. Even through months of lost school time, she has maintained honor roll status. Volunteerism is her priority, and while the disease is an obstacle, it's not the end of her story.

Simmons goes to hospitals with her mother, giving hope and helping kids emotionally and academically.

"I know there's nothing I can change about it. Sickle cell is a part of my life. It doesn't mean that my entire life is about sickle cell," said Simmons, also a member of the California Junior Scholarship Federation.

She is one of two students between 8th and 12th grades chosen as an honoree, representing the state of California. As part of her Spirit of Community Award, with her all expense paid trip to Washington, DC, she will also attend a Black-tie gala with the President, and have dinner with Congressional leaders, where she will share her concerns about the disease.

Alyssa's mom, Starferra Simmons, said she believes any child can be a survivor, but parents

must encourage their children to move past the crisis.

Not long ago, her daughter spent 13 days in the hospital. As always, she took a couple days off to catch up on her homework, and returned to school ahead of the game.

Last year, Alyssa also raised \$15,000 in one event for Jack and Jill.

With the money raised, she designed a program to provide loaner laptops for convallescing students so they could keep up with their studies. The idea came out of one sickle cell crisis while at bedside in the hospital with her daughter for three weeks doing homework.

"Alyssa said what about people who don't have what I have? She suggested a tutoring program, and she implemented it," said Simmons, the president and founder of The Sickle Cell Foundation of Orange County.

Simmons said that her daughter is also being recognized by a Congressional representative

at her school in April.

For the past six years, Alyssa has been a cheerleader.

Simmons said it's important to keep the body strong through exercise, but she knows things get emotionally heavy at times. She tries to keep sickle cell in perspective.

"I explain to her, you'll always be different. God has chosen you to stand out from the rest," said Simmons, a licensed sickle cell educator.

The other issue is that there is never any money for the disease, and the conversation around sickle cell is the same as it's been for decades.

She's not waiting around for a magical cure.

Her son, pronounced clinically dead three years ago from a sickle cell crisis, came back strong, graduating Cum Laude after suffering a coma. He is now a credentialed teacher at an Orange County high school, and on the

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Teach Boys to Be Men of Social Action

By Dianne Anderson
Staff Writer

Black Power has morphed a few times since the rude awakening of the 1950's when assimilation was all the rage, and the grand illusion of security, stability and success worked for some, but not so much for others. Suppression of the 1960's gave way to protests, and a small semblance of power to the people, soon followed by counter-revolutionary forces that conspired to knock it all down.

But even during the worst of times, strength in Black liberation came through creative minds and the rising artists of the day.

From the song that changed self-perception, James Brown's, "I'm Black and I'm Proud," to the voices of resistance with the likes of the Watts Prophets, Amiri Baraka, Larry Neal, Nikki Giovanni and Maya Angelou, art was both reflecting and shaping the movement.

"We found creative ways to respond through poetry, painting, music, and Marvin Gaye. We are the quilt makers, and we dream on them. A lot of our power comes from resistance from the oppression," said Dr. Lance

Robert, political science professor at Los Angeles Southwest College.

After the Civil Rights Act and adjacent policies took hold, the next big idea was that if only African Americans conformed, colored inside the lines, they could get over the barriers. But, that also didn't go as planned.

While some strides in political access came through the late 60's and early 70's, he said Black power had cooled off for a reason.

Some upwardly mobile jobs opened up for the aspiring bourgeois. In ways, it looked like a new and improved society had arrived.

"We were moving to Black mayors, Carl Stokes, Tom Bradley, Harold Washington in Chicago," Dr. Robert said. "It was kind of anesthetizing us, the same way that a Black president is now."

Today, as Black Lives Matter, at times, as seen as a resurgence of Black power, he feels more energy must be directed at making the next generation aware of the quilt makers, and we dream on them.

For that reason, the 100 Black Men of Long Beach has dedicated volunteer lawyers to work with

students to understand the legal system, learn grassroots work in their communities, and how to impact public policy.

Dr. Robert, mentoring chair of the 100 Black Men of Long Beach, said the group continues to reach young men, and is calling on more students to get involved with their regular mentoring meetings.

The organization prepares young Black boys and youth, age 8 to 18, for college and careers. They meet the 3rd Saturday of each month from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Cal State University, Long Beach.

Whenever their young men participate in activities, like the recent Martin Luther King Jr. parade, they are required to know why they are involved. With the parade, he said the boys got a two-hour lesson on the Civil Rights Movement before their first step.

"With Martin Luther King, nothing would have happened unless we first got the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 65 Voting Rights Act, and the 68 Housing Act [signed days after MLK's assassination]," he said.

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Long Beach Councilman Rex Richardson recently launched the first Creative Corridor Challenge Project. The beautification effort in north Long Beach brings together artists, residents, and other stakeholders. Projects include tree planting, mural installations, vacant building and/or lot activation,

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SPORTS

Cal State Long Beach Improves to 9-3 in Big West With 70-57 Win Over Fullerton

The return of Justin Bibbins marked a return to passing basketball for Long Beach State, as the Beach had 14 assists with just five turnovers on the way to a 70-57 win over Cal State Fullerton.

Bibbins, the sophomore point guard for LBSU, had missed the last three games with a hamstring injury, but his return put a bounce in the step of the 49ers, particularly in the second half. Bibbins scored all of his 12 points in the second half, and the Beach as a team shot 48.5 percent in the second half to pull away from Cal State Fullerton (9-17, 2-11 Big West). "I just tried to get back in the flow of things out there," said Bibbins of his return. "It's definitely important to try to distribute and get guys the ball in the right spots. I think I was jittery in the first half, excited to be back out there. In the second half, I calmed down and just played by game."

Long Beach State (15-12, 9-3 Big West) started off the game by taking a 6-2 lead, but hit a cold stretch where the team didn't score for over five minutes. Defensive pressure helped keep LBSU in it, however, and a three by Travis Hammonds cut the Titan lead to two at 11-9.

The Titans went into halftime up by a point, 29-28, but the second half proved to be the difference for Long Beach State. Coming out with a much better rhythm and pace offensively, Long Beach State was able to quickly take, and were up by one at 40-39 with six minutes gone in the second half.

A quick basket by Nick Faust got a run started for the Beach, but a behind-the-back pass on the fast break to Bibbins in the corner from the senior for a 3-pointer really got the rally going. One 13-2 run later, Long Beach State led by 12, and would eventually push the lead up to 20 points with five minutes remaining.



Justin Bibbins

The Beach would hold on to the lead the rest of the way, winning 70-57 to pick up their sixth win in a row.

"It was good to have Bibbins back, and I thought that in the second half he really took control of the game," said Dan Monson. "He really ignited the run that got us some separation in the second half. [Cal State Fullerton's] really a dangerous team; they've got three guys that can all get 25 on you in a given night... I thought our guys won that game on the defensive end.

Faust led the team in scoring with 14 points,

while Hammonds scored 11 as the pair joined Bibbins in double-figures on Saturday night.

Women's Basketball

Behind junior Raven Benton's 19 second-half points, including the go-ahead three-point play with 17.9 seconds left, the Long Beach State women's basketball team was able to make the final push in a game that saw 18 lead changes for the 49ers. The Long Beach State women's basketball team was able to make the final push in a game that saw 18 lead changes for the 49ers. The Long Beach State women's basketball team was able to make the final push in a game that saw 18 lead changes for the 49ers.



Travis Hammonds

The Titans did not score in the first 20 minutes as her playing time was limited after picking up two early fouls. The 5-foot-10 guard then came alive in the second half where she was 7-of-11 from the field and 5-of-6 from the charity stripe for all of her game-high 19 points. Benton now has 997 career points, putting her three away from becoming the 24th 49er to join the 1,000-point club.

Sophomore Gigi Hiascheff added 11 points, including a couple of big threes in the fourth quarter. Junior Madison Montgomery chipped in nine points, four rebounds and two blocks, while classmate Anna Kim had five points, four boards and four assists. Senior Chantel Dooley also had four points and a team-best six rebounds.

UC Santa Barbara (10-17, 7-6 Big West) held a 55-54 lead when the Beach was unable to inbound the ball and was called for a five-second violation with 36 seconds to go, but the 49ers came right back to force the Gauchos into their 23rd turnover. That is when Benton stepped up, driving to the basket for the and-one that put the visitors on top, 57-55, with 17.9 ticks on the clock.

On the other end, Montgomery came up with a huge block on an O'neal Jemergeby layup. Kim grabbed the rebound and was immediately fouled. She made 1-of-2 to secure the 58-55 win.

Long Beach State (19-7, 8-4 Big West) shot 36.2 percent from the floor, 23.5 percent from beyond the arc and 80 percent from the charity stripe. They were outrebounded, 36-29, but forced UCSB into 23 turnovers, while committing just 13 of their own.

Dooley scored the first four points of the game as the Beach raced out to a 9-2 lead at the 7:02 mark. UC Santa Barbara closed the gap

to three, but Hiascheff was able to get to the line on back-to-back possessions, making 3-of-4 free throws to put LBSU on top, 12-6. The Gauchos made the final push, however, closing out the period on a 7-0 run to go up, 13-12.

In the second quarter, the 49ers pulled ahead, 21-17, following a three-point play from Montgomery with 4:01 to go. UCSB then responded with eight unanswered points, six of which came from the charity stripe. Long Beach State would end a three-minute scoring drought with a pair of free throws from Kim and knotted the score at 25-25 on a Chanterria Jackson jumper with 44 seconds left. The home team would reclaim the lead at the break, however, as UCSB drained a jumper before the buzzer for the 27-25 advantage.

The Beach opened the third frame on a 9-0 run to pull ahead, 34-27, at the 7:39 mark. Sophomore Cecily Wilson started the rally with a 3-pointer and Benton ended it with back-to-back fastbreak layups. UC Santa Barbara answered once again, this time with an 11-3 spurt to go up 38-37. A Benton layup at the end of the period would give LBSU the 41-40 edge, setting up the wild fourth quarter that saw four ties and eight lead changes.

UC Santa Barbara made 45.2 percent of its field goal attempts and went 12-6 (67.7) from the foul line. Jasmine Ware led the Gauchos with 16 points and eight assists, while Je Ze Newton finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds.

Long Beach State will be returning to the friendly confines of the Walter Pyramid to host UC Irvine on Saturday, February 27.

UC Irvine Suffers 75-71 Loss to Hawaii

Hawai'i scored the game's final nine points in the last 1:45 to rally for a 75-71 win over UC Irvine in a Big West Conference game before 4,312 at the Bren Events Center recently.

The Anteaters had taken a 71-66 lead on a basket by junior guard Luke Nelson with 2:11 remaining.

The Rainbow Warriors' Stefan Jankovic hit one free throw with 1:45 left to cut the margin to 71-67 and Mike Thomas scored inside at the 1:16 mark to pull Hawai'i within 71-69.

Aaron Valdes then connected on a three from the right corner to give the 'Bows the lead for good at 72-71 with 40 seconds left.

Roderick Bobbitt hit a pair of free throws with 10 seconds remaining and Thomas added one with 0.7 left for the final margin as conference-leading Hawai'i improved to 22-3 overall and 11-1 in the Big West.

Nelson led UCI (20-8, 9-3) with 18 points, seven assists and four steals, which tied his career high.

Junior center Mamadou Ndiaye added 15 points, seven rebounds and three blocked shots as he now has 200 rejections for his career.

Senior forward Mike Best scored 14 points and grabbed five boards. Senior guard Alex Young had seven points and six assists, while redshirt freshman forward Jonathan Galloway scored six points.

Jankovic led Hawai'i with 25 points while Valdes scored 13 and Sai Tummala 11. Bobbitt had seven points, six assists and five steals.

Nelson scored 10 of his points in the first 20 minutes as the Anteaters led 38-30 at halftime.

UCI extended its lead to 46-35 on a pair of free throws by Nelson with 17:44 left and the Anteaters stayed ahead until Hawai'i took a brief 61-60 lead on a three by Isaac Fleming with 7:09 remaining.

Anteater junior guard Jaron Martin answered with a trey 20 seconds later to put UCI up 63-61 and the 'Eaters maintained a lead from that point on until Hawai'i went on its game-ending run.

UCI shot 44.6 percent from the field, but was just 3 of 18 from three-point range. The Anteaters hit 18 of 26 free throws.

Hawai'i shot 47.2 percent from the field and hit 7 of 19 threes. The 'Bows, who were 18 of 24 from the foul line, outrebounded UCI, 34-27.

The Anteaters host Long Beach State Wednesday night at 7:00 in a battle of the Big West's second-place teams at the Bren Events Center. Results were not available at press time.



Jonathan Galloway

Cal State Fullerton Gets First Big West Win

Junior Sami Logan recorded her first double-double of the season as the Titans snapped their 24-losing streak with a 66-53 victory at UC Irvine recently.

The Titans (3-24, 1-12 BWC) outshot the Anteaters from the field (41.4%) and three-pointers (40%) also while outrebounding UCI, collecting 48 rebounds on the day.

"Obviously I am so happy for our kids, our staff, and our support staff," said head coach Daron Park. "Our players have been incredibly resilient and upbeat all season and definitely earned this win today."

Logan's 15-point, 14-rebound effort was her first double-double since the 2013-14 season and matched her season-high when she also recorded 15 points against Cornell.

Michelle Berry chipped in another double-digit performance with 15 points of her own along with freshman Jade Vega added 13 points of her own.

The Titans got off to a slow start, falling quickly behind to the Anteaters in the first quarter, giving up a 5-0 run to open the game.

After a free throw by Vega to tie the game up at 7 in the first quarter, UC Irvine answered back and ended the first leading the Titans 16-10.

The Titan offense erupted in the second quarter, going on a 13-point run led by Logan who recorded seven of the 13.

Fullerton outscored UC Irvine 21-9 in the second quarter to lead 31-25 at the end of the first half.

The Titans continued to dominate throughout the second half, holding onto their lead for the remainder of the game.

Fullerton hit their largest lead at 15 points late in the fourth quarter, and held on to get their first win since November of 2015 in the 66-53 win.

The Titans return to Titan Gym to host Hawai'i on Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. on ESPN3.



Chanterria Jackson photo: Fajardo



Cecily Wilson photo: Fajardo

NATIONAL & WORLD

Jackson Pushes for Diversity on Wall Street and in Silicon Valley

By Don Terry

Special to the NNPA News Wire from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition

At the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's recently concluded 19th annual Wall Street Project Economic Summit there was something for anyone concerned about fighting for racial and economic justice in corporate America. There were titans of tech and powerful politicians, investors and inventors, sports legends and music stars – from opera to Hip Hop – foreign ambassadors and big city mayors, shameful statistics and news to keep hope alive.

The three-day summit, which advocates that the resources and board rooms of Wall Street and Silicon Valley be opened to Black businesses and other minority groups who have been locked out, started on Feb. 16 with news that the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's hard work is paying off. It was announced that Apple is including African American, Latino and disabled veteran-owned financial services firms in a whopping \$10 billion to \$12 billion debt offering.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder and president of the Coalition, praised the deal and the company, saying that Apple is continuing to show "tremendous leadership" in the movement to "democratize capital." Indeed, since Rainbow PUSH initiated its campaign in 2014 to open up and diversify

Silicon Valley, Apple has included African American, Latino and diverse firms as underwriters in three consecutive debt offerings. Castle Oak, Loop Capital, Ramirez & Co., and Drexel Hamilton are part of the Apple offering. "When there is inclusion, there is growth and where there is growth, everybody wins," Rev. Jackson said. "It's just good business."

Despite the good news out of Silicon Valley, Rev. Jackson cautioned, "we have a long way to go." "We brag about the new smart device that we use, but Facebook does not have one African American or Latino on its board," he said. "Twitter does not have one. Our communities are barren, because we don't have access to capital. When they lock us out, it's like a one-eyed quarterback. They only see half the field."

Slowly, the whole field is coming into view. Over the past year, with constant pressure from the Coalition's PUSHtech2020 initiative, nine debt deals in the tech world have broken the color-line in what Chicago-based investor, philanthropist and longtime summit supporter, John Rogers, has called "a Jackie Robinson moment."

Apple, HP, Intel, Qualcomm and Microsoft (which has over the years excelled at minority inclusion in their financial transactions) have all had such moments. Microsoft Chairman John W. Thompson,

a graduate of Florida A&M, a historically Black university, was honored at the summit's gala dinner and joined tech-journalist and entrepreneur, Navarro Wright, and Rev. Jackson in a fireside chat about Thompson's climb from IBM salesman to tech titan.

Sheila C. Johnson, founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts and co-founder of Black Entertainment Television, and Bernard J. Tyson, Chairman and CEO, Kaiser Permanente, were also honored at the gala, which ended with the sublime sounds of Philip Bailey, lead singer and original member of Earth, Wind & Fire.

There were panels on financial education, reconnecting and sustaining the relationship between Wall Street and historically black colleges and universities, panels featuring urban mayors and policy leaders. During his panel, the mayor of Detroit, Mike Duggan, thanked Rev. Jackson for helping to secure \$2 billion in federal funds for blight removal and neighborhood reconstruction in more than a dozen states. There were sessions on healthcare disparities, the business of Hip Hop and two panels about the vast resources and business opportunities for African Americans in Africa.

"We must expand the exchange between Africa and African Americans," Rev. Jackson said, but not just to make money. "We must go to serve," he said.

"Power comes through service."

The summit, as it has been for 19 years, was a "networkers' dream-come true. Hundreds of corporate executives, ministers, community activists, college students, minority entrepreneurs and United States Senator Charles Schumer of New York, the third-ranking Democrat in the Senate, attended. The senator joined a distinguished group of panelists – civil rights

attorney Benjamin Crump, litigator Tricia "CK" Hoffer, Dr. Reatha Clark King, chairman, National Association of Corporate Directors, Janice Mathis, executive director of the National Council of Negro Women and Nancy May, president and CEO, The BoardBench Companies – to discuss corporate board diversity.

Senator Schumer said he was "shocked" to learn that 74 of the Fortune 250 companies had no African American board directors. "I was educated here today," he said. "And I'm glad that I was."

"If you were to ask me," the senator added, "I'd say by now every company would have one.

One thing I'd suggest, maybe through the great work that Rev. Jackson does, I think that should be circulated among the senators. Getting the word out to people who have influence, it would matter to them."

Senator Schumer concluded his remarks by recounting French historian Alexis de Tocqueville's famous tour of the young United States in early 1830's. Tocqueville said that America was "going to become the greatest country in the world."

"He said there's only one thing that could do this country in – racism," Senator Schumer said. "He said it in 1835, it's as true today as it was then."



From left to right: Journalist Navarro Wright, John Thompson of Microsoft and Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. speak during a "fireside chat" at the Wall Street Project Economic Summit in New York City. Photo: Margot Jordan/RPC



Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shares a light moment with Rev. Al Sharpton during a meeting with civil rights leaders in New York City. Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA

Hillary Clinton Meets With Civil Rights Groups

By Freddie Allen
NNPA News Wire Senior Washington Correspondent

A few days before presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton racked up a huge win in Nevada's Democratic primary, largely thanks to the overwhelming support that she received from Black voters, the former Secretary of State met with civil rights leaders for a frank discussion about the 21st Century Agenda for Jobs and Freedom.

According to exit polls from the Democratic primary in Nevada conducted by CBS News, Senator Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) won 53 percent of the Hispanic vote while Clinton garnered 45 percent of the Hispanic vote. Sanders narrowly won among White voters, earning 49 percent of their vote compared to 47 percent who went with Clinton. But 76 percent of African Americans that turned out for the primary voted for Clinton compared to just 22 percent who supported Sanders.

As presidential candidates

covet Black voters, civil rights leaders want to make sure that the needs of the Black community are also addressed.

"For the first time in American history, we will watch a Black family leave the White House and we do not want to see the concerns of Black's leave with them," said Reverend Al Sharpton, the founder and president of the National Action Network.

The 21st Century Agenda for Jobs and Freedom, crafted about three years ago around the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, outlines a number of challenges affecting the Black community and identifies five main domestic goals to address those challenges.

The goals of the agenda include: achieving economic parity for African Americans, promoting equity in educational opportunities, protecting and defending the voting rights, eliminating healthcare disparities and achieving comprehensive criminal justice reform.

Last Tuesday, Clinton met with leaders from nine different civil rights groups including the National Urban League, the NAACP, the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, the National Action Network, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the National Bar Association and the National Council of Negro Women.

The coalition of civil rights groups hosted a similar meeting with Sanders in Washington, D.C. last Thursday.

Marc Morial, the president and CEO of the National Urban League said that the nine historic civil rights organizations represented tens of millions of Americans and that all of their organizations were multicultural and multi-ethnic.

Morial also made it clear that the meeting was not an endorsement of Hillary Clinton's

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COMMENTARY

Does Any Presidential Candidate "Deserve" the Black Vote?

By Julianne Malveaux
NSPA News Wire

Michelle Alexander, the brilliant author of *The New Jim Crow*, writes in *The Nation* — that Hillary Clinton does not "deserve" the Black vote. She makes a strong case. She reminds us that the Bill Clinton administration yielded a draconian crime bill and welfare "reform" (I call it "reform" instead of reform because the Clinton changes made a bad system worse) that demonized poor women. While Bill and Hillary Clinton are two different people, Alexander uses Hillary quotes to illustrate the ways she supported her husband's policies.

Michelle Alexander is right to say that Hillary does not deserve the Black vote. She declines to endorse Bernie Sanders, though, describing him as "the lesser of two evils." To his credit, says Alexander, Sanders opposed welfare reform and has been a far more vocal and aggressive critic of banks than Hillary. But Alexander says he still doesn't get "it" around issues of racial justice, and notes that both he and Hillary supported the Iraq war.

I'm intrigued by the concept of "deserving" a vote. From my perspective Bernie doesn't deserve it. Hillary doesn't deserve it, and none of the motley crew of Republican candidates deserve it. No Democrat or Republican has ever deserved the Black vote. The dictionary defines deserve as, "to do something or have or show qualities worthy of (reward or punishment)." To say someone "deserves" the Black vote, suggests that someone is

entitled to it or has a right to it. I do not believe that anyone has the possible exception of Lyndon Johnson in 1964 (after the passage of the Civil Rights Act) and Rev. Jesse Jackson (after his history of activism) I don't think any Democrat (or Republican) for that matter. What has either Hillary or Bernie done to "deserve" the Black vote? No candidate should claim the sentimental right to the Black vote either, and I think, in some ways that is what Hillary Clinton is



attempting. As Michelle Alexander correctly points out in her article, some African Americans are almost irrationally loyal to the Clintons. Many other African Americans, though, have a measured view of the Clinton years, celebrating historic appointments, like that of Alexis Herman as Secretary of Labor, condemning the ways that Lani Guinier and Jocelyn Elders were abandoned by the Clintons, and balancing policy failures like welfare reform with some policy successes. Hillary Clinton's stand-alone record includes a sensitivity to diversity that Sanders lacks. As a Senator and as Secretary of State, she had staffs that were very inclusive, with several African American women, in particular, serving in leadership roles in the State Department. Her record shows that, as President, she would continue her commitment to diversity and that we might finally have a cabinet that "looks like America." Does her commitment to diversity alone make her entitled to the Black vote?

The Black vote should be earned, not bequeathed. But too many African Americans seem to think that voting is the most, not the least, they can do. We must vote for politicians based on their track record and also on their promises. But then we must hold them accountable so that they keep their promises. We didn't do it with Clinton in 1996 when we voted for him even after welfare reform. We didn't do it with Obama in 2012, when we voted for him after a disappointing first term. African Americans, like others, must make demands of those who hold public office, or they are free to ignore us. The challenge is that our two-party system too often fails to provide us with a satisfactory set of alternatives to the status quo. While I was disappointed with President Obama's first term, I probably would have cut my hand off before voting for Mitt Romney. Similarly, as disappointing as Clinton's welfare reform was, another Clinton term was far preferable to a Bob Dole presidency. We too often are faced with imperfect options, and in choosing the lesser of two evils.

Michelle Alexander addresses the flaws of the two-party system in her article, and talks about a "revolutionary movement" of people who believe that human rights and economic justice are attainable goals. There won't be a revolutionary movement before November 7, 2016, so who deserves the Black vote? The candidate who works hardest for it. The candidate who addresses the Black community most directly and with the most relevance. The candidate who not only schedules very public meetings with Rev. Al Sharpton, but less-well covered meetings at a day care center, in a halfway house, in a hospital. The Black vote should not be something a candidate deserves. It should be something a candidate earns!

Minority Voters Must Focus on What, Not Who

By Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.
via George Curry Media

In South Carolina, African-Americans will constitute a majority of Democratic voters on Feb. 27. On March 1, Super Tuesday, people of color - Blacks, Latinos, Asian-Americans - will constitute large portions of the voters. The press is focused on whom we want. But we would be far better off to be focused on what we want.

Democratic candidates — not just Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton, but contenders in Senate and gubernatorial races as well — have to listen and respond. They can no longer simply expect to inherit our votes or to ignore our concerns. Their prospects in both the primaries and the general election depend, in significant part, on giving us a reason to vote and to vote in large numbers.

We've already seen the impact of this new reality. Black Lives Matter demonstrations across the country have raised the demand for criminal justice reform — and Sanders and Clinton have responded. The Dreamers and the Latino uprising raised the commitment to comprehensive immigration reform.

So what do we want? We know the goal: a level playing field, equal opportunity and a fair start. Carolina lost the Super Bowl. Clemson lost in the college football championship game. But they accepted the result because of five fundamentals: the playing field was level; the rules were public; the goals were clear; the officials were fair; the score was transparent. If the game had started with one team 21 points down, the protests would have stopped the game. Instead, both teams had a

fair start and an equal opportunity to win. That is what we want in our society as well as our sports.

But that is not what we have. We have entrenched and often concentrated poverty. Schools that are unequal. Criminal justice systems that are biased. Our neighborhoods are red-lined by banks. We get charged more when we finance the purchase of a car. Fraudulent mortgage brokers have targeted Blacks and Latinos for loans that they knew they could not repay. There are active efforts to suppress our right to vote. The field is not level; the stakes are not fair, the rules are skewed, and the officials are too often biased.

So we need targeted action to overcome targeted inequity. Rep James Clyburn (D-S.C.) has called for a 10-20-30 plan: arguing that 10 percent of all social spending be targeted on the 474 counties where 20 percent or more of the population has lived in poverty for the last 30 years. These counties are White, Black and Latino. They are represented by Republicans and by Democrats. They need targeted investment.

That's a good step, but not enough. We need a development bank to provide credit to communities that are written off by the big banks. We need a fair start for every child: adequate nutrition, health care, affordable-quality day care, and universal access to pre-K.

We need funding to insure our schools can provide the basics: safe buildings, modern learning materials, small classes in early grades, skilled teachers, after-school programs and more. We need advanced training and college to be tuition free, so all who qualify can pursue their dreams.

We need a counteroffensive against the systematic efforts to make it harder for us to vote. Revival of the Voting Rights Act. A national constitutional right to vote. Universal same-day registration. A national floor on voting rights rules. Action to curb the role of big money, particularly dark money in our politics.

We need an agenda to empower workers. Lift the floor with a \$15 minimum wage and a union. Guarantee paid family leave, paid sick days, paid vacation days. This isn't a radical idea: the U.S. is the only advanced country without these guarantees. We need universal, affordable health care. In South Carolina, the governor has turned away billions in federal funds by refusing to expand Medicaid.

Yes, we need police reform and sentencing reform. We need to give those who have served their time their full citizenship back, including the right to vote. And we need to challenge the private-prison-industrial complex, in which prisoners serve as a kind of slave labor leased out to private companies as cut-rate rates. And this of course is but a beginning.

We've learned that a rising tide doesn't raise all boats. Some boats are buoyant yachts, others small row boats and some are stuck at the bottom. People of color represent a rising force in American politics. Many of our communities — as well as many White communities — are in deep distress. We need assistance targeted to those in need. So before we decide whom we support, let us make certain they have heard what we support.

Only Dems Compromise on Court Appointments

By George E. Curry
George Curry Media

President Obama has announced that despite threats from Republican leaders, he plans to nominate someone to fill the Supreme Court vacancy created by the death of Antonin Scalia.

I hope he ignores the advice of Vice President Joe Biden who wants him to select someone who isn't staunchly liberal.

Biden said, "...my advice is, the only way we get someone on the court, now or even later, is to do what we've done in the past... we have to pick somebody, as the president will, who is intellectually competent, is a person of high moral character, is a person who is demonstrated to have an open mind, and is a person who doesn't come with a specific agenda."

"...the idea that we're going to go in and decide we're going to pick an, I don't know, a new Justice Brennan, I don't think that's going to happen. That's not how the system works."

That's not how it works for Democrats. And it doesn't work because they are such wimps when it comes to standing up for their beliefs.

You have never heard nor will you ever hear a Republican talk about not nominating any judge because he or she is too conservative. In fact, they have made a point of putting right-wing reactionaries on the court: Clarence Thomas, John G. Roberts, Samuel Alito, Anthony M. Kennedy and, of course, Antonin Scalia.

Yet, Democrats - and only Democrats - feel compelled to appoint less doctrinaire justices in order to appease Republicans who oppose them at every turn. That's a one-way street to nowhere.

Conservatives have created a vast network through The Federalist Society "dedicated to reforming the current legal order." From establishing chapters on every law school campus, to arranging internships with like-minded lawyers, and screening potential judges for Republican presidents, The Federalist Society is leaving its right-wing imprint on the courts.

To their disappointment, David Souter was nominated to the Supreme Court by President George H.W. Bush, but ended up siding with liberals on the bench. "No More Souters" became the boisterous chant of disappointed conservatives.

Though they are arch-conservatives, Chief Justice John Roberts and Anthony Kennedy have been sharply criticized by conservatives for certain votes. Roberts provided the deciding vote to uphold the legality of the Affordable Care Act and Kennedy voted to legalize same-sex marriage.

The Washington Times noted in September, "As a precursor to the upcoming Republican presidential debate, a conservative group is starting a campaign push to get the candidates on the record about how they would approach Supreme Court nominations."

"Demand justices with a proven record of upholding the constitution. We can't afford more surprises," a narrator says in the first advertisement by the Judicial Crisis Network, which features the faces of Justices John Roberts and Anthony Kennedy and retired Justice David Souter, all Republican picks to the court."

The narrator added, "On the most important issues, the Supreme Court decides. The next president could appoint a new majority to last a generation."

Selecting a progressive to replace Scalia would shift the balance of the court, which is now tilted 5-4 in favor of conservatives. And the next president may get two or more additional appointments.

All of the remaining Republican candidates for president are contending that President Obama should not appoint a replacement for Scalia, which would leave his seat open for a minimum of 11 months. And, according to FactCheck.org, critics of Obama are distorting the history of the Supreme Court to make their argument.

"Let's take Cruz's statement first," FactCheck.org states. "He's right - or close to right - that it has been 80 years since a Supreme Court nominee was 'nominated and confirmed in an election year.' It has actually been 76 years. But here's the missing context: There have been only six outstanding court vacancies in an election year since 1900, and in every case the vacancy was filled."

Rubio said on "Face the Nation" (Feb. 14): "...There's been precedent established over 80 years that, in the last year, especially in the last 11 months, you do not have a lame-duck president make a lifetime appointment to the highest court on the land."

Again, that is not true. FactCheck.org stated, "In fact, this is the first time in at least 116 years that a Supreme Court vacancy occurred in a lame-duck president's final year in office. The chart above also shows there was only one lame-duck president — Reagan — who had a vacancy to fill, but that vacancy occurred when Reagan had more than a year in office. Rubio said the precedent extends only to a president's last year 'especially in the last 11 months,' which would only cover Obama."

Republican front-runner Donald Trump, who has dismissed Chief Justice John Roberts as "disgraceful" and a "disappointment," named Clarence Thomas as his favorite Supreme Court justice.

Critics notwithstanding, President Obama plans to nominate a judge to succeed Scalia. It would be the height of cowardice to shy away from nominating a progressive to the nation's highest court.

George E. Curry is President and CEO of George Curry Media, LLC. He is the former editor-in-chief of *Emerge* magazine and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). He is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Curry can be reached through his Web site, georgecurry.com.



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Tri-County Bulletin
The Only Black Publication Serving All of Orange County.
Adjudicated a Legal newspaper of general circulation on July 15, 1988 case number A143899 by the Superior Court of Orange County. The Tri-County Bulletin is published every Thursday by the Precinct Reporter Group, 2401 E. 17th Street, #132, Santa Ana, CA 92701. Telephone: (714) 547-4118

Long Beach Leader
The Community's Newspaper serving Long Beach and Surrounding Communities. Established as a newspaper of general circulation on January 23, 1957. The Long Beach Leader is published every Thursday by the Precinct Reporter Group, P.O. Box 91055, Long Beach, CA 90809. Telephone: (562) 490-3299.

Publisher and Editor Brian Townsend
Controller Mary Townsend
Sports Writer Willie Wilcox, II
Orange County Social Editor Jacqueline Johnson
Graphic Design Ken Jordan

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West Coast Black Publishers Association
Associated Press

RELIGION

Eye on Gospel

By Margaret Mansfield

Moving Forward: Worship singer Iseel Houghton announced on his website that he and his wife are divorced after two decades of marriage. He writes: It is with a collective heavy heart that we announce that after over 20 years of marriage and a long separation, Melissa and I are officially divorced.

Several years ago I failed and sinned in my marriage. Though this is new to many, it is not new to us as we have been working through this for over 5 years. Although we tried, the challenges in our relationship have proven too much to overcome. We have always handled our family and ministry with grace and generosity toward others, discretion, and privacy. So, for the sake of our amazing kids, we are also handling this privately with pastoral oversight and assistance.

We choose to remain friendly and kind to each other going forward. I am in the process of restoration and I have repented for my actions. Although I am sincerely sorry, and forgiven, I soberly realize that I will live with the consequences of my failings for the rest of my life. As this has



Albertina Walker

become a public matter I want to apologize to the many who have supported my ministry through the years.

Stellar Stars: The brightest gospel stars were in attendance at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas Saturday for the 31st Annual Stellar Music Awards.

Anthony Brown and Group therAPy took home 10 awards for



Tye Tribbet

the album Everyday Jesus. "I wondered if last night was just a dream. It feels like a dream," wrote the "Worth" singer in an emotional Instagram post. "It's not the awards that has me so emotional," he continued. "It's the fact that GOD remembers. He keeps record of your labor, the serving you do behind the scenes, the painful moments, the tears you cry."

Other winners included newcomer Casey J won the Best New Artist award for The Truth, as heavyweight Tasha Cobbs' One Place Live got three trophies: Praise and Worship CD of the Year, Contemporary Female Vocalist of the Year and Albertina Walker Female Vocalist of the Year.

Mary's own Tina Campbell has something to celebrate, as her debut solo project It's Personal, earned the singer two Stellar Awards for Traditional Female Vocalist of the Year and Traditional CD of the Year.

High Honors: Walker, Howard Rachinski, The Nelons and Russ Taff have been named 2016 Gospel Music Association (GMA) Honors recipients. The annual GMA Honors Celebration set for Tuesday, May 10 at Lipscomb University's Allen Arena in Nashville, TN. GMA Honors was established



Hezekiah Walker

to recognize individuals and organizations that impact the culture for Christ through music. The event also recognizes individuals and organizations that are impacting culture. This year's honorees include Catherine Brewton for Hope for Harvest, Jars of Clay for Blood, Water, Mission, Michael W. Smith for Rockettoun and Gospel Music Trust Fund.

Gospel singer, composer and choir leader, Bishop Hezekiah Walker and the Love Fellowship Choir took the world by storm with their sensational and innovative sound. Bringing a more youthful and hip-hop style than his predecessors, Hezekiah Walker and LFC quickly became one of the most popular choral groups in contemporary gospel. Finally, Tye Tribbet will be joining R&B singer Fantasia on her upcoming album, set for release this year.

This week's scripture: Do they not go astray who devise evil? Those who devise good meet steadfast love and faithfulness. Proverbs 14:22

Hillary Clinton

(Cont. from Page 3)

run for the White House.

"Each of us is either a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)(6) organization. Our organizations do not endorse or recommend candidates for public office," said Morial. "This is a meeting that we have convened and we have organized in an effort to provide to every candidate who is running for president of the United States, be they Republican or Democrat, with the opportunity to hear from us on issues of civil rights, social justice and economic justice in America, today."

Clinton said that her staff has "always found an open door and a responsive ear to help us forge the kind of policies that we think can directly address many of the issues" that the leaders raised during the meeting.

"My campaign is really about breaking every barrier. I believe that America can not live up to its potential unless every single person has the chance to live up to theirs," said Clinton.

The former Secretary of State also met with more than a dozen "emerging leaders" that represented the next generation in the leadership of the civil rights groups that attended.

"While we are proud to be historic organizations, with legacies from the NAACP and the National Urban League being over 100 years old, others being 20 to 25 years old, we are also proud that, in every case, every one of our organizations is standing up and emphasizing the new generation and emphasizing the leadership role that the new generation can, will and must play in the future of this country," said Morial.

Leigh Chapman, the president of the National Bar Association's young lawyer division that represents lawyers under 40 and lawyers who have practiced less than 10 years, said that access to education without the burden of lifetime debt, ensuring full participation in the political process, eliminating barriers

ideals of our country."

Clinton continued: "Whether it's student debt or it's a judiciary that is not as diverse as it needs to be, or whether it is criminal justice issues or voters' rights issues we have work to do."

Clinton added that her campaign, and her presidency, if she was so fortunate, must reflect the thinking, the planning and the proposals of the young leaders who attended the meeting.

Morial said that the former Secretary of State "demonstrated an ease and a familiarity with many of the issues that were discussed" and that the group found "great support" for many of the issues contained in the 21st Century Agenda.

"Our aim is not partisan politics, our aim is not to decide on a candidate to endorse," said Morial. "Our aim is to impress upon these candidates the challenges of these times and the important creative and thoughtful ideas that we have to solve the problems that this nation faces, with particular emphasis on the challenges faced by communities of color and urban communities, those who have been locked out and left out of the economic system in the 21 century."

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'Beach Streets Downtown' Open Street Event on March 19

A block party, concerts, a community festival, kid's zones, food tasting and bands playing on restaurant patios are just some of the entertainment and activities planned for the "Beach Streets Downtown" Open Street event on Saturday, March 19, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Broadway corridor will be opened up for walking, bicycling, skating and socializing, by temporarily closing the street to vehicle traffic from Pine Avenue to Euclid Avenue.

"Beach Streets will have entertainment and activities for families and people of all ages," said Mayor Robert Garcia. "We're making it easy to have fun while walking, roller skating or bicycling with your friends and neighbors."

"I'm proud to once again support an incredible event that gets people outdoors to explore their city," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. "Beach Streets is a great opportunity for residents to visit a local small business, or taste a new restaurant. Exploring a neighborhood on foot, or on a bike, allows you to see the nooks and crannies of a community that you would otherwise miss while driving in a car."

Entertainment and activities will be provided along the 4-mile route, including several activity hubs.

- Pine Avenue from 1st to 8th Streets in Downtown;
- to 4th Streets in the East Village Arts District
- Cherry Avenue from 2nd to 4th Streets, including Bixby Park
- 4th Street from Cherry

Avenue to Junipero Avenue, on Retro Row

• Broadway between Redondo and Euclid Avenues, Beach Streets Block Party

"Bixby Park will feature a festival with live music, our weekly farmer's market and other family-friendly activities," said Mayor Mayer Saja Lowenthal. "Retro Row has dedicated space for a kid's zone, a rock-climbing wall, a mobile skateboard clinic, and much more. This event will have something for everyone, guaranteed."

Open Street events are gaining popularity throughout North America, and an estimated 25,000 people participated in the similar Beach Streets Uptown event along Atlantic Avenue in June, 2015.

"Long Beach has many hidden treasures," said Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez. "Beach Streets Downtown is a great way to discover a new business or restaurant, especially along North Pine Avenue."

The Downtown Long Beach Associates (DLBA) will be activating locations throughout the downtown footprint with various versions of their signature events, including live music; special restaurant tastings; bicycle activities; a dog friendly event; and a special version of "Live After 5" that will become a post-event finale with bands and a beer garden.

"We're pulling out all the stops for a fantastic block party at Broadway and Euclid Avenue," said Councilwoman Suzie Price. "We'll have lots of great local bands, and I hope everybody can

come out and enjoy this wonderful event."

Many City Departments are participating in Beach Streets Downtown, with healthy, active-living activities, booths and information for the whole family, including the Health Department, Fire, Police, Library, Parks, Recreation and Marine, Airport, Port, Public Works and more.

Several intersections for vehicles to cross Pine Avenue and Broadway will be maintained along the route, however, the entire route and the extended streets will be closed to vehicles, motorcycles, scooters and anything with a motor. Exceptions will be made for officially marked transportation for those with disabilities. Acceptable modes of transportation along the route include: bicycles, skates, Rollerblades, skateboards, walking, etc.

Open Street events promote the pursuit of innovative strategies to achieve environmental, social, economic, and public health goals. By repurposing streets for cyclists, pedestrians, and other non-motorized users, cities are encouraged to consider other ways our streets can be used.

Funding for Beach Streets Downtown is generously provided by Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe, grant funding from Los Angeles County, and other local and City sources.

For more information, including updates, entertainment, maps and parking information, visit www.beachstreets.com, www.facebook.com/BeachStreets, and follow on Twitter and Instagram @BeachStreetsLB.



The Harlem Globetrotters recently brought their act to Southern California. The world famous basketball team performed in front of a full house at the Citizens Business Bank arena. The Harlem Globetrotters are shown working their magic during the game. Photo: James

Supervisor Knabe Urges Voters to Write-In Dee Andrews

Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe announced his endorsement of Dee Andrews' write-in campaign for re-election. Support from Knabe, who has represented Long Beach for nearly 20 years on the Board of Supervisors, comes on the heels of former Mayors Beverly O'Neill and Bob Foster endorsing Andrews recently.

In announcing his endorsement, Knabe released the following statement: "Councilman Dee Andrews has been an outstanding public servant during one of the worst economic recessions in our nation's history. He has a proven track record of making the necessary tough decisions to balance the city budget, achieve needed pension reform, and is always striving to use taxpayers' dollars wisely. I urge you to vote again for Dee Andrews by writing in his name on your ballot in the Sixth District."

Dee Andrews was elected to

the Long Beach City Council in a Special Election in 2007. He was re-elected overwhelmingly in 2008 and was unopposed in his re-election in 2012. On the Council, Andrews has focused on strengthening neighborhood safety, prioritizing funding for local infrastructure improvements, expanding after-school programs,

and instituting commonsense reforms to improve the delivery of city services.

Andrews has been a resident of central Long Beach for over 60 years. He served as the first African-American Student Body President at Poly High School, where he was an All-American High School Football and Track



Socially Speaking

By Jacqueline Johnson

The events and programs for BLACK HISTORY MONTH conclude this week and as always sooh proud of Mrs. Harriet Tyler who is about preservation and presentation of Black History as reflected at the Heritage Museum of Orange County recently... Second Baptist Church of Santa Ana celebrated 93 years... and "Oh What a Day" and Pastor Moore, the Methodist Minister from Maryland, Magnificent... and Oh yeah, he could sing... And tears of joy and praise for the performance by Renda Pettis (A I M) ARTS IN MINISTRY. Pettis is another talented member

of our community whose accomplishments should be highlighted along with Adreane Hunter and Jacqueline Johnson during Black History Month... Recognition for long term dedication for Starters... [I M O] in my opinion... We need to know there is more to math/ arithmetic than SUBTRACTION and DIVISION ?? It seems all we do is Subtract support and Resources to Divide and Deny our community... Hope one day we will learn to ADD to the existing endeavors and Multiply the Services and Resources... It still takes U and I to spell UNITY...

Til Next Week...

Teach Boys

(Cont. from Page 1)

necessarily change people's psyche, but it changes their behavior because they have to act according to the law," he said.

At a recent Black history event, Dr. Robert moderated a forum where visiting State Sen. Isadore Hall III spoke on issues impacting education, and his work in Sacramento.

"At the 100," Robert said that it is important the boys understand activism, and how to move the system.

"You start here, you start assembling, you start in the streets. You move to litigation, you move to policy. This is how the process works," he said.

To get the boys into programs, catchy course names like SWAG Growth Mindset Strategic Tools, and GRIT helps build their minds and develops personal strength.

But he said the bottom line is that the boys develop personal strength to withstand and change the conditions of racism and subsequent achievement gaps.

"We can get them to be gritty as possible or swagged out as possible, but if the institutions aren't friendly to them, we're still going to face the same obstacles," he said.

For more information, see www.100Blackmenlb.com

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star. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Social Science and Physical Education from California State University Long Beach.

Under Long Beach's City Charter, Councilmembers may run for a third term, but only as write-in candidates in the Primary Election. Upon advancing to the General Election, their names will appear on the ballot.

Alyssa Simmons

(Cont. from Page 1)

path to pursuing a career in law enforcement.

About ten years ago, Simmons started out of necessity in pushing for resources for her own two children. Since then, she has expanded her program to serve parents to fight for federal protections in the school system.

Understanding their federal rights must be a priority for students to graduate high school, she said. As it stands, she said most schools try to get parents to sign off on their IEP [Individualized Education Programs].

She said parents are not accessing their Section 504's.

"IEP will not allow your kid to be at the same level as my daughter, to have a regular high school diploma. They will have a Special Ed diploma," she said. "I force the schools to do what the federal law says they have to do. 504s are a part of your civil rights."

To contact Simmons and learn more about Sickle Cell, see <http://www.scdfoc.org/>

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ENTERTAINMENT

Film Review:

RACE

By Dwight Brown
NNPA News Wire Film Critic

"On the track, there is no Black and White, just fast and slow. For those 10 seconds you are free," says Jesse Owens (Stephan James) in this very moving and inspiring biosports movie that captures the essence of this legendary athlete's life, challenges and achievements.

Race is a history lesson, personal profile and a crowd pleaser. Before you see this movie, you might wonder why they didn't just call it "Jesse," or "Jesse Owens." Ten minutes into the footage, you completely understand why Owens feat of winning four Olympic Gold Medals did not happen in a bubble. He endured the indignities of racism and segregation in the U.S., and saw prejudice firsthand in Berlin in the 1930s. To the credit of this movie's perceptive team, they didn't shy away from the inequalities and degradation of the period as they retold his story.

Producer Luc Dayan, who developed and produced an award-winning short film tribute to Jesse Owens and Carl Lewis, nurtured this project and was joined by producer Jean-Charles Lévy, director Stephen Hopkins

(Predator 2, Lost in Space) and screenwriters Joe Shrapnel and Anna Waterhouse (Halle Berry's Frankie & Alice). Their production has a surprising sensitivity and honest response to racism that carries through for two hours and 14 minutes.

James Cleveland "Jesse" Owens, who was born in Oakville, Alabama, grew up in Cleveland, Ohio demonstrating a passion for running in junior high, which is where he met his sweetheart, Minnie. Owens made headlines when he tied the world record for the 100-yard dash, running it in 9.4 seconds, while he was in high school. He had his choice of colleges, but because his coach recommended head track coach Lawrence "Larry" Snyder (SNL's Jason Sudeikis) at Ohio State University, he went to Ohio State.

On May 25, 1935, Owens participated in the Big Ten meet at Ferry Field in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he set three world records (long jump, 220-yard dash and 220-yard hurdles) and tied a fourth (100-yard dash), in just 45 minutes. It was an incredible achievement, one that set him up for the Olympic Trials and put him on the road to the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games.

Behind the scenes, as Nazism

spreads in Germany, Jews were being persecuted and killed and Hitler's propaganda machines lauded the Aryan race, and call all others inferior, particularly blacks. Some Olympic officials, like Jeremiah Mahoney (William Hurt), called for a boycott. Others, like Avery Brundage (Jeremy Irons), insisted that athletes go and show the world that an integrated American team could beat the Germans.

The rest is history. Owens won four gold medals and shamed Adolph Hitler in front of the world. Documentary director Leni Riefenstahl (Carice van Houten), who was hired by Hitler's crew to capture the Germans in all their glory, recorded all of Owens triumphs, which proved Hitler's theories on race to be absolute bunk.

Everything moves along smoothly in this film, which has a similar feel to the Jackie Robinson bio 42. The cinematography (Peter Levy, Predator 2), production design (David Brisbin, "Dead Presidents"), editing (John Smith), art direction (Jean-Pierre Paquet, "300"), the musical score (Rachel Portman, "Chocolat") and music overall (George Acogny) are perfectly in sync. Race looks and feels like a big



Stephan James stars in "Race."

budget feature film, even if it is not. The scenes of Olympic Stadium in Charlottenburg, Berlin Germany are particularly vivid.

Stephan James, who played civil rights leader John Lewis in Selma, brings a duality to his measured interpretation of Jesse Owens. He's confident, without being self-centered; vulnerable without being weak. It's an attractive quality for a protagonist, one that makes you like Owens even more. Jason Sudeikis is also successful at building the Snyder character

and acting are steady, they are out-shined by two elements: The first is the spirit of Jesse Owens, which makes watching him win races against tremendous odds a joy, even though you already know he will lead the pack. Secondly, the attention to social issues and civil rights problems, which were prevalent back in the day and remain so today, is admirable. Race deserves a lot of credit for not whitewashing history. Read more movie reviews by Dwight Brown at DwightBrownink.com.

Behind The Scenes

By Antracia Moorings

Legendary Career: Award-winning actress Cicely Tyson will be the recipient of the first-ever Sir Sidney Poitier Tribute Award at the Bahamas International Film Festival which will be held on February 28. Down through the years, Tyson has broken barriers in film and in her theatrical performances. "Mrs. Tyson is also known to be an advocate for Civil Rights and the basic of human kindness. She is the goddess of acting and a true role model for all men and women of color. She has broken ceilings and paved the way for excellence and it is an incredible honor to have Cicely Tyson to receive the 1st Sir Sidney Poitier Tribute Award at the Bahamas International Film Festival," said BIFF Founder and Executive Director Leslie Vanderpool. "We're honored to recognize her amazing career on this special evening."

Sidney Poitier has co-signed on Tyson's award. "I am honored to be receiving the first Sir Sidney Poitier Tribute Award," Tyson says. "This award, in recognition



Cicely Tyson

of my dear friend and colleague, delights my heart, both Sydney and I have always tried to use our career to not only entertain, and enlighten, but to educate as well. The Bahamas International Film Festival has become a very important avenue to highlight



Sidney Poitier

the work of film, filmmakers and artist." During her career, Tyson has been nominated for numerous international awards, including an Academy Award, a Golden Globe and a BAFTA. She was nominated for twelve Primetime Emmy Awards - winning three. She has also won a Tony Award, Outer Critics Award, and Drama Desk Award for Best Actress in a Play for her Broadway performance in "The Trip to Bountiful."

Newlywed News: Ne-Yo and his fiancée, Crystal Renay, were married in a romantic celebration on Saturday, February 20 at the Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes. They exchanged their vows during a sunset ceremony held outside on a cliff overlooking the ocean. "They stood under a big wooden altar that was draped with white curtains and flowers," an onlooker said. "At the end of the ceremony, Ne-Yo and Crystal held hands and raised their arms into the air as all the guests screamed and cheered. They looked so happy and in love." The nuptials were followed by a cocktail reception and then dinner and dancing in the Catalina Kitchen for about 150 guests. Ne-Yo, 36, revealed their engagement via Twitter last August, clarifying their status and sharing another big surprise! "Clearing the air... @mrcrystalrenay and I are ENGAGED to be married next year," he wrote.

"And yes we are expecting #FromTheHorsesMouth." Ne-Yo is already father to two children with his ex-fiancée, Monyetta Shaw - daughter Madilyn Grace, 5, and son Mason Evan Smith, 4.

Briefly: Vanity, lead singer of the '80s girl group Vanity 6, has died after years of battling kidney failure and, more recently, an abdominal illness. Vanity, whose real name was Denise Katrina Matthews, passed away in a Fremont, CA hospital on February 15 according to sources close to her family. A few months ago she set up a GoFundMe page, and said she'd been diagnosed with sclerosing encapsulating peritonitis—an inflammation of the small intestines. She also battled crack addiction in the '90s, and after a 1994 OD her kidneys were shot. She had to undergo nearly daily dialysis treatments. She was 57.

Finally: NFL legend Terrell Davis has been served with divorce papers. His wife, Tamiko Nash, the 2005 Miss California winner and former "Price is Right" model who filed the papers three days before Valentine's Day. She cited irreconcilable differences as the reason for the breakdown of the 5+ year marriage. The couple has 3 young children (5, 2 and 1). Nash wants joint legal and physical custody. She's also asking for spousal support.



Ne-Yo

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FOOD

Classic Blended Burger

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10-15 minutes
Servings: 4

1/2 pound cremini or white button mushrooms
3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
1 pound ground beef
1 teaspoon salt
4 buns

Finely dice mushrooms or gently pulse in food processor.

In skillet, warm 2 tablespoons olive oil on medium-high heat and add mushrooms, sautéing 5-7 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from heat and cool 5 minutes.

Transfer cooled mushrooms to medium bowl. Add ground beef and salt, mixing until combined. Make 4 patties. Add remaining olive oil to pan and cook burger patties on medium-high heat until desired doneness. Plate and add desired toppings to bun.

Topping recommendations: feta cheese, romesco sauce, sweet peppers and sautéed red onions.

THE PERFECT BLEND

Blenditarian substitutions make dinnertime delicious



Asian Lettuce Wraps

Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes
Servings: 4

8 ounces fresh mushrooms
4 cloves garlic
1 tablespoon minced ginger
1/2 pound lean ground beef
1 tablespoon canola oil
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
1/4 teaspoon dried minced garlic
1/4 teaspoon dried minced onion
1 red pepper, finely chopped
2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon rice wine vinegar

1 head Boston lettuce
1/2 cup shredded carrots
1/4 cup chopped cashews (optional)
In food processor with metal blade, pulse mushrooms, onion, garlic and ginger until finely chopped. Add ground beef; pulse until combined.

In large, nonstick skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add mushroom mixture, thyme, oregano, mustard, garlic and dried onion. Cook, stirring often, 10 minutes, or until browned.

Stir in red pepper, hoisin sauce, soy sauce and vinegar. Simmer 5 minutes; remove from heat.

Serve in Boston lettuce leaves garnished with shredded carrots and chopped cashews.

FAMILY FEATURES

Finding the right daily nutritional balance is no easy feat. Managing sugar, carbohydrate, fat and red meat intake takes serious effort and planning, but transforming your favorite recipes into more nutritious family meals may be easier than you realize.

Adopting the blenditarian lifestyle is a simple solution to healthier eating. It involves, simply, blending mushrooms into meat to make every day dishes more healthful and delicious. Adding chopped mushrooms to ground beef at a ratio of at least 25 percent mushrooms can enhance the taste of dishes, deliver an extra serving of vegetables and beneficial nutrients, and trim total calories and fat intake.

Any mushroom variety will work. Creminis and portabellas lend rich, earthy flavors to any meal, while white button mushrooms offer a more delicate taste. For the more adventurous eaters, maitake and shiitake varieties bring a bold woody taste and meaty texture to the plate.

The key to blending is developing the perfect mushroom consistency. For example, if using ground meat for tacos or burgers, chop mushrooms to mimic the familiar crumbled texture, using a knife and cutting board, food processor or vegetable chopper. For stews, halve or quarter mushrooms, or slice them to match strips of meat in fajitas or stir-fry.

Practice your blending technique with these recipes and find more deliciously blended dishes to share with your family at MushroomInfo.com.

Mushroom Tacos with Salsa Verde

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 12-15 minutes
Servings: 8

Tacos
1/4 pound 85-percent lean ground beef
salt and pepper, to taste
3/4 pound white button mushrooms
3/4 pound cremini mushrooms
4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
2 cups julienned sweet onions
1 tablespoon minced garlic
4 tablespoons ground chili pepper
lime juice, to taste
1 cup shredded green cabbage
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
8 corn tortillas
4 tablespoons Avocado Salsa Verde (recipe below)
4 tablespoons Cotija cheese, grated

Avocado Salsa Verde

1 large, ripe avocado, peeled, pitted and cut into 1/2-inch dice
1/3 cup diced tomato
2 tablespoons finely chopped onion
1/2 teaspoon seeded and minced serrano chili
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
1 tablespoon lemon or lime juice
2 tablespoons chopped cilantro
1/4 teaspoon sugar

Heat sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add ground beef; season with salt and pepper. Sauté 3-5 minutes, or until golden brown.

Chop mushrooms to size and texture of ground beef and sauté in separate pan with 2 tablespoons olive oil 3-5 minutes. Combine mushrooms and meat and set aside.

Heat pan used for ground beef over medium-high heat. Add remaining olive oil and onions; sauté until golden brown. Add garlic and cook until fragrant. Add mushroom and beef mixture and chili pepper. Sauté 2-3 minutes, stirring frequently. Adjust seasoning with salt, pepper and lime juice.

Toss shredded cabbage with salt, pepper, lime juice and cilantro.

To make Avocado Salsa Verde, combine all salsa ingredients and refrigerate at least 1 hour. To serve, place 2 tablespoons shredded cabbage on tortilla and top with 2 tablespoons of mushroom and beef mixture. Top with 1 tablespoon Avocado Salsa Verde and sprinkle with Cotija cheese.

Blended Chili and Macaroni

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Servings: 8

1/2 pound mushrooms
1 pound lean ground beef
1 package chili seasoning
1 can beef broth
1 can (15.5 ounces) kidney beans, rinsed
1 can (6 ounces) tomato paste
1 cup medium salsa
2 cups elbow macaroni, uncooked
shredded cheese
sour cream
cilantro

In food processor with metal blade, pulse mushrooms until finely chopped.

In large saucepan, brown meat and mushrooms with chili seasoning.

In another saucepan, mix broth, kidney beans, tomato paste, salsa and macaroni. Bring mixture to boil and cover. Simmer on low 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. When noodles are al dente, stir in browned meat and mushrooms.

Serve topped with cheese, sour cream and cilantro.

