WHAT’S WRONG AT TSU?
On the web

FIT & FINE

STEVIE BROWN
Age: 32
Occupation: Personal trainer/’Phresh Plate’ food truck owner
Education: University of Michigan
Major: General Studies
Motto: Live life to the fullest. Enjoy it all!

LEARN...
What keeps this former NFL pro turned personal trainer motivated.

LEARN...
What keeps this former NFL pro turned personal trainer motivated.

Message from the Publisher

This week we’ve got a lot going on in the news.

TSU INVESTIGATION
The news of Texas Southern University putting President Austin Lane on paid administrative leave was disturbing especially considering the bumpy history of the institution. TSU is a great institution. From the outside, things look good but you cannot judge a book by its cover. So we will wait to see what the investigation uncovers. It is a testament to TSU to have a strong CFO in Kenneth Huewitt to take the helm in the meantime. Let’s not forget the main objective is to stay focused on the students.

MLK HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
The Martin Luther King Jr. Special Edition acknowledges a great leader’s birthday and his messages of truth, justice and equity. As a young minister, Dr. King demonstrated the power of the pulpit and its ability to address the social and economic challenges despite his age. Five young ministers under 40 featured in the centerfold are a testament to the change agent MLK was. Beyond the historical perspective, we looked at the community advocates, who often serve as disruptors in order for change to happen.

DEFENDER ONLINE ENGAGEMENT
We want to hear what YOU think about some of the issues. And if your opinion is worth printing, we want to share it with our readers. Soon you will see several of our new centerfold layouts that will give you a clearer understanding of what we are focusing on. The direction of the Defender is focused on YOU: what you are thinking, what you are doing and what you want out of life. I want to personally invite you to go to our social media platforms on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Let us know what you think especially about the redesign of the newspaper. Starting Friday, we are adding a new dimension introducing a couple of polls we want you to respond to:

Poll: Let us know what you think.
Please comment on social media.

NEWS:
Should TSU keep President Austin Lane or not?

SPORTS:
How do we get more NFL Black Coaches?

DAILY DOZEN
TOP BLACK HEADLINES

Is it hard keeping up with all the news?
The Daily Dozen makes it easy and gives you every day the top 12 Black headlines in the news, entertainment, sports and more delivered by email to your phone, tablet or desktop.

Sign-up today: defendernetwork.com/subscribe

Read more on Friday about Stevie on defendernetwork.com

Sonny Messiah Jiles

IG: @steviebrown_27
IG: @phreshplate
Twitter: @steviebrown27

Read more on Friday about Stevie on defendernetwork.com
**TIMELINE**

**June 2006**  
Firing of President Priscilla Slade after two audits alleging $650,000 of school funds used for personal expenses.

**December 2007**  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools places TSU on probation for its poor financial picture.

**January 2008**  
Dr. John Rudley only finalist for TSU president.

**April 2014**  
TSU projects a $6.3 million shortfall next year if enrollment stays flat.

**September 2015**  
Students upset over problems with financial aid.

**May 2016**  
Austin Lane chosen as TSU president.

**January 2018**  
TSU enrollment grows to over 10,000 students, making it the second largest HBCU in the country.

**November 2019**  
TSU audit results in employee firing over “improprieties related to the admissions process in the law school.”

**Board launches an independent investigation into admissions including enrollment, financial aid, scholarship protocols and standards.**

**January 2020**  
TSU board places Lane on paid administrative leave  
TSU CFO Ken Huewitt named interim president  
Wendell Williams, Lane’s Special Assistant fired  
TSU students wear “#TeamLane” T-Shirts

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By Defender News Service

Pending the outcome of an independent investigation into Texas Southern University admissions, enrollment, financial aid and scholarship protocols, President Dr. Austin Lane has been placed on paid administrative leave and CFO Kenneth Huewitt has been named the interim president by the TSU Board of Regents.

After being made aware of the decision, Lane commented, “I have not done anything and haven’t been informed of being placed on administrative leave by the board… I expect to be reinstated immediately or paid out for the remainder of my contract for breach of contract.”

Lane’s fate was decided at a TSU Board retreat at the Houstonian Hotel where the nine board members voted seven for, one against and one abstaining. Although the board issued a statement affirming their commitment and stating there would be no further comment at this time, two board members have expressed their opinions to media.

Board member Derrick Mitchell, who voted against Lane being placed on leave, said the board “may be doing an injustice.” Board member Ron Price, who abstained from voting, was concerned about how the action was taken and said, “that was not classy, it was unbecoming of the board.”

In addition to the Lane decision made by the TSU board, on the same day, Huewitt fired Lane’s special assistant Wendell Williams, who had filed two grievances against TSU board member Wesley Terrell. The latest complaint in late November alleged Terrell made comments about Williams’ wife and her attire.

Many in the media alleged the “paid leave” was connected to the November internal investigation of admissions improprieties at the law school, which resulted in the dismissal of an employee.

Other sources, including excerpts from TSU board meetings online, indicate the board actions may be unrelated to admissions. The allegations range from disrespect for the board (Oct. 25, 2019 board meeting), the foundation purchase of presidential housing, management decisions related to the build-out cost of Lane’s wife’s office on campus and $100,000-plus in Rocket tickets and discrepancies in enrollment numbers.

According to sources, the date of the investigation outcome is unknown at this time.

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**WHAT WAS SAID: REACTIONS TO LANE DECISION**

**TSU Board of Regents statement**  
“The Board is committed to ensuring all activities at the University are conducted in an ethical and transparent manner in accordance with the University’s mission, vision and values.” Texas Southern “will have no further comment at this time.”

**TSU Regent Rob Price, Dallas businessman**  
“In the United States of America, everybody has the right to face their accusers...That was not classy, it was unbecoming of the board. There was no desire from the majority of the board to do the right thing.”

**TSU Regent Derrick Mitchell, Houston attorney**  
“I think this has been, that the process was flawed,” Mitchell said during the meeting. “And I think that what we as a board may be doing is an injustice.”

**Alumni campaign**  
“Let’s collectively make our voices heard and let the board members know the damage they are causing by placing the president on leave. Contact them NOW!”

Source: Facebook/Tracie Wilson Payne

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**DR. AUSTIN LANE OUT, KENNETH HUEWITT IN**

For student and alumni reactions see page 4

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Kenneth Huewitt  
Texas Southern University  
Interim president | chief financial officer  
Certified Public Accountant  
Former CFO of HISD

Dr. Austin Lane  
Texas Southern University  
12th president  
Currently in first year of second three-year TSU contract  
Former executive vice chancellor of Lone Star College
Students, alumni upset with lack of answers

Some students and alumni of TSU are blasting the board’s “lack of transparency” regarding the suspension of President Austin Lane.

“You’re constantly hearing that students are the foundation of TSU, but you make a decision that students have no say in, offer no explanation, refuse to answer questions and negate our concern,” said senior Shera Jones.

TSU alumni have started a letter-writing and a call campaign to get answers from the regents. Alumni Andrea Odom and Marcus Davis printed T-shirts with “Team Lane” and handed them out at the school’s recent basketball game.

“It’s a witch hunt and there is absolutely no reason. This man has done nothing wrong,” Odom said.

Social media has been on fire with alums and students expressing their outrage, creating the #IStandWithDrLane hashtag.

“I want to know the facts but we’re not getting them. Who does the board of regents answer to? I think they need to answer to alumni, to students, to faculty to staff we should hear something from them, but we haven’t,” alumna Vicki Gray said.

While sources say the suspension does not involve financial improprieties, the board says they will have no further comment until the matter is resolved.

Warren Broadnax

CORY BOOKER STEPS ASIDE

Democrat Cory Booker said even though he’s no longer running for president, he’s not stepping away from political life as he prepares to file for a run for Senate. Booker, who announced he was ending his campaign, said he’s disappointed that his message of unity and love failed to resonate in a political era marked by chaos and anxiety.

His departure now leaves a field that was once the most diverse in history with just one remaining African American candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, who is struggling to register in the polls amid a late entry into the race.

In his email to supporters, Booker pledged to do “everything in my power to elect the eventual Democratic nominee for president,” though his campaign said he has no immediate plans to endorse a candidate in the primary.

Alumni show their support.

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TSU FACTS

1947 Year Founded:
9,700 Enrollment
80% African American
The Jank Gourmet BBQ Sauce
Lamar Jones is an entrepreneur and an innovator. The Jank Gourmet BBQ Sauces and Spice Blend can be found all across Texas, exclusively in H-E-B.

Jones strives to create opportunities by always doing good business. Every day, his goal is to be a better man than he was yesterday as he continues to be a part of the solution in his community.

Savannah Rose Sweet Tea Punch
Cool, refreshing, bursting with flavor! When searching for a way to include a personal touch to her events, Brenda Powell created Savannah Rose Sweet Tea Punch. It’s available in all H-E-B stores throughout Texas!

2015 H-E-B Primo Picks Quest for Texas Best Finalist

2014 H-E-B Primo Picks Quest for Texas Best Finalist
IN THE DA’S WORDS

Overburdened staff
“The problem is when you have four and a half million people in a county and you’re only staffed for 2 million, the community is less safe and we are less able to help as many people as we could. We handle over 100,000 cases a year. Those all reflect cases against people who are either victims or accused, and each case has to be considered individually. We only have 335 litigators. The ability of our people is delayed and I think justice delayed is justice denied.”

Staffing request
“We asked for about a hundred. I would’ve settled for any amount. I’ve received 11 additional prosecutors since then, but I’ve had to fight for each and every one of them. I am proud to say that our environmental division and our civil rights division received extra prosecutors, but I’ll tell you who needs it right now: Gangs, human trafficking, sex crimes and our homicide rate is spinning up because of gang violence.”

Young, minority jurors needed
“...We need members of Black and Brown communities to sit on grand juries and to sit on juries so that we get verdicts that reflect the full community’s response, not just one segment of the community. And when I say one segment, I’m not talking about just Anglo, I’m talking about older. We need people of all ages and every ethnically diverse background:”

I think that the best end result to prevent crime that I can try and achieve with low-level offenders is to get them back in the workforce.”

Kim Ogg

DA’S OFFICE: NEW APPROACH TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg believes she has made strides in criminal justice, focusing on drug policy reform, mental health diversion, domestic violence, and gangs. She spoke with the Defender about challenges and concerns.

Commenting on the diversion program, Ogg said, “I think that the best end result to prevent crime that I can try and achieve with low-level offenders is to get them back in the workforce. A job is the best crime prevention tool there is. Then if they choose to rob, rape, murder, steal after that, we’ll hold them accountable for those violent crimes or crimes against people’s property.”

Ogg said the program has been most effective in marijuana cases.

“Prior to this administration, 10,000 people a year went to jail for marijuana. We eliminated those arrests by working with all the police agencies to send people to a class, seize the drugs, and dismiss their cases. We’ve diverted nearly 6,000 people successfully through our program,” she said.

Restoring community trust is another priority. “We’ve had 27 officers either charged or indicted for everything ranging from assault to murder to official oppression,” said Ogg. “I want the public to be assured that the DA and the court system are going to hold everybody equally accountable.”

Bail reform
“I filed a brief on the recent bail reform ruling because the proposal in its current form, sets a different standard for poor people, versus rich people. I’m for equality. So when it comes to the basic fairness of bail, I’m in support. But when it comes to spending $97 million all on criminally accused people with no provisions for regular witnesses, victims of prosecutors or law enforcement that have to bring the cases forward, it’s an unbalanced approach, which I oppose because I think it’s a threat to the community. We already see we have a lot of dangerous offenders who’ve been released on bail, and I think that the public wants to be protected. The devil is in the detail and I oppose the settlement in this current form.”

Mental illness impact
“We’ve seen a jump from 25% of the people that we charged with crimes on some type of psychotropic medication. They are still suffering the damage that was done by that natural disaster (Hurricane Harvey) and the failure of our government really to help them get back on their feet. I think the court system is suffering as well.”

Office flooding
“It’s a flawed and fatal design that’s just not allowing the courthouse to be utilized on a sustainable basis. I’m hoping that they’ll move all the offices of the various institutions like the DA’s office, the public defender, pre-con services, etc. Strip that down, use it as a courthouse. But give us some sustainable place so that we can try these cases.”

DA’S OFFICE: NEW APPROACH TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

by ReShonda Billingsley
It’s not just Black entertainment, it’s Black excellence.

Your search is over. Just say, “Black Film & TV,” into your X1 Voice Remote to find the best in Black entertainment. Enjoy hit and classic TV shows, blockbuster movies, past and present, even catch up-and-coming talent from Black Film festivals and more. Best of all, with the X1 Voice Remote, you can search for your favorite entertainment with your voice — including Netflix, YouTube and Pandora. With Xfinity, Black entertainment is simple, easy, awesome.

Visit xfinity.com/discovermore to learn more.
If I could do one thing, I’d tell the world she counts.

Communities are as rich and diverse as their needs. That’s why completing the 2020 Census matters. It’s a safe and confidential step toward having an impact on how public funds flow through our communities. That could mean more resources in your area for special needs. It’s within your control.

Learn more at:

2020CENSUS.GOV

Paid for by U.S. Census Bureau.
By Aswad Walker

Though Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr would be 91 years old if he were still alive, his words still have something to say about the big issues of our times. Here are some of Dr. King’s own words that carry relevance in 2020.

TRUMP
“Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.”

SOCIAL ACTION AS AN EXPRESSION OF FAITH
“Any religion that professes to be concerned about the souls of men and is not concerned about the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them and the social conditions that cripple them is a spiritually moribund religion awaiting burial.”

PROGRESS
“Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

BLACK POWER & ECONOMICS
“Black Power is a call for the pooling of Black financial resources to achieve economic security. ... If Black Power means the development of this kind of strength within the Negro community, then it is a quest for basic, necessary, legitimate power. Finally, Black Power is a psychological call to manhood. (Where Do We Go From Here, 1967)"

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW
“We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of Now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy. (“I Have a Dream” speech, Washington D.C., August 28, 1963)"

GROWING WEALTH GAP
“Capitalism does not permit an even flow of economic resources. With this system, a small privileged few are rich beyond conscience, and almost all others are doomed to be poor at some level. That’s the way the system works. And since we know that the system will not change the rules, we are going to have to change the system.”

SCIENCE AND SPIRITUALITY
“Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”

SILENT “ALLIES”
“In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

All quotes not attributed to a source were found at www.brainyquote.com
King Prepared to Preach

By Defender News Services

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an accomplished theologian, was the son, grandson and great-grandson of Baptist ministers. He preached with power from the pulpit and turned to the Black church throughout the Civil Rights Movement:

LINEAGE
- Maternal great-grandfather, Willis Williams, was “a slavery time preacher” in Greene County, Ga. in the mid-1800s.
- Maternal grandfather, Rev. Adam Daniel Williams, was pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Auburn, Ga.
- Father, Rev. Martin Luther King, Sr., became pastor of Ebenezer when Rev. Williams died in 1931.

EDUCATION
- Entered Morehouse College in 1944; majored in sociology and had an interest in law and medicine.
- Influenced by Morehouse President Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, a noted minister, educator and activist, who encouraged him to view Christianity as a force for progressive social change.
- Ordained his final year at Morehouse and graduated with a B.A. in Sociology; named assistant pastor of his father’s church.
- Enrolled in Crozer Theological Seminary in Upland, Penn. and earned Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951.
- Earned PhD in Systematic Theology from Boston University in 1955.

MINISTRY
- Became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala. in 1954 while working on his dissertation.
- Led his congregation and the community during the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-56.
- Co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957 to harness the moral authority and organizing power of Black churches.
- Returned to Atlanta in 1960 to become co-pastor with his father at Ebenezer Baptist Church.
- Worked closely with other activist-ministers, including Revs. Ralph David Abernathy, Hosea Williams, Fred Shuttlesworth, Jesse Jackson and Andrew Young.

Dr. King followed in the footsteps of family members when he became a minister.

Pastor
Civil Rights Leader
Nobel Peace Prize Winner
American Hero
Dreamer

Not bad for a man who just wanted to be equal.
We honor the

LIFE & LEGACY

OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
As a young minister, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used the pulpit to create a paradigm shift in our history. This change agent used the church as the foundation to demand the doors of opportunity be opened. Five of “Houston Ministers Under 40” share their views on the church.

### Kirkland Hall

**CHANGEMAKER**

"If the only thing I can do is create a sermon but not be a living example of the sermons I preach, then that is a problem. I strive to make a difference in every person's life that come into contact with on a daily basis."

**ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE**

"...Trends die out so they can work briefly but if we stick to the unchanging word of God and apply it appropriately to their lives then we can empower young people. We have to learn how to empower young people and build them up instead of telling them what they are doing incorrectly."

**ROLE OF BLACK CHURCH**

"...The Black church is the change agent of today. We have to lead our own to the polls, we have to run for offices, we have to be proactive. We have to be relational, where a person is not simply seen as a number in the crowd but a contributing partner to the growth, development and vision of the community."

Hall, 31, has been preaching for four months at The Community of Faith Church.

### Tiffany Chandler

**CHANGEMAKER**

"...I am a change maker because as an African American woman under 40, I am paving the way for other women that desire to be in ministry. During the many struggles of my journey, God shielded through the cracks of my brokenness. Lessons I have learned along the way have motivated me to push myself, to rise above my circumstances. Therefore, I encourage my peers, as well as the next generation, ...

**ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE**

"...Many young people today are in a bruised search for affirmation by whatever means seem authentic to them; they can easily recognize false motives or intentions not derived from the heart. While continuing to strive forward under the banner of 'the love you want to see in the world,' the church can continue to show compassion toward young people everywhere...

**ROLE OF BLACK CHURCH**

"...Today, to survive and succeed, it is imperative that the Black church embrace certain technology, social media, and education platforms to engage the next generation of parishioners and young pastoral candidates. People must once again be inspired to believe the Black church is a haven of hope...

Chandler, 34, has been preaching for 9 years at St. John's United Methodist Church.

### Christopher Johnson

**CHANGEMAKER**

"...A change in the church is the change agent of today. We have to continue to stand up against injustice and not only be reactive but we have to be proactive. We have to lead our men to the polls, we have to run for offices, we have to make school board meetings because if we don't, the Black church will be just a group of people shouting on Sundays."

**ROLE OF BLACK CHURCH**

"...The Black church must reclaim its voice and provide leadership through these tumultuous times, encourage education and economic growth, speak truth to power and provide hope for our communities as we cross the bridge that will lead us from our historic past to an illuminous future."

Johnson, 38, has been preaching for 5 years at Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

### Courtney Jones

**CHANGEMAKER**

"...For churches to shun [youthfulness] is a call for its own demise. There is no church program, event or gimmick that can attract young people. The attraction has to be mutual. A church has to identify with the life experiences of youth and take charge of developing them into the torchbearers."

**ROLE OF BLACK CHURCH**

"...[Its role is] to serve the best interest of Black people. To summarize what Carter G. Woodson wrote in “The Mis-Education of the Negro” in regard to the Black church, its role is to stand on the side of justice and righteousness while allowing Black people to be unapologetically Black. The Black church should inevitably promote Black culture and community enrichment..."

Jones, 33, has been preaching 16 years and is Senior Pastor of the Pan-African Orthodox Christian Church.

### Jamail Johnson

**CHANGEMAKER**

"...With a bottomless empathy for all, from youth to adults, I view their challenges as my opportunity for their victories. Whether I am serving the community through many outreach events, organizational programs, mentoring or training, it is my goal to build other changemakers to positively contribute to society and enhance partnerships to drive progressive movement forward."

**ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE**

"...I believe young people are demanding in a sense for the churches they attend to be relational, where a person is not simply seen as a number in the crowd but a contributing partner to the growth, development and vision of the church..."

**ROLE OF BLACK CHURCH**

"...In the tense climate we are currently in, I believe the Black church, not just some, but THE Black church must reclaim its voice and provide leadership through these tumultuous times, encourage education and economic growth, speak truth to power and provide hope for our communities as we cross the bridge that will lead us from our historic past to an illuminous future."

Johnson, 39, has been preaching since age 10 and is at The Word Church.

### Martin Luther King Jr.

**MINISTERS UNDER 40**

Journalists Under 40 have to lead today. We have to continue to stand on the side of justice and righteousness while allowing Black people to be unapologetically Black. The Black church should unambiguously promote Black culture and community enrichment..."
5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MLK MEMORIAL

1. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C. signifies the first African-American honored with a memorial on the National Mall and the fourth non-president to be remembered in such a way.

2. The memorial’s official dedication date was originally Aug. 28, 2011, the 48th anniversary of the March on Washington. However, the ceremony was postponed until Oct. 16 due to Hurricane Irene.

3. The concept became a reality in 1996, when Congress authorized Dr. King’s fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, to establish a memorial to him in D.C. The MLK National Memorial Project Foundation then held a design competition.

4. A total of 906 entrants joined the competition and 23 finalists were chosen. In 2000, judges selected a plan for a stone with Dr. King’s image emerging from a mountain. Chinese artist Master Lei Yixin became the official sculptor in 2007.

5. Each part of the memorial is significant, and the many entrances and approaches to it symbolize the openness of democracy.
GEORGE FOREMAN PARADE GRAND MARSHAL

Olympic gold medalist and two-time world heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman will join the 42nd Annual “Original” Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade as the grand marshal.

The downtown celebration will be held Monday, Jan. 20 at 10 a.m., starting at Smith and Lamar Streets. The Mayor’s Office of Special Events will co-produce the event.

“As a Texas native, and having grown up right here in Houston, it’s an honor and privilege to be named grand marshal of the [parade],” Foreman said. Foreman was born in Marshall, Texas but grew up in Houston’s Fifth Ward. During his pro boxing career, he earned two heavyweight titles. The first was in 1973 against Joe Frazier. He won the second title in 1994 against Michael Moorer, becoming the oldest heavyweight champ at age 45.

Foreman, who later became a minister, started the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ in Northeast Houston in 1980. He founded the George Foreman Youth and Community Center to keep local kids off the street and out of trouble. He is also an accomplished entrepreneur, having built the Foreman brand with products ranging from shoes to pain relief formula.

MLK HOLIDAY EVENTS

FRIDAY, JAN. 17
The final round of the 24th Annual Foley Gardere MLK Jr. Oratory Competition is 10 a.m. at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 500 Clay St. Local elementary school students will present original speeches addressing the topic, “What would Dr. King’s vision be for America in 2020?” Admission is free.

SATURDAY, JAN. 18
Beauty’s Community Garden hosts its annual MLK Peace Through Pie Social at 10 a.m. at St Matthew’s United Methodist Church, 4300 N. Shepherd Drive. Admission is free; donations are welcome. Contact: cmchl@live.com or 713-523-9710.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19
The Community Music Center of Houston’s Scott Joplin Chamber Orchestra presents its 36th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Musical Tribute Concert at 5 p.m. at St. Mary’s Methodist Church, 6731 Scott St. Admission is free; donations are welcome. Contact: cmchl@live.com or 713-523-9710.

MONDAY, JAN. 20
The Greater Houston Frontiers Club 32nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Scholarship Breakfast is 8 a.m. at the Hilton Americas-Houston Hotel. Dr. George Fraser, chairman of and CEO of Frasernet Inc., will give the keynote address. The Drum Major Award will be presented to Dr. Joseph Gathe, MD. Contact: ghfrontiers.com or 713-331-0440.

The Children’s Museum of Houston, 1500 Binz, hosts its 24th Annual MLK Jr. Day Celebration from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Special events begin at noon. Activities include a peace march and “I Have a Dream” rendition. Admission is $5. Contact: www.cmhouston.org or 713-522-1138.
HALLMARKS IN THE LEGACY OF DR. KING

By Defender News Services

1929
Born on Jan. 15 to Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. and Alberta Williams King in Atlanta.

1944
Graduated from Booker T. Washington High School. Began his studies at Morehouse College at age 15.

1948
Ordained as a Baptist minister at age 19. Graduated from Morehouse and entered Crozer Theological Seminary in Upland, Penn.

1951
Entered Boston University for graduate studies.

1953
Married Coretta Scott.

1954
Became pastor of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.

1955
Elected president of the Montgomery Improvement Association. Became official spokesman for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which lasted 381 days.

1957
Elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

1958
Published his first book, “Stride Toward Freedom.”

1959
Visited India to study Mohandas Gandhi’s philosophy of nonviolence. Resigned from Dexter. Moved to Atlanta to devote more time to the SCLC. Became co-pastor at his father’s church, Ebenezer Baptist, in Atlanta. Arrested during an Atlanta lunch counter sit-in. Released after intervention by presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy.

1960

1962
Arrested and jailed in Albany, Ga.

1963
Arrested and jailed in Birmingham, Ala., where he wrote “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” Delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech at the March on Washington.

1964
Named “Man of the Year” by Time Magazine. Met Malcolm X for the first and only time. Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

1965
Arrested in Selma, Ala., during a voting rights demonstration.

1966
Moved to a Chicago slum to call attention to poverty. Joined a March Against Fear through the South.

1967
Announced a Poor People’s Campaign focusing on jobs and freedom.

1968
Supported sanitation workers on strike in Memphis. Delivered his “I’ve Been to the Mountaintop” speech. Assassinated on April 4 while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. A white man, James Earl Ray, was sentenced to 99 years in prison for King’s murder.
Jamie Foxx dazzles in ‘Just Mercy’

By Defender News Service

Jamie Foxx has taken on a serious role in his new film, “Just Mercy,” based on the memoir of the same name. “This is the most important movie I’ve ever done,” Foxx said.

Foxx stars in the true story of Walter McMillian, a Black man living in Alabama, who is arrested, charged with murder and placed on death row without a trial. Foxx said he drew from his own real-life experiences for the role, remembering a time early on in life when a racist confronted him.

“Growing up in a Southern place, in Texas, being met with at an early age, racism, being called n***** as a young kid, it baffled me,” Foxx, 52, said. “I was only 8. I couldn’t wrap my mind around a grown man looking at a child and saying that. You’re born into the world and this label is on you.”

Foxx immersed himself in preparing for the film, which is based on the life of attorney Bryan Stevenson and his work to exonerate the innocent. Michael B. Jordan plays Stevenson.

“I applaud Michael for taking time out to do a film like this because it means so much to everybody,” Foxx said.

But the most important validation came from Foxx’s father. “You can’t have a price tag on having my father sit in the audience and watch this story. He had been put in jail for $25 worth of illegal substance, despite being an educator for 25 years in the hood. Watching his face, feeling his emotion…. was priceless and proved that this film will continue bearing fruit for its existence.”

Though the movie has been shut out of the Oscars, it has already garnered an array of critical acclaim.
Screenings help detect cervical cancer

BY PAUL ITAM, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.

The start of a new year makes this the ideal time to make cervical cancer screening a 2020 health goal. Cervical cancer kills thousands of women each year, and black women are especially vulnerable. The good news is that with recommended screening cervical cancer is often preventable and one of the most curable cancers when discovered early.

TWO IMPORTANT TESTS

Cervical cancer forms in the tissues of the cervix where the uterus and vagina connect. It's usually a slow-growing cancer that can be detected with a Pap test (a procedure in which cells are scraped from the cervix and examined under a microscope for signs of cell changes that might lead to cervical cancer) and human papillomavirus (HPV) screening (recommended for certain age groups to detect the presence of the virus that can lead to the development of abnormal cervical cells or cervical cancer).

It isn’t clear what causes cervical cancer, but various strains of HPV, a sexually transmitted infection, play a role.

RISK FACTORS

In addition to HPV, the following may also increase a woman’s risk of cervical cancer:

- Having HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) or another condition that makes it hard to fight off health problems
- Using birth control pills for five or more years
- Having given birth to three or more children
- Smoking

WELL-WOMAN EXAMS ESSENTIAL

Even if you feel well, you should see your gynecologist regularly for a well-woman checkup. Your OB/GYN can help determine an appropriate screening and prevention program based on your family’s history of cancer and other factors. Early on, cervical cancer may not cause noticeable symptoms. The Pap test is one of the most effective cancer screening tests available to women. Unless otherwise directed by your doctor, regular Pap tests should begin at age 21. Women aged 30 to 65 should have an HPV test and Pap test.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Itam, call 713-442-0000.
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CELEBRATING YOUNG BLACK MEN

By ReShonda Tate Billingsley

While it’s common for young women to be introduced to society in a debutante ball, the Missouri City-Sugar Land Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. takes pride in giving young men a chance to shine.

The chapter recently presented 18 young African American men to society in their 18th Biennial Beautillion Ball themed “Rooted in Our History/Celebrating Our Excellence.”

“These young men enjoyed a full season of cultural and educational events including a financial workshop, an etiquette seminar, and a golf and clothier experience,” said MCSL President Tyra McCollum. “They spent the last six months building meaningful relationships and networks through family worship and community service. It has been a coming-of-age adventure for these young men who are leaders among their peers in academics, sports and service.”

The young men — who came from various chapters of Jack and Jill throughout Fort Bend and Harris County — were individually and collectively celebrated as rising African-American leaders in their communities.

“One of the most amazing moments of the night was not only hearing all of their phenomenal accolades, but their heartfelt tributes as they expressed gratitude to their parents and guests for unwavering support on the journey to manhood,” McCollum added.

The 600-plus guests who attended the black-tie affair at the Westin Hotel included family, friends, public officials, local members and regional and national Jack and Jill officers who were all delighted to see the Beaux class perform an elegant traditional waltz with their Belle escorts.

In addition to presenting the young men, the event raised over $42,000 in proceeds to benefit the Jack and Jill of America Foundation and My Brother’s Keeper.
NFL Black coaches problem

By Defender News Services

More than half the players in the National Football League are Black. Yet of the 32 teams, only two have Black coaches. Now, many are questioning the effectiveness of the league’s Rooney Rule, the policy the NFL instituted in 2003 to address the racial inequities at the head-coaching level.

There were five NFL head coaching firings and vacancies this season, and all five of those posts have now been filled. The Washington Redskins hired Ron Rivera, the Dallas Cowboys hired Mike McCarthy, the New York Giants hired Joe Judge, the Carolina Panthers hired Matt Rhule and the Cleveland Browns hired Kevin Stefanski. Of the four, only Rivera is a minority, and none of the coaches are Black.

The hires of Rivera and McCarthy are mostly indisputable; both have winning records, a resume of success and Super Bowl appearances. Rhule is young and has shown himself adept at rebuilding college programs as a head coach. But the hiring of Judge may have been especially frustrating for Black NFL assistant coaches to see.

Judge, 38, does not have any previous head coaching experience at any level and he has never been an offensive or defensive coordinator. Seeing Judge get hired and Rhule fill another vacancy reportedly led to sentiments of frustration among Black NFL coaches.

In November, Richard Lapchick, the director of the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, issued his annual report on the hiring of women and minorities in the NFL and gave the league its lowest grade since the institute began tracking this data in 2004.

Rooney Rule: a National Football League policy that requires league teams to interview ethnic-minority candidates for head coaching and senior football operation jobs. No hiring quota or hiring preference given to minorities, only an interviewing quota.
By Terrance Harris

Texas Southern University forward Niya Mitchell, the SWAC Preseason Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year, leads the Tigers to a 3-0 start in SWAC play and 8-6 overall. She leads the league in rebounding and is third in scoring, averaging 11.9 boards and 15.4 points.

During the first three SWAC games, the 2015 Bay City High School graduate has averaged a stellar 20.3 points and 18.6 rebounds, which has already earned her SWAC Player of the Week recognition.

“It’s all just because she plays relentlessly whether I play her on the wing or whether I play her at the 4,” said TSU coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke. “She really comes to play and she is incredibly athletic.”

Mitchell is a smooth player, who gets most of her points off of offensive rebounds or the flow of the offense.

“I don’t press about points or [anything],” she said. “My first thing is defense, go get the rebound and then run. I like to run and feel like I can outrun anybody, big, little it doesn’t matter. So if I go get the rebound I push it to my guards because I trust them and really every one of my teammates. I feel like when I push the ball to them and put it in their hands, I trust them and I feel like they can do what they need to do.”

Major:
Mitchell has already obtained her Bachelor’s in General Studies and is currently working on her Master’s in Kinesiology.

What’s next:
Mitchell wants to pursue making a living playing basketball whether that is overseas, playing in the WNBA or both. She also has a clothing line coming out soon called Legends Link.

Playing for legend Cynthia Cooper-Dyke:
“It’s amazing. She is the greatest woman to play ever. So I eat up everything she is telling me...Coach and I have a relationship to where she knows that I’m listening and taking everything in.”

Favorite basketball player:
“LeBron James. I feel like he doesn’t get enough credit...”
Coach Kerrick Arrington leads Bulldogs to new Heights

Securing First Place in 6A District 18

By JODIE B. JILES
Defender

Under Heights High School girls’ basketball coach Kerrick Arrington, the Lady Bulldogs will secure first place in the Class 6A District 18 standings if they can withstand Lamar and Westside in the coming days.

Looking at the roster, the team might appear to be a bit undersized, but there’s nothing small about their chemistry. After three years of playing together under Arrington’s tutelage, the team really gelled this season.

Heights sophomore captain Kamryn Cole has witnessed Arrington’s coaching skills during her two years with the program, which she said makes the game easier and “fun when we play and win games.”

The Defender spoke with Arrington to discuss his coaching style, the start his team has off to and wrinkles he thinks need to be ironed out before the playoffs start.

Defender: How would you describe your coaching style?
Arrington: I am a free ball type playing coach. We don’t really have established positions because we play positionless basketball so that we can move up and down court and play aggressive.

Defender: How have your players been able to get off to such a great start this year?
Arrington: This team has been together for three years now. They believe in each other. They also get along with each other which brings together chemistry. I have been blessed because a lot of these girls have done the work before they even came to me and I try to prepare the ones who desire to go on to play basketball in college to be ready.

Defender: Against Sam Houston, you held your opponent to under 10 points. What were your team’s keys to success on defense?
Arrington: As far as the teams we have done that to it is more of a situation that they are just struggling right now.

Defender: As you enter into the heart of district play, what are some of your areas of concern you would like to see ironed out before the playoffs?
Arrington: We want to get more consistent on offense... When it comes to things like offensive rebounds and attacking loose balls we can improve.

Heights Coach Kerrick Arrington has created a unique culture that has guided the Lady Bulldogs to a new level of basketball.

- Jimmie Aggison

CONGRATS: North Shore State Champs

The Defender applauds the Galena Park North Shore football team on winning back-to-back state championships.

Pictured: North Shore head coach John Kay (right) gift wraps a state championship for Galena Park Athletic Director Vivian Dancy (center) on her birthday.

- Jimmie Aggison

Houston hosts McDonald’s All-American Game

After two years in Atlanta, the 2020 McDonald’s All American Game, which features the best girls’ and boys’ high school basketball players in the nation, will be in Houston on April 1 at Toyota Center. The game will be televised on ESPN and ESPN 2 and tickets go on sale Jan. 23. Texas has been home to 62 McDonald’s All American Boys and 60 McDonald’s All American Girls players. Including Rashard Lewis (1998), Gerald Green (2005), Justise Winslow (2014), Nneka Ogwumike (2008), Brittney Griner (2009), Myles Turner (2014) and Ariel Atkins (2014). Houston, alone, has been home to 21 McDonald’s All Americans.
KELSEY-SEYBOLD’S WIN FOR LIFE-FAMILY WELLNESS DAY Kelsey-Seybold Clinic hosted it’s Win for Life-Family Wellness Day. At the event, participants were able to complete their annual doctor’s exam, have a health assessment conducted and participate in any number of wellness activities including exercise, dance and more. Health and wellness providers were on hand along with many attendees including Jennifer Breedlove, Kimberly & Trey Williams, Charlie Nays, Vanessa & George Birdlow, Sandy Esparza, Ivan Morales, Alma Banegas and many more. Photos: 1) Sherry Green, Bri Harris 2) Ki-era Jamison, Kathy Daoura, Sandi Eli 3) Stacey Holley, Laina Jenkins, Sanford Jenkins.

PALM CENTER FARMERS MARKET The ever-popular Palm Center Farmers Market recently held its first market of the 2020 year. The market, along with its many vendors, provides areas known as food deserts with wholesome, organically grown vegetables and fruits. Additionally, Chef Vicky Andrews provided a cooking demonstration serving up vegan egg rolls. Attendees included organizer Cavannah Nweze, Brittany Randle, Jeremy Peaches, Tamme Craft, Sabrina & Jason Brent, Milton & Diane Woods and more. Photos: 4) Ashlee Mansaw, Erika Harrison 5) Armondo Wilson, Vicky Andrews, Jazzmine Woodard 6) Shay Bell, Raquel Nweze.

FADE TO BLACK-THE READING SERIES The Fade To Black Play Festival created by Shabach Enterprise is Houston’s first and only festival to showcase new works of Black playwrights. They did so recently at the Fade To Black Reading Series held at MATCH. The movement continues to grow, and within a span of seven years, has already produced the plays of almost 80 playwrights and utilized the talents of a culturally diverse array of local actors and directors. Attendees included playwright Norma Thomas, Terrance Simon, Jhonu Harris, Sonya Gooden, Jeremiah Gray, Malik Nelson, Rani Hampton and scores more. Photos: 7) Tro’shoa Pickrom, Christina Phlegm, Tene Carter, Rennette Bronn, Tasha Pouillard 8) Errol Anthony Wilks, Manning Mpinduzi-Mott 9) Veronica Wier, Denise O’Neal, Crystal Ray.

By Aswad Walker