

Las Vegas

Black Image

APRIL 2021

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America is Back

Eddie Murphy and the power of remembering

Inside |

Surprise! Vice President Kamala Harris visits Las Vegas • Telling stories of Black generational wealth • Lessons on inclusion, equity and diversity



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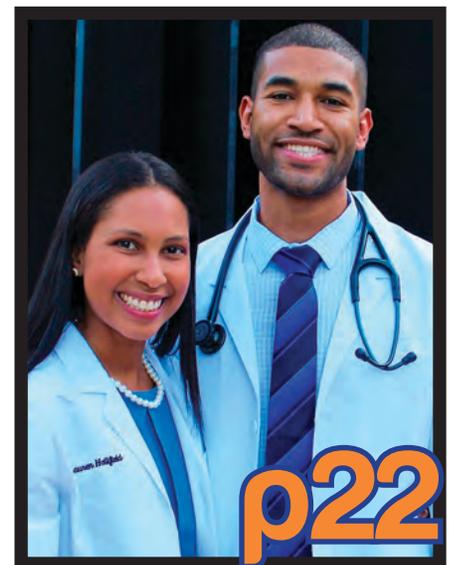
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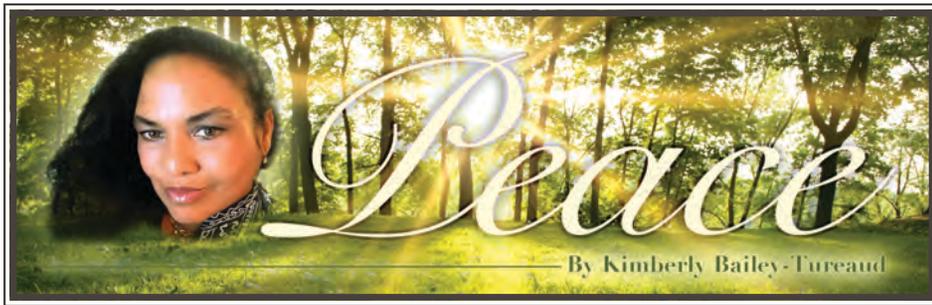
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what's inside:





Stay in the moment

Life moves so fast and sometimes we are eager to keep up or race past it. When our stride moves at a fast pace, we leave something behind or forgotten in our souls.

Those forgotten moments are precious for our peace, when time stands still and you can notice the springtime hummingbird buzzing at the top of a rose bush. That is the journey, so hold on to that image in your mind to feel the serenity of the universe.

Be one with your universe and those things that are not man made. It will guide you to the land of your base. Giving you a firm foundation to walk. Notice the universal gifts that are so often taken for granted. Our God knew us before us. There are challenges in the world and He equipped the earth around us with gifts to hold on to.

Don't be blinded by the noise of your environment. Just know, "All will be okay." Try not to worry about giving any negative situation power over your mind and actions. Stay in the moment of the beauty around you. Those silent conversations have power to lead you to

Shangri-La.

Be present with others and listen to a person's story. Their stories are pathways to your graciousness. We are all connected by the divine. And if you think you are not, that is a mistake. The shadows of one's life experiences are the thread that links humanity.

Your peace is stationary and it hovers over your mind waiting to rain upon you, but sometimes we might need to slow down to catch its flow. Stay consciously intentional about the peace you desire. Take each moment in rhythmic harmony with your spirit. Your spirit is the home that either propels things away or towards you.

Life is wonderful and spring time reminds us, WE ARE ALIVE! Don't miss it.

Don't forget to honor the time you are given. It is the treasure chest that you must value and protect.

Thank you for taking this moment to be you. Peace is there waiting as you embrace every moment.

Insane Pursuits Will Be America's Downfall

By Louie Overstreet

It is your boy Johnny One Note again, predicting America's demise if something is not done under the current Administration to reverse the current insane pursuits taking place in America.

I hope I sound more like the village elder and not the village idiot when I speak out not to change Repugs, but to let them know they will never change me. Insane pursuits by too many Americans or special interest groups are doing irreparable damage to the values that have held our nation together through good and bad times for nearly two-and-a-half centuries and dozens of wars.

I do not define insanity as being crazy – but rather the suspension of logical reasoning and engaging in irrational conduct to gain wealth, racial supremacy, and political dominance in America, a multiracial and multiethnic nation.

Sustaining the foregoing acts of depravity requires the constant violation of longstanding American values such as the right for labor to organize, a colorblind justice system, and the concept of one person, one vote. All are founda-



tional bases for any federal republic.

While America mistakenly and foolishly continues to engage in the insane pursuits of perpetuating wealth disparity, racial strife and injustice, nations such as China are going to outpace us with advances in robotics and artificial intelligence – thus becoming the world's dominant economic power in

the not-too-distant future.

In addition to the insanity of it all, it is the height of stupidity to oppress persons of color and suppress the aspirations of females to the extent that we fail to maximize the potential of these persons to contribute to a productive society – and at the same time think we can remain a the United States of America. The beacon for the last best hope in a world that is much smaller and different than when we won a world war on two fronts 76 years ago.

However, if nothing changes, history will record that once upon a time there was a nation that stopped trying to build a more perfect union and instead went insane.

I hope I sound more like the village elder and not the village idiot when I speak out



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We are kings and queens

Spring is upon us, and we are grateful to be moving closer to our regular routines while staying safe.

As far as popular culture, there is no more welcome symbol of a return to normal than the success of “Coming 2 America” – which brings a beloved cast of characters back into our lives, and reminds us how Eddie Murphy became one of the biggest stars on the planet.

It is such an honor to feature Dr. Bernard Moore and the story of his great, great, great grandfather, Tal Jones – who left a Black oil legacy for all the generations to come. What the story also teaches is that anything of value is worth fighting for – encouraging us all to stay woke and prepared to protect and create

generational wealth. Giving knowledge in the areas of diversity and equity is UNLV Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Barbee Oaks – who is retiring from the university, but still available to consult and share wisdom on how to build success through inclusion.

In this April edition, we honor the excellence of our children with the return of “Icons-In-Class” – celebrating 9-year-old Meadow Brown as she gives positive messages of inspiration in her art because she hopes “to make others happy.”

Thank you to our social media family for participating in this month’s “Community Speaks” on an issue that still has people buzzing long after the credits rolled on the annual Grammys telecast.

Las Vegas Black Image is your magazine – and we treasure all of our contributing writers who bring information, perspectives, and encouragement into our lives. As the nation is reminded that Black Lives Matter, we are happy that what some treated as a slogan is becoming a call to action.

We wish all of you positive movement, love, and blessings that lead toward ALL of your dreams. Share your thoughts with us by email at cdalasegas@gmail.com.

Rise,
Charles Tureaud and Kimberly Bailey Tureaud



Las Vegas Black Image publishers Charles Tureaud and Kimberly Bailey Tureaud

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Given the recent 2021 Grammy Awards, what do you tell your children about sexuality?



Celeste Bishop Stein

I looked at my daughter, Miss Chattanooga, after the Grammy show and realized I didn't have much to say at all when she said to me, "They need to bring some class back to the Grammys. The entertainment world needs some real entertainers." I just smiled and realized one of my jobs as a parent is done.



Kennedi Madisen Taylor

I've always taught my children about everything. I am very honest because either they learn from us, or someone out of our homes. I encourage my daughters to be happy and do whatever makes them happy.



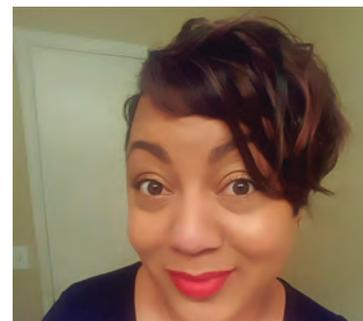
Marcia Washington

Some young women today don't have any class, respect for themselves, or integrity.



Carol Bolden Peterson

I have been very open with our daughter. My parents taught me to look at character and not sexual orientation or behaviors. I appreciate my daughter's receptive attitude. I do think some leave a little to the imagination in attire and lyrics, but every generation pushes the envelope. Mine had Prince, Rick James, Vanity etc.



Lisa Marie

I believe in educating our youth because it definitely starts at home. But we need to stop oversexualizing everything. These kids these days are learning too much too soon. I try my best to set a good example for our kids in the way I conduct myself and I redirect inappropriate behavior when I see it.



Cheria Goodloe

I will teach my children entertainment means, "To detain the mind so that something could enter into your mind." That's why it's called television programming because it's programming your mind. If you choose a life of sin, it will come with a cost. That's what I would teach my children. God's culture versus the world's culture. We choose God.



Tim Cunningham

Maybe let them stay children until they aren't. Then let them know about privacy and the value of it. There are consequences in general when people know your business. Cardi B isn't a hero by any means.



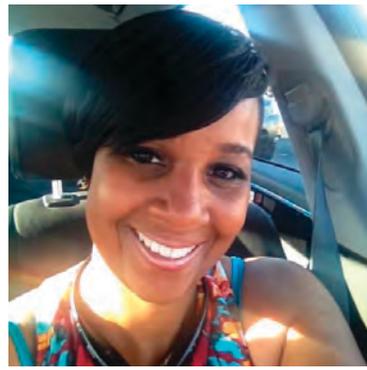
Michelle Hodge

I feel if they're old enough to ask you about sexuality you need to be grown enough to explain it. Your children will learn it elsewhere and I want my kids to know the truth about everything so their eyes are wide open. Stay awake!



Katina Wilson

I believe there is a pervasive ideology in America that overly sexualizes black women. The concept is a historical and deep rooted social stigma. Although it may have started before the Sarah Baartman era, it is a long standing belief that black women should be on display for our “freakish” oversized body parts. In that era, it was considered entertaining, a circus act, and a freak show. The suggestion continues to this day. I tell my children – especially my daughter – that their bodies are to be treasured. They don’t have to put it all on display. There is a way to look attractive without doing too much advertising.



Shelli Harris

What is socially acceptable is ever evolving. There was a time when a husband and wife could not sleep in the same bed on television, but today you get it all. I think we have to be open and honest with our children, and not always waiting for them to ask us questions, but to ask what they think about what they saw. Don’t sugarcoat it, but explain it to a level of their understanding and continue to have the conversation. As parents we just have to pray they heard us, understood, and comply.

continued on page 20>>

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Royal Rumble

Eddie Murphy and a star-studded cast return to a beloved story in “Coming 2 America.”

When “Coming to America” arrived on big screens in 1988, audiences were captivated by the story of Prince Akeem Joffer of Zamunda — who travels to Queens, New York in search of a bride. Starring Eddie Murphy, the fish-out-of-water tale follows Akeem, heir to the throne of a paradisiacal African kingdom, and his friend Semmi (Arsenio Hall) as they encounter a colorful cast of characters in their country and the United States.

More than 30 years later, the sequel “Coming 2 America” brings endless laughs as the pair embark on a new adventure: returning to Queens in search of the son Akeem never knew he had, so that he can someday put a male heir

on the throne. Most of the original cast returns, including James Earl Jones, Shari Headley, John Amos, and Louie Anderson. Joining this star-studded ensemble are Wesley Snipes, Leslie Jones, Tracy Morgan, Jermaine Fowler, Bella Murphy, Rotimi, KiKi Layne, Nomzamo Mbatha and Teyana Taylor.

Said Murphy: “In our first film ... an African prince travels to America to find a regular girl and he brings her back to make her his princess. It’s a modern fairytale that a lot of people love and also, it was the very first time they ever had a movie with Black folks, where you had kings and queens. This film is a really cool continuation of that story and I want people to have a great experience

while watching it.”

James Earl Jones, who reprises the role of King Jaffe, says, “Of the countless roles I’ve played, King Jaffe remains one of the most enjoyable and iconic characters I’ve had the pleasure of portraying. With his regal and commanding presence as the ruler of Zamunda, I revealed at bringing King Joffer to life ... in 1988. And now, over 30 years later, I am honored to reprise my role for ‘Coming 2 America.’ It means the world to me to be a part of this beloved franchise. Working with Eddie Murphy has been an indelible experience. This powerful cast, both reuniting the original and welcoming the newcomers, represent the essence of Black royalty.”

Hall also reflected on his role. “The thing I love about playing Semmi is that he’s so totally different from me,” he said. “We have different egos and dispositions towards life. Semmi is that guy who’s always around and even though he’s a pain in the ass, no one ever thinks about getting rid of him. Everybody’s definitely on his case, though.”

As far as the perfect time to take moviegoers back to Zamunda and Queens, Eddie Murphy sums it up in a few words: “This movie is funny and it also has sweet, emotional moments, too. It’s escapism, its entertainment and everybody needs a good laugh. I’m really proud of how this picture turned out. ‘Coming 2 America’ is a breath of fresh air.”

Protecting yourself from STIs

By Dr. Annette Mayes OB/GYN

Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Awareness Week is April 11-17. Pregnant women and their babies are not immune to STIs, and patients should ask their doctors about getting tested.

Many STIs lack symptoms, so you may not always know if you are infected. If you are pregnant, you should be tested for STIs, including HIV, as a part of your medical care during pregnancy. The results of an STI can be more serious, even life-threatening, for you



and your baby if you become infected while pregnant. It is important that you are aware of the harmful effects of STIs and how to protect yourself and your unborn baby against infection. If you are diagnosed with an STI while pregnant, your sex partner(s) should also be tested and treated.

STIs can complicate your pregnancy and may have serious effects on both you and your developing fetus. Some of these problems may be seen at birth; others may not be discovered until months or years later. Most of these problems can be prevent-

ed if you receive regular medical care during pregnancy. This includes tests for STIs starting early in pregnancy – and repeated close to delivery, as needed.

STIs, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and trichomonas's can all be treated and cured with antibiotics that are safe to take during pregnancy. STIs that are caused by viruses – such as genital herpes, hepatitis B, or HIV – cannot be cured. However, in some cases these infections can be treated with antiviral medications or other preventive measures to reduce the risk of passing the infection to your baby. If you are pregnant or considering pregnancy, you should be tested so you can take steps to

protect yourself and your baby.

The only way to completely avoid STIs is to not have vaginal, anal, or oral sex. If you are sexually active, you can do the following things to lower your chances of being infected:

- Be in a long-term mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who tests negative for STIs
- Use latex condoms – the right way – every time you have sex.

For more information, call Las Vegas All Women's Care at (702) 522-9640. Or visit us at 700 Shadow Lane #165 in Las Vegas.

Many STIs lack symptoms, so you may not always know if you are infected.

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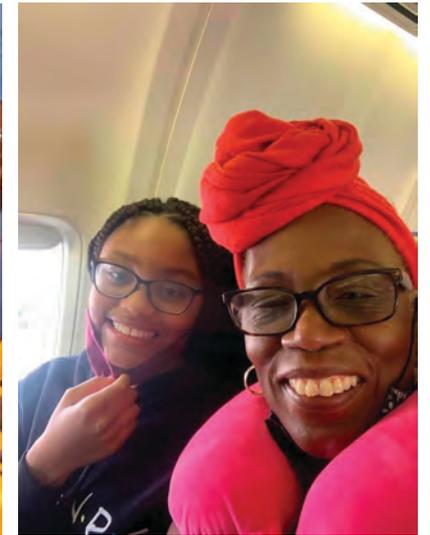
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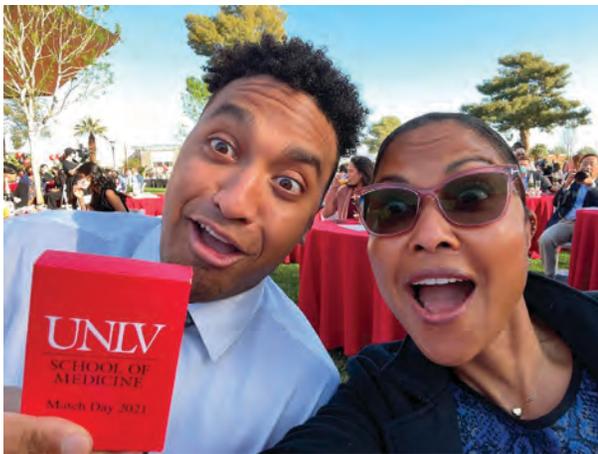
Courtney Hemphill is excited about accomplishing this year's goals



Chaka Khan, celebrating her 68th birthday



Iris Moore ready for her trip



Dr. Linda Woodson and son attend UNLV's Medical School Match Day Program



Johanna P. Perez



Katrina Harris



LaCrea Silinzy



Dr. Linda Woodson remembers her friend, the legendary Mary Wilson.



Markevious Faulkner is proud to please his ancestors



Stan Blake and his wife enjoying their day



Marvinetta Clay celebrates with family

Power in the present tense

By Dr. Ellen Brown

Power “is.” Power is not a “wasn’t.” Power is always now.

Confusing? Let’s keep going. You may be able to hold on to power for a while, but since it is a force (like the sea) it must continue its living activity by moving on. If it returns, it won’t be the same – because the situation, the people, the need and interest will have changed, making it necessary to alter the previous force.

Let’s look at what political power is today in our country, our world. We have talked quite a bit over the past four years about power – who has it and how they are managing or controlling it. The pow-



er group that has been on the front line gained even more because of the administration and their common interests. The power group on the “other” side of the aisle had to fight every day on every issue just to keep what they have, but the main party still seemed to come out ahead. So, power did not die; Power still “is.” Remember the cliché:

“Yesterday is gone and tomorrow never comes – because when it does, it is today.” Today is always today, power is always power, but the force is given to the circumstance in control.

I have a fantasy that “power” is living the life right now. Never in our known history have there been so many capital-let-

ter causes all battling for the spotlight at the same time: Black Lives Matter, Me Too, Immigration, Climate Change, Voting Rights, Affordable Health Care, Fair Housing, Police Brutality, Gun Violence, Criminal Justice Reform, Gender Equality, Education Reform, Safe Schools, and Jobs, Jobs, Jobs.

I’m sure I left out something very important to you – and absence from the list does not disrespect what those are. The message I am nervously trying to convey here is a complicated one, and it requires thought, consideration of the circumstances and along with several other things it comes down to finding ways to harness the Power while it is in your arena; while its place is conducive to the needs that you have and can be advanced while it is there.

Take advantage of the circumstances, stand up for your causes, find a place where you can fit in and join with like minds to make a difference while the force is in your control. Find a way to get to leaders who are there for the public interest. It won’t be there forever, so contemplate who are the people that can represent your interests, find out how you can help, then go to work with them! Consider yourself as a candidate!

The sea does not stand still, but while it is in your backyard, work with it and harness the power to make life better.

Dr. Ellen Brown is an affiliate faculty member at Regis University, Denver. Contact Dr. Brown at ebrown.nci@gmail.com

Library District Executive Director Kelvin Watson Wins Award for Innovative Leadership

Creating a future of equity, diversity, and inclusion through innovation and technology

Kelvin Watson believes in the transformative power of libraries for the communities that they serve, and this is the vision that he brings to his role as the new Executive Director of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District.

Who might imagine creating a library in the midst of a busy, major airport hub or in local parks; using Amazon Echo devices to welcome immigrants and help them learn English in their native language; pairing those re-entering the community after incarceration with librarian-mentors to



LVCCLD Executive Director Kelvin Watson

help them secure employment and educational opportunities; incorporating pop-up libraries into coffee shops, healthcare facilities, and city buildings?

Watson imagined and brought to reality these and many other unique ideas during his tenure as Director of Broward County Libraries in Fort Lauderdale, Flor-

ida. It was this revolutionary thinking that led to him being named the 2021 winner of the Margaret E. Monroe Award for Adult Library Services. The award

recognizes those who have made major contribution services for adults through exceptional leadership, creative and innovative concepts, measurable effectiveness and their influence on the industry as a whole. The award illuminates the new thinking that he brings to Nevada’s largest library system, and the goals that he will pursue.

Said Watson: “The library has always represented a community gathering place, and we remain that in spite of the challenges the pandemic has presented. But, we are



Kelvin Watson with children

so much more than a physical space of books on shelves. The library is a state of mind, a hologram of possibilities, and key community influencer.”

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Empowering Equity at End of Life

By Cassandra Cotton

Healthcare inequalities are often discussed, but there is no one-size-fits-all healthcare inequity, nor a blanket solution – especially with regard to end-of-life care. From economic inequality to cultural or social inequalities, half the battle is identifying the major issues and finding ways to address them.

Often, a presentation on a subject energizes people for a few hours. However, without concrete, feasible action plans and follow-up, even the most passionate mover and shaker can find their enthusiasm fading.

With the Nathan Adelson Hospice Foundation's 17th Annual Multicultural Symposium – which will be held virtually this year due to the pandemic – we hope to show what it takes to identify and effect actual change in any commu-

nity. We want the participants to come away from the Symposium with a sense of purpose and achievable action, and an understanding of how effective coalitions have proven to be in improving outcomes for all.

With a virtual platform, we have speakers from all over the country discussing topics such as “Race and Cultural Competency in End-of-Life Care” and “Living with Grief: Navigating Loss During COVID-19.”

The Multicultural Symposium will be held virtually on April 14 at 1 p.m. (PST). Tickets are \$40/per person and available online at <https://one.bidpal.net/2021mcs>. For tickets or more information, call Cassandra Farris at (702) 976-3141 or visit www.nah.org

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'I want to keep inspiring people all over the world'

Las Vegas Black Image is thrilled to return Icons-in-Class – a celebration of our children in their own voices, showcasing their positive pursuits – to the pages of the magazine. We were inspired by a Facebook post by Shannon Toston Brown:

“Children are so creative and tend to block out the ugliness of this world with beauty. My daughter, Meadow, has asked me to share her art and her wish is for someone to use her art in a magazine or for their small business. I didn’t know what to say, so I thought I would just give it a shot. Meadow loves to draw and she spent three days on the art that she named, ‘Pure Beauty.’ Please share or notify me if you have a small business or magazine to make her dream come true. It’s the small things and worth a try.”

After reading that, we were determined to meet Meadow – in hopes of playing a part in making her wish come true. She graciously granted us an interview.

How did you get started in drawing and painting?

I think it started when I was in the first or second grade. After school I would pull out my notebook to draw, and draw whenever I had free time.

Are there any particular things you like to draw?

I like to draw people in different settings.

Describe the art you call “Pure Beauty.”



Meadow Brown

My drawings are to make people feel warm inside.

Why do you think there is a need for that right now?

I think there is a big need right now and I just want to draw things to make people happy.

Do you see some people who are not happy?

I see some people who are sad, so I draw people who are happy so they will be happier.

What encouragement about your art did you receive that really made you know you can really draw well?

Often, when I show my family members, they really like my drawings. That’s what makes me feel good and it inspires me to do more.

When you grow up do you want to be an artist?

I might, but I might also be a photographer or director. But, I also might have a job as an artist.

What colors inspire you when you draw?

I prefer to use blues and yellow colors when I draw.

Do you like homeschooling?

Yes, I like it, but I miss my friends. I miss seeing them in person.

continued on page 16 >>

Nathan Adelson
HOSPICE

17th Annual Multicultural Symposium
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HEALTH IS THE NEW HAPPY!

Am I going crazy or nah?

By Tiffany McNeely

How many times have you felt like you were going “crazy” or someone used that word to describe you?

The term has such a stigma — but with mental illness diagnoses on the rise, more people are becoming sensitive to the people around them. We could all use a heightened awareness of what others may be going through: 19% of adults are experiencing a mental illness — the equivalent of over 47 million Americans, with 4.55% experiencing a severe mental illness.

I realized that anxiety could be trig-



gered by several factors throughout my day. When anxiety would hit, I would start to feel like I was going crazy and out of place. It can come out of nowhere, with physical symptoms that could include feeling hot, lightheadedness, racing heart, and trembling. Often it can feel impossible to control. For relief, I have to focus on my breathing: taking deep breaths in and out while thinking of something calming. I like to visualize the beach or waves peacefully hitting the shore.

I don't believe that crazy is an appropriate word for people who suffer from mental health issues. I would say we are not crazy at all — just processing life's curveballs the best we can. A lot of times

you may not be born with something like an anxiety disorder, but it can develop over time in response to trauma.

I recently purchased this amazing device called Breathonics. You download the app and pair the device with your smartphone. You put the device over your eyes and head and sit or lay in a quiet place. Once you turn on the app the sound comes on and you are provided with a 15-20 minute guided meditation on breathing techniques. There are different options depending on whether you want to calm down or be energized.

One cool feature is the power nap. How many times have you felt like, “If I can just take a quick nap I would feel better.” This helps you do that and wake up well rested. This has been such an amaz-

ing tool, because I can use it anywhere I go. It has a carrying case and charger to use on the go.

John Hopkins reported on a study in which “Researchers looked at data from 2,974 people in China ages 65 and older. Nearly 60 percent of participants reported napping after lunch for about an hour. Scientists found that people who napped for 30 to 90 minutes had better word recall — a sign of good memory — than people who did not nap or who napped for longer than 90 minutes. People who napped for that golden 30 to 90 minutes were also better at figure drawing, another sign of good cognition.” So quick short naps are very useful to our cognitive health during the day. Happy napping!

HISTORIC BLACK VEGAS

Charles Kellar and the 1971 Consent Decree

By Claytee White

A consent decree is an order issued by a court that expresses a voluntary agreement by the participants in a lawsuit. In 1971, a consent decree alleged a series of violations of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Strip hotels and labor unions signed it — stipulating that 12% of certain job categories would be open to Blacks.

Prior to this action, Black workers, except in a few instances, were relegated to jobs in the back-of-the-house as porters, maids, and linen room workers. (These porter positions were those who cleaned casino/hotel public areas, not those who earned good tips for transporting luggage to guest rooms.) On March 26, 1960, hotels were integrated but jobs that were discussed in the oral Moulin Rouge



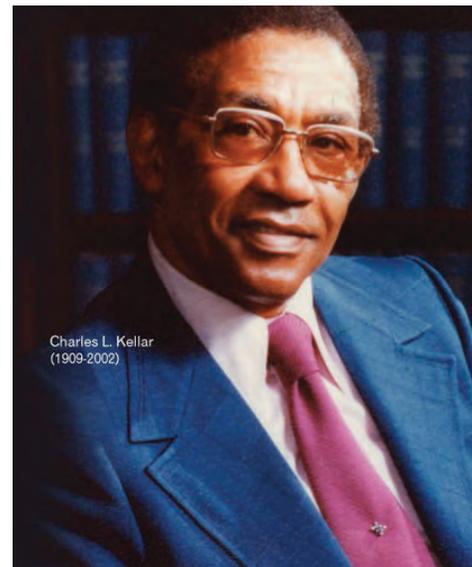
Agreement never materialized.

Charles Kellar, the first Black attorney to sit for Nevada's state's bar exam, initiated the original design of the decree. Kellar moved to Nevada in 1959, sat for the exam in 1960, and received his license to practice law in Nevada in 1965. Why so long? Kellar's almost perfect passing score drew unfavorable attention from the State Bar of Nevada and a decision was made to withhold his license. After a lengthy court challenge, Kellar received his license. During this time period, however, Robert Reid and Earle White passed the Nevada Bar and were licensed.

This was the second time in about a 12-month period that Kellar had drawn unfavorable attention to himself. The first time was when he opened a bank account soon after his arrival. He had sold real estate properties before leaving New

York and had arrived in Las Vegas with a cashier's check for just under \$300,000. The banker called the police and when the situation was explained that “No Black man should have that kind of money,” Kellar embarrassed the officers with his laughter.

But while Kellar fought for his license, fortunately for Las Vegas, he volunteered in the offices of the local NAACP and for the Reno NAACP. Thus, he knew the systemically racist landscape well and stepped in to help remedy the lack of jobs in the Black community



as soon as the opportunity arose. Then he worked on the issues of school desegregation and housing.

Plaintiffs that signed the consent decree agreeing to make 12% of jobs — in a number of categories — open to Blacks included the Nevada Resort Association, Aladdin Hotel, Castaways Hotel, Caesars Palace, Desert Inn Hotel

and Country Club, Dunes Hotel and Country Club, Flamingo Hotel, Frontier Hotel, Hacienda Hotel, International Hotel, Landmark Hotel, Silver Slipper,

continued on page 20 >>



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Delicious Berkshire Ham



Prep Time: 3 hours and 25 minutes (active: 15 minutes)

Servings: 8 to 10 minutes, depending on weight

Ingredients

- 1) 10 to 12-pound bone-in Berkshire smoked ham
- 2) 1- 1/2 cups packed light brown sugar
- 3) 1/2 cup raw organic honey
- 4) You can also add tsp. clove powder to your brown sugar
- 5) You can also add cup pineapple juice to level out the flavors

Directions

- 1) Adjust the oven racks to accommodate a large roasting pan. Fit the pan with a shallow roasting rack. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- 2) Unwrap the ham and rinse it un-

der cold water.

- 3) Place it on the rack in the roasting pan. Cover with foil and bake 1 hour 40 minutes. Meanwhile, combine the brown sugar and honey, clove and pineapple juice in a saucepan and cook over medium heat until the mixture is smooth, and the sugar has dissolved.

- 4) Pour the brown sugar glaze over the ham and continue roasting for an additional 1 hour 40 minutes more, basting at least twice with the drippings in the roaster.

- 5) Let the ham stand 15 minutes before slicing to allow the juices to set. (You can make the ham up to 2 hours ahead; tent with foil and serve at room temperature.)

Note: To adjust the total roasting time for a smaller or larger ham, calculate 20 minutes per pound. Check for doneness by inserting a probe (or thermometer) into a meaty spot (not into fat or touching the bone). It should register 155F.

<< continued from page 6

When will you go back to school?

I don't think I will go back to school because I am more comfortable doing home schooling. I usually play with my friends on Fridays and weekends.

What other kinds of creative expressions do you enjoy besides drawing?

I like to sing and dance. And sometimes I dress up and try on different clothes.

What is the most frequent question you are asked about your art?

My friends ask me, "How did you do that?" I tell them they can do it too – if they try their best and believe in themselves.

What contributed to your confidence level?

I think it's my mom and dad who inspired me to do more because they are really proud of my art that makes me happy and confident to do more.

Are you keeping your school grades up?

Yes, my favorite subject in school is reading and my teacher told me I am at a fifth grade reading level and I am only in the third grade.

That is wonderful. Do you think you will have an art exhibit one day?

Yes, I think I will.

If you had to sell one of your drawings how much would you sell it for?

I would sell it for \$5 or \$8.

Has anyone asked for one of your paintings?

Yes.

So you sold one?

No. I sold three.

What do you say to people who don't understand why people do art?

I would say, I draw and do art because I want to keep inspiring people all over the world. And I want to make people happy.



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Mission Accomplished

UNLV's diversity, equity and inclusion guru is ready for her next chapter.

There are many treasures in Las Vegas and one most valued notable will soon be retiring from her post: Dr. Barbee Oakes, Chief Diversity Officer for UNLV. Often described as a guru of diversity, equity and inclusion, Oakes has spent four years advancing inclusive programming that makes UNLV one of the most diverse universities in



Dr. Barbee Oakes

the nation. She has implemented a "Cultural Intelligence Leadership Series" that fosters a culture of inclusive excellence among senior administrators, academic leaders, and faculty.

"Before coming to UNLV four years ago I was the Chief Diversity Officer at Wake Forest University in North Carolina," said Oakes. "But I started getting interested in leaving because I wanted to work in an environment that was more diverse – and when an employment search firm contacted me about the job at UNLV, I learned that UNLV ranked number 1 as the most diverse institution in the nation."

Her passion for the work is what drives Oakes to achieve her goals – by using her innate ability to identify and forecast the needs of students in a culturally diverse environment. "I was propelled to work at UNLV because of two major factors: one was the diversity of the student body in terms of race and ethnicity, but also in terms of the high percentage of first-generation college students," she said. "I believed that there was a lot of instruction and support they would be needing that I could provide. And another reason was that the faculty should mirror the population composition of the

student body. These were major contributors that convinced me to work at UNLV."

Oakes makes clear that diversity, equity and inclusion are not strictly tasks to accommodate the needs of minorities. Her talent for details is one that also includes others with diverse needs in the majority population and those marginalized because of their

unique needs.

"Diversity, equity, and inclusion is about race and ethnicity, but it is also about LGBTQ issues, religious diversity, undocumented students and more," she said. "For example, we know that graduation rates for African-American students in Clark County are not as high as white students. There are issues surrounding this and performance in higher education. So it's important to look at the totality of all issues in a student body and staff which are all different. It's important to look at gender, sexuality, and surprisingly we have over 100 students from the foster care system and we also have to consider their needs. There is a non-traditional age population at UNLV and if those students bring their child on campus we provide them with private restrooms to use. I am proud to have addressed many needs of the student body and staff. There are ways to do this work so everyone wins – then that's when you begin to move the needle. I have been wholeheartedly committed to the work for the time I've been at UNLV and so has the campus community. I have been so encouraged how the campus has embraced our vision to truly be an inclusive campus."

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The choice of natural gas helps lower energy costs, which is critical to hard-working families and businesses. Especially in these tough economic times, natural gas is often the least expensive utility bill every month. It's been reported that a family using natural gas to cook, take hot showers, or heat their home, pays \$879 less per year than a family who use electricity to do the same things.

Nevadans may have noticed that legislators are trying to pass Assembly Bill 380, which would effectively ban natural gas in the state. Having to make a choice between medicine and groceries or heating your home affordably is unacceptable. Employers having to decide between hiring a new worker, investing in their business or keeping up with escalating utility bills is not the healthy path to an economic recovery.

That is why unions and business groups, retailers and restaurants, homebuilders and housing advocates – along with representatives for our state's seniors, poor and minority communities – have come together to defend the direct choice of natural gas in homes and businesses.

The proposed bill will remove the choice of using the most cost-effective energy from hard-working minority businesses and families. What's more, forcing businesses and families to pur-

chase costly new appliances and retrofit homes' or business' heating and electrical systems will inequitably affect communities of color, like ours. Can our community, many on reduced or fixed incomes, realistically afford to replace their perfectly good gas stovetop, water heater or furnace they depend on?

Natural gas for homes and businesses has an important role to play in protecting both our environment and our economy. Now is not the time to pursue policies that would ban or obstruct the use of natural gas for Nevadans. It is essential that we all work together. Responsible climate action planning must be designed to achieve the most positive impact while considering its repercussions on those who can least afford it.



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'Generational wealth is very important'

History teaches us that Black people are descended from kings and queens in Africa. Dr. Bernard Moore is one who has made ancestral search a big part of his life, and it has resulted in fascinating findings about his great, great, great grandfather, Tal Jones — who was born a slave in 1850, and auctioned off at the age of seven. When Jones was emancipated, he became a sharecropper in Wewoka, Oklahoma, and worked for a Seminole Indian who gave him over 40 acres of land in the early 1900s. Throughout the years the land that was passed down to Jones' relatives expanded to 57 acres because of smart investments championed by the women in the family.



Bernard Moore

Oil was discovered on the Jones' land in the 1920s, and petroleum interests approached the family about digging 26 wells on the land and paying royalties in exchange for the oil extraction. Unfortunately, the oil companies, which have since consolidated, began reducing royalty payments to the Jones family — and even tried to take the land from them by a "quiet title," which is legal in Oklahoma. Moore is still leading the fight against the big oil companies, which have appealed the case even after the high courts ruled against them. Moore and screenwriter Pamela Richardson has chronicled his family's story in a screenplay entitled "Tal Jones: A Black Oil Legacy," which has already been much sought-after on the festival circuit and is nominated for Best Screenplay at this year's Las Vegas Black Film Festival, set for April 23-25 at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino.

Las Vegas Black Image spoke to Moore

— a political consultant and writer — and Richardson to delve deeper into the true story of Tal Jones.

How did your great, great, great grandfather get so much land given the environment in Oklahoma in the 1900s?

Moore: The Seminole Nation is a part of the Five Civilized Tribes that came in the Indian Removal Act as the federal government moved Indians from Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee and Louisiana to northeastern Oklahoma. This was called the Trail of Tears, and the federal government gave Indians land and the Seminole Indians received a lot of land. Tal Jones worked really hard on the land as a sharecropper for his friend who was a Seminole Indian and everyone really liked him. When the land was too much to keep up, the Seminole gave Tal Jones over 40 acres of land to sharecrop before it was discovered that the land had oil and natural gases.

How was it developing a screenplay that will soon be a movie?

Richardson: Bernard told me of the story and as I hear any story I immediately see visuals. When someone tells me a story I see exactly what someone is saying. If I hear something gory — I will feel it in my gut. That's the screenwriter in me. I wanted to make sure I was true to the family legacy and didn't create a lot of fiction. One thing someone will find if they read the screenplay is that the fami-



ly is super colorful with personality. They have a great cast of characters that made it easy for me as a screenwriter once I figured out who the people were; because as I mentioned, Bernard knows a lot about his family — more than the average person. He spends time on Ancestry and his family has handed down a lot of stories. So some of the things in the screenplay some people might think are made up. But

it's not — these things really happened. It was a pleasure to walk away from writing the script and feel really good about it. I'm also helping to produce it into a film and getting it to the right people.

It is a fabulous story with so many parallels to what we see today as the country deals with race relations. It's amazing how the government and big business feel as though they have the leverage to take your land and your fight continues.

Moore: I take it whatever happens in the two circuit courts now will articulate to the Supreme Court. I am sure it will.

What does your screenplay say about generational wealth for black people?

Moore: Generational wealth is very important and I am proud that my family has been able to keep it together instead of splitting it up. In terms of Tal Jones' oil spread, it is really vast. It is important that our legacy in the family is held onto and there are people like me that continue to fight or people like my moth-

er who also fought the big oil companies to hold on to the wealth. It's not easy. Richardson: I want to add one thing to the answer as it pertains to what the takeaway is for Black people in the story. We were once kings and queens and we could have been all of those things, but coming out of slavery a lot of people weren't educated. We trusted in the system that really wasn't trying to do us any favors. I would like to see Black people of today investigate their past and understand that you have to be your own advocate. You just can't take the government's word — you have to be your own advocate.

Why do these big oil companies feel as though they can take your land and the oil?

Moore: This is because it has been such a pattern in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana where all these oil fields are located. Here is an interesting point: when oil and natural gas is extracted from the ground by these wells they are considered by the federal government as "strategic reserves." Strategic reserves mean that these oils and natural gases are not produced in the world market, but rather in the United States. For instance, right now a barrel of oil from United States oil wells costs \$10 or \$15 a barrel. But, a barrel of oil or natural gas from the world market costs \$80 or \$90 a barrel. The President of the United States is the one who can release oil from "strategic reserves," as an emergency reserve when needed. So because the oil and natural gases are less money in strategic reserves the oil companies feel as though they can steal the land from land owners.

For additional information you can contact Bernard Moore through his website at UrbanHardTalk.org and Pamela Richardson at BrassRingEnterprises.com.

<< continued from p14

Prior to this action, Black workers, except in a few instances, were relegated to jobs in the back-of-the-house as porters, maids, and linen room workers.

Thunderbird Hotel, and the Tropicana Hotel. Labor Unions that signed the consent decree consisted of the Local Union 995, Professional Clerical; Ground Maintenance, Parking Lot Attendants, Car Rental Employees, Warehousemen and Helpers; Local Union 720, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada; Culinary Workers Union Local 226, and Bartenders Union Local 165.

The hotels and unions promised “to hire and assign applicants for employment, and shall promote, transfer, train, demote and dismiss employees without regard to race and without engaging in any act or practice which has the purpose or the effect of discriminating against any individual because of his

race or color in regards to his employment opportunities, and shall promote and transfer employees in such a way as to provide employment opportunities to black persons which are equal to those provided to white persons.”

The decree demanded the implementation of a program and procedures by the Resort Association, hotels, and unions within 30 days. Plans included the notification of the NAACP, the Concentrated Employment Program (a program of the Economic Opportunity Board), and the State Employment Security Department. The NAACP branch administration felt comfortable that as long as they were vigilant, the resorts would continue to comply with the mandate. After a number of years, they weren’t and the resorts didn’t.

Cox Innovation Lab opens in West Las Vegas

Thanks to a generous gift of \$25,000 from Cox Communications to The Mayor’s Fund for Las Vegas LIFE, teens and young adults in west Las Vegas now have the opportunity for hands-on learning at the new Cox Innovation Lab at the Strong Future Technology Center on the campus of the Historic Westside School. The Lab, which includes state-of-the-art computers and software, will help to prepare teens and young adults for employment opportunities, ensuring they are well prepared to enter the workforce. The Cox Innovation Lab opened on Feb. 9 in a brief, socially distanced ribbon-cutting that coincided with Safer Internet Day.

“We are grateful for partners like Cox Communications that are helping us to advance Ward 5 initiatives under The HUNDRED Plan and important city initiatives in the educational and technology spheres to improve quality of life, especially in underserved areas like Westside Las Vegas,” said Las Vegas City Councilman Cedric Crear, Ward 5. “Public-private partnerships are the very foundation of The Mayor’s Fund for Las Vegas LIFE.”



“We’re proud the Cox Innovation Lab at the Strong Future Technology Training Center will expand access to technology in Las Vegas’ Historic Westside, the community that has been home to Cox’s Las Vegas operations for

more than a decade,” said Cox VP and Market Leader Michael Bolognini. “Cox Innovation Labs and Cox Technology Centers enable essential digital connections.”

The Mayor’s Fund for Las Vegas LIFE was established in 2018 as a vehicle for corporate and philanthropic partners to support innovative programs that improve quality of life for all Las Vegas residents with a special focus on vulnerable populations. The Fund creates opportunities for public-private partnerships as well as donations of cash, time and in-kind goods and services. Guided by a diverse group of community leaders who serve as members of the Fund’s Advisory Committee, The Fund targets specific community needs with a goal of making Las Vegas a national leader in four areas: Livability, Innovation, Future and Education.

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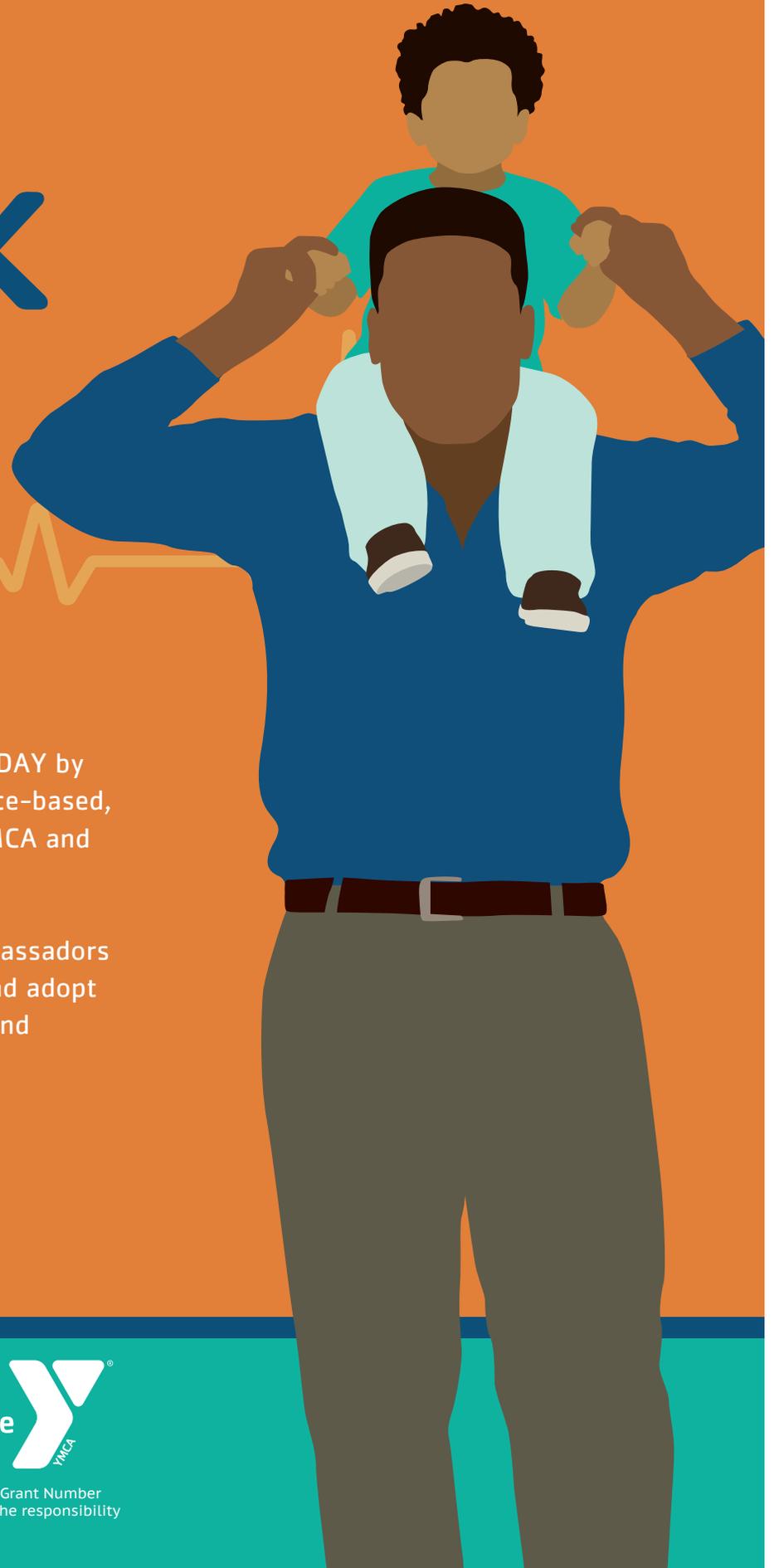
I tell my children, “Don’t eat a watermelon seed.”



Harvey Scott Jr.

I have five daughters. Very difficult to have that conversation about sexuality. The celebrity women, Megan and Cardi B, should be more conscious and aware of the image they project to impressionable girls.

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The Meeting

Here's what happened when a soon-to-be doctor learned that Vice President Kamala Harris was stopping in Las Vegas and wanted to chat.

By Paul Harasim

Lauren Hollifield, set to graduate from the UNLV School of Medicine in May, learned on a Friday that on the following Monday she would be talking to Kamala Harris — the vice president of the United States.

"I certainly could not hide the smile I had from ear to ear throughout the weekend," Hollifield said after the meeting. "It was so difficult to contain my excitement. I was told not to tell anyone for security reasons. I was counting the hours until Monday when I would meet and speak with Vice President Harris."

Harris was in Las Vegas on March 15, the first in a series of stops throughout

the country to tout the benefits of the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. One place she visited was the UNLV Medicine vaccination site at the UNLV Student Union, where Las Vegans come to receive a vaccine to protect them from COVID-19, the coronavirus that's taken the lives of nearly 600,000 Americans and sickened 30 million others.

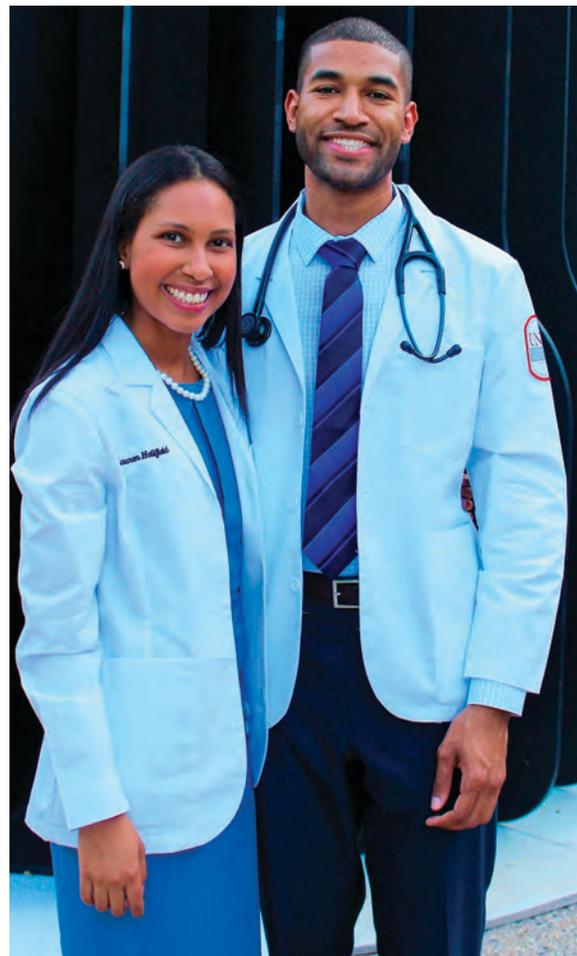
Hollifield, who'd already vaccinated hundreds of people as part of the medical school's community service program, was one of the healthcare providers Harris would talk to. They spoke only briefly but Hollifield says it's something she'll never forget. "She was so warm."

Dr. Michael Gardner, CEO of UNLV Medicine, introduced the VP to Hollifield.

"This is Ms. Lauren Hollifield and in 50 days she will be Dr. Lauren Hollifield." "Aw, congratulations," Harris said..

Gardner then told the vice president that both Hollifield and her husband, Damien Medrano, also a UNLV medical student, hoped to do their postgraduate residency medical training at the University of California San Francisco.

"Oh, is that right?" Harris said.



UNLV Medical School students Lauren and Damien

"Have you heard of it before?" Hollifield said, jokingly.

"Yes, of course. I've done a lot of work at UCSF over the years," said Harris, a former San Francisco District Attorney.

"Well, that's where we would like to end up for residency," Hollifield replied.

"Oh, that's wonderful and where did you grow up?" Harris said.

"I grew up in Washington D.C. and here in Las Vegas."

Hollifield told the VP that she wants to be an anesthesiologist and her husband, a radiologist. "Wow, that's heavy stuff," Harris said.

Hollifield told Harris, accompanied by Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak, that after their residencies, she and her husband want to practice in Las Vegas. "Awesome," Harris said, as a pleased Sisolak nodded and smiled.

As Hollifield vaccinated nursing student Mailani Thompson with the Moderna vaccine, Harris noted, "That's the one I had."

"Oh, that's the one I had, too. We are all twins," laughed Hollifield.

Days after meeting Harris, Hollifield was still excited about meeting her. She pointed out that she, like Harris, the first African American and Asian American woman to become vice president of the U.S., is also a "first." Of the 7 African Americans graduating in the 60-member Charter Class, Hollifield is the only woman.

"To be able to speak with her," Hollifield said, "was moving and profound."



Vice President Kamala Harris speaks to COVID vaccine recipient



Vice President Harris visits UNLV School of Medicine



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