

## Arielle Phillips-Law Continues To Sparkle On BCTV



Arielle Phillips-Law  
alvernia.edu

Arielle Phillips-Law has been a frequent most impressive panelist on the BCTV Program: “Diversity: The Wider Vision.” Her most recent appearance on that program occurred on Monday, August 12, 2024, in which admissions administrators at Berks County colleges and universities (Albright College, Alvernia University, Kutztown University, and Reading Area Community College) discussed admissions requirements.

Arielle Phillips-Law is an Associate Director of Admissions and a Lecturer of Psychology at Alvernia. She earned a Bachelor’s Degree at Alvernia and a Master’s Degree at New York University.

You can see “reruns” of that program online (bctv.org). Call them at 610.374.3065 for details on how to log on and see programs. \

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic (Latinos) Heritage Month unique begins in the middle of September (the 15th) and ends in the middle of October (the 15th). This is because the independence days and Spain’s celebration of Fiesta Nacional de Espana or Dia de la Hispanidad (Hispanicity, Spanishness Day.



Specifically, September 15 is Independence Day for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. September 16 is Independence Day for Mexico.

Finally, an important fact has been the difference between how Hispanics (Latinos) and African Americans (Blacks) define race and color. African Americans were given by the British the “One Drop” Rule. That is to say that no matter your complexion (white, “high yellow,” or “red bone”) you are Black if you have any (one drop) Black blood.

Conversely, Hispanics referred to anyone with any white physical appearance as blanco or white. Dark complexioned Latinos with any white ancestors are white. Persons who North Americans refer to as Black or African American have called Morenos by Hispanics.

However, there has been a recent pride exhibited by Black Hispanics regarding their darker complexions. Please see the most instructive article by Rosa Parra on page 6.

## Table of Contents

Arielle Phillips-Law .....	1
A Word from the Publisher .....	1
Hispanic Heritage Month .....	1
Millersville University .....	2
Black Heroes Born in October .....	3
About Us .....	3
Chocolate by Ashley Jones .....	4
Do You Know .....	5
Palo Magazine Article .....	6
Question of the Month .....	7
Super Bo Cartoon .....	7
Answers to Do You Know .....	7
Don’t Miss A Beat .....	7
Spiritual Directory .....	8

## A Word From The Publisher

Joseph Amprey, Ph.D.



The Presidential Election on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024**, may be the most important American Presidential Election of the 21st century. **PLEASE VOTE!** If you aren’t already registered to vote, you can still register and vote in this election if you register by OCTOBER 21, 2024.

If you have any questions about registering to vote, contact the OFFICE OF ELECTION SERVICES-BERKS COUNTY, 633 Court Street. Their telephone number is 610.478.6490.

Finally, the best presidential candidate FOR ALL AMERICANS IS VICE PRESIDENT KAMALA HARRIS! Her outstanding performances as a California Attorney General, United States Senator, and Vice President of the United States, have prepared her well for serving as the President of the United States!

## VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 5, 2024



## Let’s Support Stacey Taylor The President Of The PA NAACP



Stacey Taylor, President,  
Reading Branch NAACP

Since its founding in 1909, the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) has been a Godsend for all Americans. A very important NAACP chapter, the Reading Chapter, which was founded in 1920, is led by Berks County native, Stacey Taylor. **Mark your calendars.** This year’s GALA will be on October 13, 2024 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in downtown Reading. CONTACT DIONNE STUBBS FOR TICKETS!

THE NAACP PENNSYLVANIA STATE CONFERENCE is scheduled for October 25 and 26, 2024 at REDNER’S EVENT CENTER, 2024 Centre Avenue, PA 19605. You can register online at (<https://pastatenaacp.org>).

## Mark Your Calendars: for the FREEDOM FUND GALA of the READING BRANCH OF THE NAACP

**OCTOBER 13, 2024**

### FFG Gala Keynote Speakers:

**Dr. Paige Brookins, PhD.**

*Director of Health Equity, City of Reading*

**Dr. Daryl C. Mace, PhD.**

*Director of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Alvernia University*



Millersville University Is Good For Blacks



Dr. Daniel Asua Wubah

culture of African Americans through current issues, theories and research. Faculty-student and student-student collaboration are a centerpiece of this minor.

Millersville has also invited prominent African American scholars such as August Wilson, the award winning playwright, and Bebe Moore Campbell, the prolific novelist, to make presentations.

Their most impressive credential is their appointment of two Black presidents. From 2003 to 2013, Dr. Francine G. McNairy served as Millersville’s President. The university’s library is named after her. McNairy, who is a native of Pittsburgh, earned Bachelors, Masters, and Doctoral Degrees at the University of Pittsburgh. Her most important (Ph.D) dissertation is entitled “Black Students and White Faculty Members, Perceptions of Black Students’ Classroom Communication.”



Dr. Francine G. McNairy

Millersville’s current president is Dr. Daniel Asua Wubah. He was appointed to that position in 2018. Under Wubah’s leadership, Millersville’s accreditation was reaffirmed by the Middle States Council on Higher Education; moreover, the university established the first named college (Lombardo College of Business) and named school (Wehrheim School of Nursing) in Millersville’s history.

Dr. Wubah earned a B.Sc. and Dip.Ed. from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana, and the Ph.D from the University of Georgia.

Daniel Wubah is also a tribal King (Toapentenhene) at Breman Asikuma in the Central Region of Ghana in West Africa. He is the leader there for 140,000 people. Millersville University has made available a most instructive video about Dr. Wuba’s role in Ghana. You can view that video at (<https://youtu.be/R9cZEuB5c4A>).

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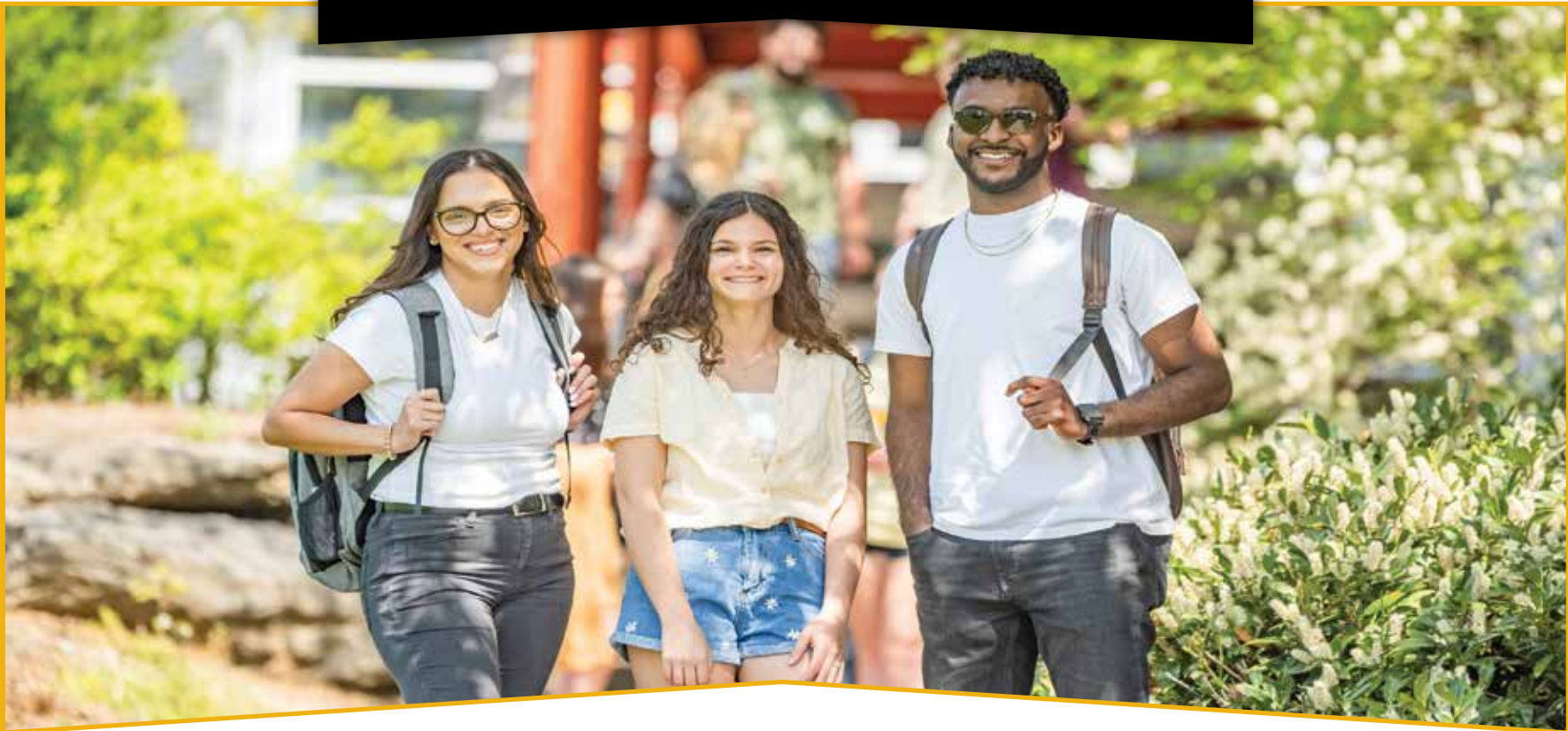
OCTOBER IS  
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Millersville University

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# BLACK HEROES

## FAMOUS BLACKS BORN IN OCTOBER

### Naomi Osaka (1997 - )

Naomi Osaka, who was born on October 16, 1997, is a biracial and bi-ethnic (Japanese and Haitian) professional tennis player. She has been ranked No. 1 by the Women's Tennis Association and is the first Asian player to hold the top rank in singles. She is a four-time Grand Slam singles champion, and is the reigning champion at the US Open and the Australian Open.



Osaka's phenomenal success in tennis has earned her numerous commercial endorsements. She is most famous for her role as a civil rights activist and as spokesperson for people with mental illness. Osaka was named *2020 Sports Illustrated Sportsperson of the Year* for her activism alongside the year's other prominent activist sports champions: LeBron James, Breanna Stewart, and Patrick Mahomes, as well as medical worker Laurent Duvernay-Tardif. She was also honored as one of the *Time's* 100 most influential people in the world in 2020 for her activism, having also been named to the list in 2019 for representing professional tennis well as an excellent role model and a major champion.

In March 2021, Osaka spoke out against anti-Asian hate crimes.

The DRUM proudly commends Naomi Osaka for her activism!  
◆

*"He who is not courageous enough to take risks  
will accomplish nothing in life."*  
~Muhammad Ali

### ABOUT US

**THE DRUM** is published 6 times annually. Hereafter, we will publish in February, April, June, August, October, & December. Unless otherwise indicated, all articles herein are written by the Publisher/Editor, Joseph Amprey.

### OUR MISSION IS TO CELEBRATE BLACK ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS.

Please call us at 240.729.5293 or email us at [readingdrumnewspaper@gmail.com](mailto:readingdrumnewspaper@gmail.com) or write to us at **THE DRUM**, P.O. Box 12711, Reading PA, 19612 with topic suggestions.

### STAFF

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[www.thedrumnewsonline.com](http://www.thedrumnewsonline.com)

### Jesse Jackson, Sr. (1941 - )

Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. (nee Burns; born October 8, 1941) is an American political activist, Baptist minister and politician. He was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988, served as a shadow U.S. Senator for the District of Columbia from 1991 to 1997. He is the founder of the organizations that merged to form Rainbow/PUSH.



Jackson's roles as a charismatic leader and activist began while he was a student at North Carolina A&T College (now university) in the early 1960's where he was a student government president and quarterback for the football team. He participated in the historic "sit-ins" which led to the integration of formerly segregated restaurants and drug stores.

Later Jackson became a protégé of the late Dr. Martin Luther King while participating with King in numerous civil rights demonstrations. In fact, he was with King at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN on April 4, 1968 when King was assassinated.

Rev. Jackson has also participated in and/or led international civil rights activities, the most famous of which occurred in 1983, when he traveled to Syria to secure the release of a captured American pilot, Navy Lt. Robert Goodman, who was being held by the Syrian government. Goodman had been shot down over Lebanon while on a mission to bomb Syrian positions in that country. After Jackson made a dramatic personal appeal to Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, Goodman was released. The Reagan administration was initially skeptical about Jackson's trip, but after Jackson secured Goodman's release, Reagan welcomed Jackson and Goodman to the White House on January 4, 1984.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. and his wife, Jacqueline, are the proud parents of five adult children.  
◆

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Ashley Jones

## Chocolate

By Ashley R. Jones, MS

As I sit here and type this article, in the background I play “*Make It Home*” by Tobe Nwigwe. If you’ve never heard it, I highly recommend it. The lyrics play, echoing the current realities of Black daughters. The importance of Black fatherhood was reminded to me this very afternoon, as I sat in the presence of a daughter who lost her father through violence. Spending a little over an hour and half, I was able to engage with a family who had to scoop out the very delicate wounds, still fresh from the incident that occurred March 25, 2024.

Damon S. Stern was born March 24, 1974. A humble man, dedicated father, and hard worker, enjoyed the simplicity of life. A man with dreams and hopes, happily anticipated the arrival of his 50th birthday. A man who enjoyed his flowers when received, but didn’t expect flowers. A man who unfortunately only was able to enjoy the beautiful milestone for a day.

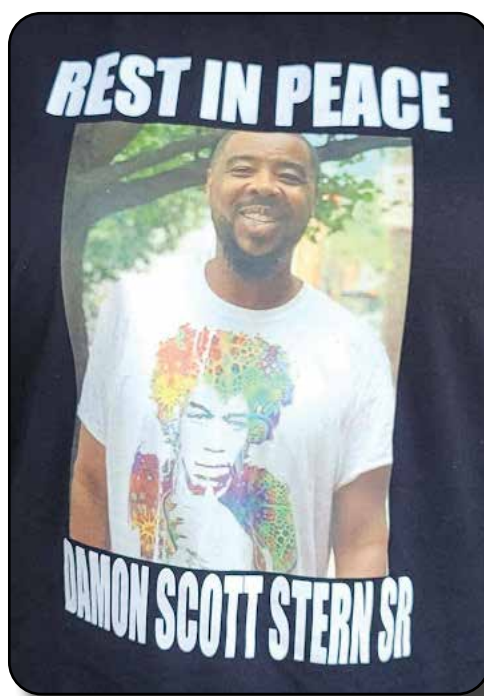
As a Black daughter, who has also lost a father, I sympathize with their story. Reflecting back to 2012, I, myself, lost a sibling to violence. Losing a loved one in a very public manner is almost like witnessing their 2nd death. Having to see articles, papers, and media showing the creation of a narrative that doesn’t fit the character of the loved one you lost. Mistakes happen and people struggle, but somehow, those struggles are warped into stereotypes and judgment is passed, without knowing the full details. Being on that receiving end before, it’s like having to try and convince others that our person was deserving of love and kindness.

With the hot button topic consistently being overlooked or overshadowed, we minimize the big things that eventually pile up like a basket of neglected laundry. Constantly putting things into the pile, we forget until we are reminded. One big thing that we constantly forget to highlight is mental health, Black mental health specifically. Men, in general, are always told to carry on, be a good soldier, and keep your tears to yourself. And like most men, Damon struggled with some things that unfortunately led to his untimely death. When seeking out support, like we are conditioned to do, we end up unfortunately becoming the victims to those we thought could protect us. Damon S. Stern was shot and killed by an unnamed Reading Police officer on March 25, 2024.



Damon S. Stern pictured with his beloved mother, LeMoyne D. Stern. Photo credit provided by his daughter, Aigner Smith.

When sitting in the living room of the very home where Damon was struck by 4 bullets, just feet away from the kitchen where the incident occurred, his family trotted on with their experiences of feeling displaced by their community. Reading, a very minority driven city, his daughter, Aigner, expressed she felt let down by her city.



In Memory of Damon S. Stern

Photo credit, Aigner Smith,

Interactions with community leaders and even the physician who delivered the news of Damon’s passing, have been icy. She reflected on the struggle of the emotional disconnect and lack of empathy. A woman lost her husband and witnessed it occur in the home they shared. His children lost a father who kept them grounded and loved every fiber within them. The world became a lot darker. “*I thought we would have more support from our city.*”

The family of Damon Stern released the bodycam footage that they fought long and hard for, to be released. With hopes of feeling justified in their pain, they wanted the community to see that there are concerns and disconnects, that a life was

unfairly taken. I myself have not watched the footage, but I will. When hearing of the police involved death, ruled homicide, I was reminded of Emmitt Till. His mother, during the hype of the civil rights movement, vowed she wanted the world to see what the cruelty of others did to her child. The impact of that heartaching move changed the world, though there is major work to be done.

The words Damon’s daughter, Aigner, spoke to me about Damon being a man of patience and having true faith, that he would have complied, because he wasn’t down with disrespecting the police or law enforcement, prompted the story of Philandro Castile. A man who complied with police orders was still shot and killed by police. As seen in Damon’s case, we aren’t safe even in our own homes when dealing with our struggles and wanting help or support.

There are countless stories, incidents occurring daily where police involved deaths remain a threat to Black lives. Aigner and myself reminisced the times in childhood where police patrolled the city with pride, where there was active community policing and the city was protected by officers who loved their citizens. Trading cards and stickers of officers, handed out like Pokemon cards and collected with pride. Officers knew their community, compared to the times of today. She reflected on how there continues to be a viewpoint of officers patrolling the neighborhood she occupies with an invisible “S” standing for superiority on the chest of officers. Racial hostility and questions of the Us vs. Them mentality seems to be that invisible barrier between police and the communities of color they keep.

Broken Windows Theory comes to mind as I sit and allow these words to flow. I’ve studied crime and found a great interest in it as I have mentioned previously. But officers are not a part of their communities anymore and it shows in how they treat the communities they police. They aren’t involved in regular life that would gain the trust of their citizens. They are public servants to conduct the peace and create stability, however there continues to be a militarized approach to handling situations where something as simple as empathy, can go further than a bullet. Black skin is not bulletproof, but they keep shooting first and asking questions after.

Referencing back to “*Make It Home*,” lines I always find myself contemplating:

- “*Hope my whole hood make it home. Yeah. ‘Cause the world can be toxic. Especially when your skin looked like chocolate.*”

continued on page 5 ⇒

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Chocolate

⇒ continued from page 4

- “Don’t hardly see daughters at alters. Probably cause there ain’t no more fathers, they stole them. Put in cages by racists patrolling. Yeah the hood is a lane to the pins Like we bowling. Yeah. Please don’t make me no hashtags or slogan. Black people are golden. That’s why I pray you catch a wave.”

Historically speaking, Black fatherhood has been attacked and attempts to destroy it have been documented. However, Black fatherhood is crucial and losing your father, at whatever age is never easy, but pair that with violence and the way Damon was taken, it puts the mentality that we feel helpless, having to be put into some sort of action without taking our space to grieve, having to move to the next steps. Using hip-hop to reference pain, 2Pac said it best, “Cops give a damn about a n\*gro, pull the trigger, kill a n\*gga, he’s a hero.”

What the media doesn’t say, I want to. I want Damon to have his flowers, even in death. To be remembered for who he was, not who his ending painted him to be.

Who was Damon? He was a lover of music and home cooked meals. He liked chitlins, hotdogs and beans. Chicken and breakfast food. Best Buy was one of his favorite stores

and he’d frequent the establishment getting CD’s or movies to play. He was a person who didn’t want the spotlight on him, but a man who liked to work in the background. A man who’d leave little reminders of love to his children with memorable quotes on his way to work, stopping by their bedrooms to tell them “the money is on the speaker” when they’d need funds for school field trips and activities. He made sure the family had what they needed. He loved his mother. He carried her license in his wallet from the 1970’s, keeping her close to him after her death. In a bittersweet ending, they’re reunited in the afterlife as mother and son.

Damon loved his family and they were reminded after his death how much he valued them. When going through his things, they found he kept every article of creation they had made for him. Everything ranging from elementary crafts, toothless childhood photos and cards, and even a picture of his daughter, posing at the PAL in childhood with an officer. Photos of Damon with his wife and children surrounding their home showed that he was loved equally in return.

But what’s next? A family is still mourning and wanting some reassurance, wanting to be made whole. Unfortunately, death is a permanent thing and Damon is gone too

soon, but we need action; better policing, more empathy, better training on the use of de-escalation tactics, and maybe even just having an understanding that death is permanent. That a bullet may solve a problem in that moment, but that bullet creates more trauma, loss, and continued disconnect. Am I saying policing is easy? No. But I am saying that Black skin is not bulletproof. Black men and women deserve to be treated with kindness from the stance of law enforcement, that there is work to be done.

“Never underestimate the power of dreams and the influence of the human spirit. We are all the same in this notion: The potential for greatness lives within each of us.”

Wilma Rudolph

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AFRICAN AMERICAN

Do you know?

1. Who are the two of the most powerful women in the USA who were appointed by President Biden?

2. What the three largest cities in the USA, and which two of the three have Black mayors?

3. Who are the current six Black head coaches of National Football League teams?

4. Who was the first African American to graduate from Kutztown University, and when did that person graduate?

5. Who is the current White House Press Secretary?

6. Who is the former Superintendent of the Reading School district who is the current PA Secretary of Education?

7. What are the names, founding dates, and the official name of the Divine Nine?

8. Which members of the Divine Nine were founded on historically Black campuses, and on which campuses were they founded?

9. What are the names of the two historically Black universities that are located in PA.

10. What are the names and founding dates of the oldest Black churches in Reading PA?

The answers can be found on page 7.





Rosa J. Parra

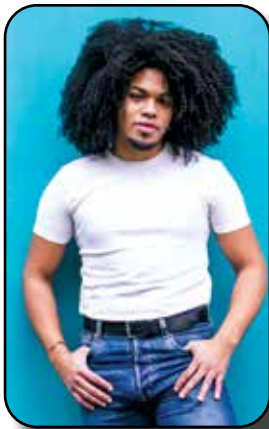
## Black & Latino

By Rosa J. Parra, Founder & Editor/Palo Magazine

Afro-Latinos are increasingly embracing and asserting their identities, celebrating their rich heritage in a landscape that has historically marginalized their contributions. As conversations about race and representation gain momentum, many Afro-Latinos are reclaiming their roots and openly identifying as both Black and Latino, fostering a sense of pride in their dual heritage. This growing recognition is reflected in cultural expressions, social media movements, and advocacy for visibility in politics, media, and the arts. By highlighting their unique experiences, Afro-Latinos are not only challenging stereotypes but also enriching the broader narrative of Latin American identity, creating a more inclusive space for all voices.

Afro-Latinos primarily live in various countries across Latin America and the Caribbean, where they represent a significant part of the population. Key countries include:

1. **Brazil:** Home to one of the largest populations of Afro-descendants outside of Africa, particularly in cities like Salvador and Rio de Janeiro.
2. **Dominican Republic:** A significant portion of the population identifies as having African heritage, with a strong influence on culture and traditions.
3. **Cuba:** Afro-Cubans play a vital role in the island's music, religion, and cultural practices.
4. **Colombia:** Areas like the Pacific coast and cities such as Cartagena and Cali have vibrant Afro-Colombian communities.
5. **Venezuela:** Afro-Venezuelans contribute to the country's cultural diversity, particularly in coastal regions.
6. **Honduras:** The Garifuna community, descendants of African and Indigenous peoples, is prominent on the Caribbean coast.



7. **Peru:** Afro-Peruvians maintain distinct cultural traditions, particularly in music and dance.

8. **Puerto Rico:** Many Puerto Ricans also identify as Afro-Latino. Puerto Rico has a diverse population that includes a significant number of people of African descent, stemming from the island's history of African slavery and colonialism. This African heritage is reflected in various aspects of Puerto Rican culture, including music, dance, and religion, with influences seen in genres like Salsa and Bomba.

As a Puerto Rican who has spent lots of time on the island, I will say that we proudly embrace our different shades of color. If you ever spend Christmas on the island, you will see colored Santas, and in our Three Kings celebrations, we make sure we have a black king represented. I embrace my mixed heritage and fifteen years ago I took a stance with no longer relaxing my hair and embracing my natural hair. Today I continue to celebrate heritage and advocate for representation via my monthly publication *Palo Magazine*.



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THE DRUM  
QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The Question:  
*Will the Philadelphia Eagles make it to the Playoffs this year?*

Date: September 10, 2024  
Location: Danny Moore’s Barbershop,  
530 Centre Ave., Reading, PA

Responses:



Winston Weaver:  
“Of course!”



Danny Moore:  
“No.”



Jay Williams:  
“Yes.”



@Reading Drum Newspaper

Answers to *Do You Know*

1. Vice President Kamala Harris and Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson were appointed by President Biden.
2. New York, NY is the largest American city, and Eric Adams is the Mayor of New York. Los Angeles, CA is the second largest city in the USA. Chicago is America’s third largest city, and the Mayor of Chicago is Brandon Johnson.
3. Todd Bowles coaches the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Jerod Mayo coaches the New England Patriots. Antonio Pierce coached the Las Vegas Raiders. DeMeco Ryans coaches the Houston Oilers. Mike Tomlin coaches the Pittsburgh Steelers.
4. In 1950, Bessie Reese Crenshaw graduated from Kutztown State College (which is now Kutztown University).
5. Karine Jean-Pierre is the current White House Press Secretary.
6. Dr. Khalid Mumin is the current PA Secretary of Education.
7. Listed below are the names and founding dates of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), also referred to as the Divine Nine:
  - . Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, 1906
  - . Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 1908
  - . Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, 1911
  - . Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 1911
  - . Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 1913
  - . Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity
  - . Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, 1920
  - . Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, 1922
  - . Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, 1963
8. Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Delta Sigma Theta, Phi Beta Sigma, and Zeta Phi Beta were founded at Howard University. Iota Phi Theta was founded at Morgan State College (Now Morgan State University).
9. Cheyney University is located in Cheyney, PA, and Lincoln University is located in Lincoln, PA.
10. Bethel AME Church of Reading was founded in 1821, and Washington Presbyterian Church was founded in 1923.



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Super Bo & Super Sally:  
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BLACK SUPER HEROES  
Story by Joseph Amprey  
Illustrations by Stan Barnes

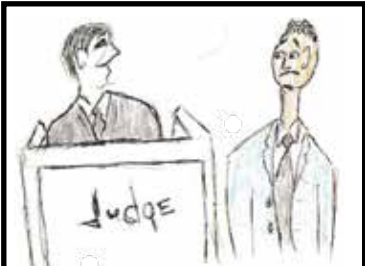
Sally calls the prosecutor regarding Juni’s sentencing.



During their conversation, Sally recommends that a 20-year sentence be reduced to 15 years if Juni completes his GED and 10 years if he earns a Bachelor’s Degree while he is in prison.



When he arrives in court for his sentencing, Juni has a closely cropped haircut and he is wearing a suit and a tie.



At the sentencing, the judge asks Juni if he would like to make a final statement.

to be continued . . .



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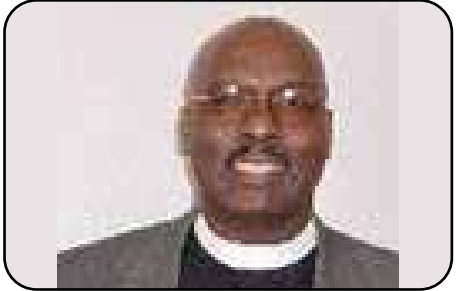
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Apostle Edna Lewis

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Pastor Kelly

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Pastor Alicia Snead

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Pastor: Pastor Alicia Snead

**Service Times:**  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am



Reverend Dr. Alick

**ZION BAPTIST CHURCH**  
224 Washington St.,  
Reading, PA 19601  
610.376.5944  
Pastor: Reverend Dr. Bruce Alick

**Service Times:**  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Bible Study: Tuesday - 11 a.m.  
and Wednesday - 5:30 p.m.



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