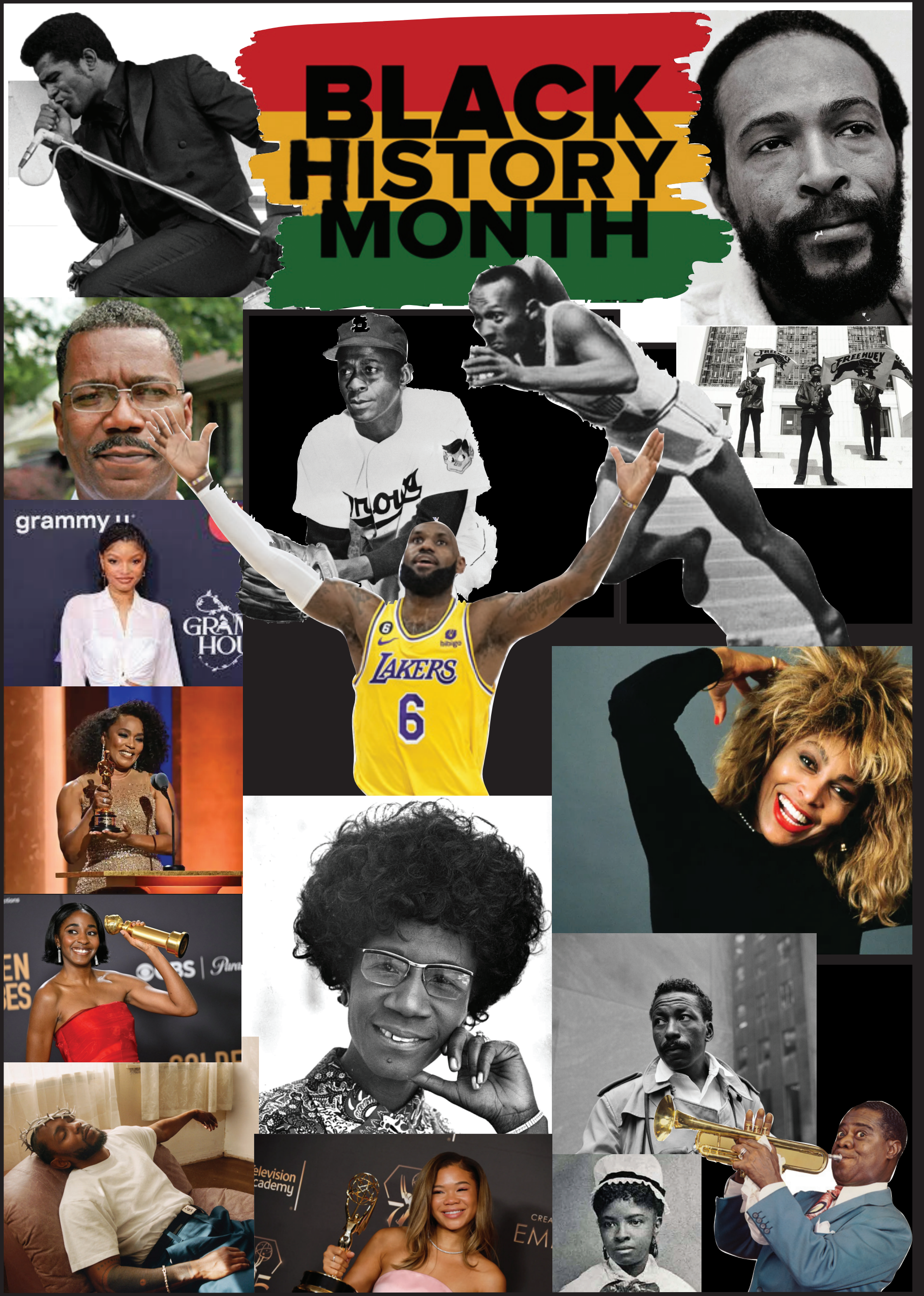


The Howler

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

A Glimpse into Black History in TF South: Mr. Elvis Slaughter

Zamyah Holmes, Staff Writer

Elvis Slaughter, a distinguished author with credentials in advocacy and leadership, has built a distinguished career spanning government service, civil rights activism, criminal justice, and education. Mr. Slaughter has a history of groundbreaking achievements in collaboration with the US Department of Justice and a strong commitment to public service throughout his professional career. His time as the first Black fire and police commissioner in Lansing, Illinois, also stands out for his pioneering spirit, while proving that he can break down barriers in fields where there is typically zero diversity. His more than thirty years in law enforcement not only underscored his leadership and commitment to community safety but also became an inspiration to future generations, showing that such an important position in public service is possible. Slaughter is currently the first vice president of the NAACP for suburban Cook County, past president of the Illinois Academy of Criminology, president of the Lansing Community Coalition, and retired Cook County sheriff's superintendent.

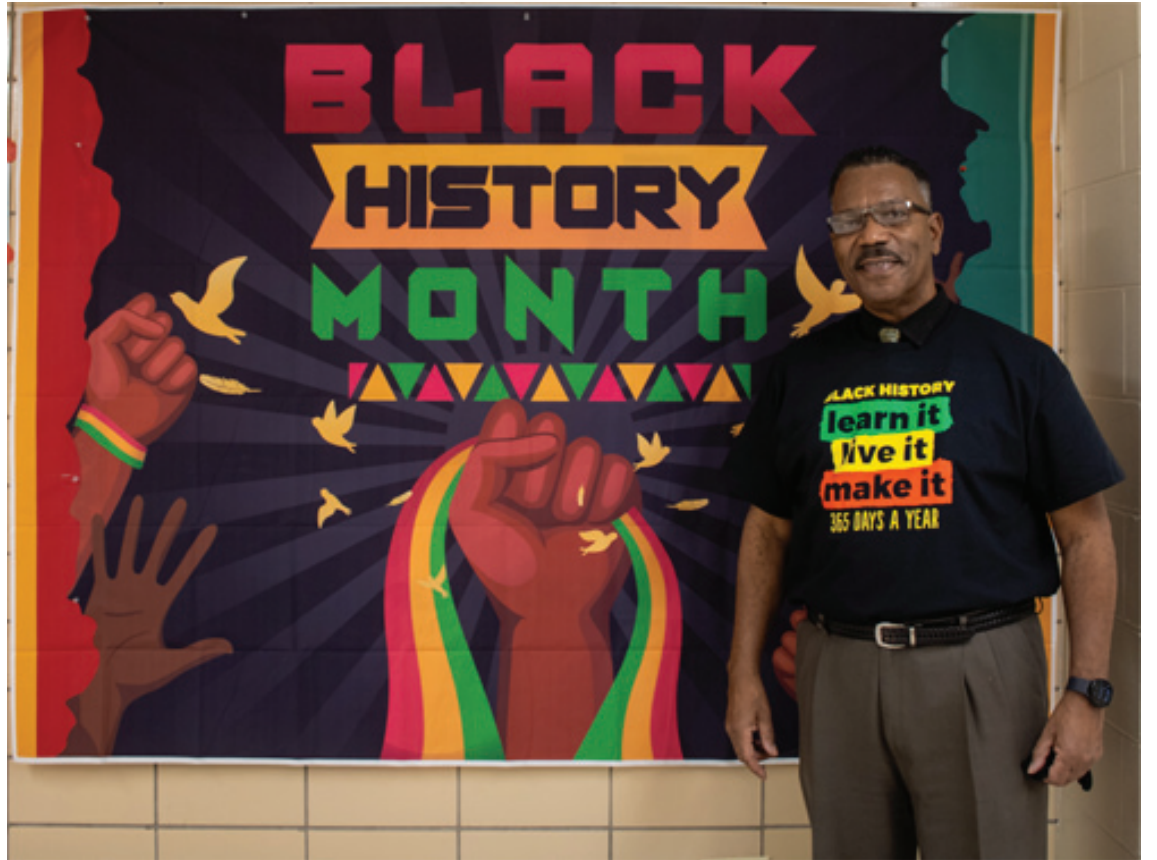
Slaughter pursued education, earning an associate's degree in electronic engineering, a bachelor's degree, and a master's degree in criminal justice. After retiring from the sheriff's office in 2009, Slaughter began teaching at the college level as an adjunct

professor. After retiring from his previous position, he fell into education and eventually found his way to Thornton Fractional South High School.

In an exclusive interview with Mr. Elvis Slaughter, when asked how he got started in Civil Rights and the NAACP, he responded enthusiastically. "Well, it actually started the day Martin Luther King got assassinated, I was living on the West Side of Chicago and I observed everything going up in flames. People were scared, frightened, it seemed like the end of the world was coming. It seemed like it would never stop. The next day, during daylight, you could still see buildings on fire, simmering. I remember relatives running in and out of their houses, smelling the gasoline, it was very terrifying. And just to witness that in my lifetime. Before that, maybe a year prior, Martin Luther King Jr actually visited the West Side of Chicago. Now I cannot really recall seeing him, but the person who brought me into the NAACP, her name was Nola Bright, she actually marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and she actually was the one who really got me involved. It was that traumatic incident that day that he was assassinated that brought me to Civil Rights."

From behalf of Thornton Fractional South, we are honored and thankful to have someone like Mr. Elvis Slaughter in our school who helps further educate our

student body in Civil Rights and is able to share his experience with the community.



Below: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Chicago in 1966. And Nola Bright, who introduced Mr. Slaughter to the NAACP



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Rebecca Lee Crumpler

Zoe Pitts, Features Writer

Rebecca Lee Crumpler, the first African American woman to be a physician. To actually earn a degree as a Black American Woman was most definitely indeed unheard of in the time of immense prejudice against POC and women but nonetheless she still achieved her dream. Rebecca was born in 1831, in Delaware and somehow started living with her Aunt in Pennsylvania. Rebecca soon began to know her way around health and sickness since being raised and witnessed her Aunt who cared for her sick neighbors. She wrote that this inspired her to pursue in the medical field. It wasn't unheard of for women to be nurses so in the 1850's so she became a nurse in Charleston Massachusetts and for eight years she continued that career. Being encouraged by many doctors for her talent and skills, in 1860 she enrolled in the New England Female Medical College. The College began to only train midwives since men

assisting in childbirth was unacceptable but since then they had expanded the curriculum involving a full medical course. This of course angered many men who lacked intelligence or understanding that women were more than just objects. Rebecca never showed she cared for anything about being offended by the prejudice and continued her studies at the College to graduate in 1864 with a Doctress of Medicine AKA a Medical degree. Residing in Boston she mostly helped women and children, She was undeniably great at her craft and also helped many who were poor and couldn't afford most doctors. After the Civil War Rebecca moved to Richmond, Virginia, where she joined up with the Freedman Bureau a missionary group to help assist newly freed slaves and since working with many people who faced discrimination against white Doctors other African Americans were encouraged to gain a medical degree. She claimed

that through the Missionary group she finally had a place to do proper missionary field work, where she had access to People of Color in different classes who were in need of a physician. She moved back to Boston in the late 1860s continuing her practice. Caring for many people who were mostly black and could pay or not. She also wrote a book about her immense medical knowledge called "A Book of Medical Discourses" Which involved knowledge on treating illness in infants and young children and also women of childbearing age. So not only was she the first Black American Female Physician but she was also the first woman doctor to publish a book.



Louis Armstrong

by Logan Daigre, Review Writer

Louis Armstrong is a known Jazz Artist. His most famous song is by far, "What A Wonderful World." He was born on Aug. 4, 1901, in New Orleans. He was raised by his mother, Mayann. Armstrong dropped out of school by fifth grade, choosing instead to work. With his money he bought his first cornet. On Dec. 31, 1912, Louis was arrested, and sent to the Colored Waif's Home for Boys. There, he met Peter Davis. Peter Davis quickly became a mentor to Louis, teaching him how to properly play the cornet. One Louis was released,

he became one of the top cornetists in his town. By 1922, a man by the name of King Oliver took note of Armstrong's talent, and got Armstrong and his band to Chicago. By 1923, Armstrong and Oliver began to release albums together. This is when he began dating the pianist of his band, Lillian Harden. Harden convinced Louis to try to go solo. Listening to his then wife, Louis Armstrong moved to New York, and after a lack of success, he decided to move back to Chicago, where he continued to put out solo music. For the first

time, he began releasing music under his own name. After this change, he began reinventing the Jazz genre.

Instead of Jazz being thought of as a group genre, Armstrong began transforming it into a soloists genre. By the late 1920's, Armstrong's success was enough to send him and his band back to New York. In New York, he began touring, and this is what he did

until his death in 1971.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Pillars of Soul Music

by Alondra Dionico, Review Writer

When you think about soul music, you probably think of old-timey singers your parents used to play in the car. Artists like Marvin Gaye and James Brown helped shape the music industry regarding soul music. Their influence has had an everlasting impact on society, even after death. To truly understand their impact, you must understand their rise to fame.

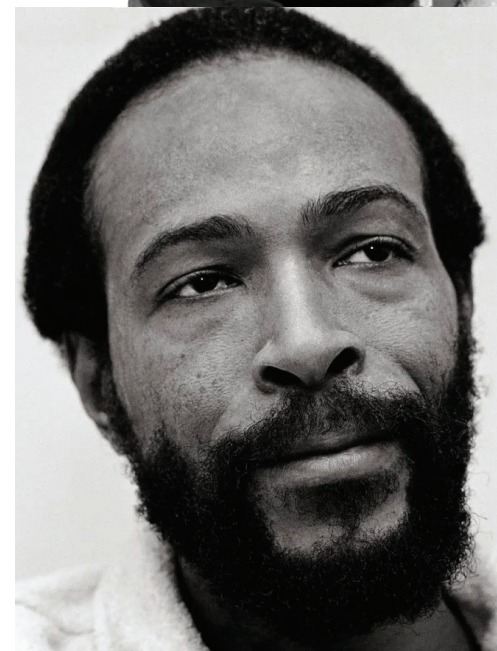
James Brown, the “Godfather of Soul,” was born on May 3, 1933, in Barnwell, South Carolina, and was raised by his great-aunt when his parents divorced. Brown was raised during the Great Depression in the segregated South and as a result, Brown was dismissed from school at the age of 12 for “insufficient clothing” and instead had to work several odd jobs. To escape his troubles, Brown turned to religion, music, and even crime. However, when Brown was 15, he was sentenced to three years in prison for breaking into and stealing cars. After his release, Brown would join The Gospel Starlighters (later renamed the Famous Flames) and catch the attention of Ralph Bass, a talent scout for King Records. The group would eventually release “Please, Please, Please” which reached No. 6 on the R&B charts, catapulting them into stardom. Brown was no slacker and was dubbed “The Hardest-Working Man in Show Business.” for

his dedication to writing and recording music and constant performances throughout the 50s and 60s. Brown would also utilize his platform to promote civil rights and to advocate for black people like himself. Brown was an inspiration for many but he wasn't perfect, he struggled with addiction, depression, and erratic behavior down the line. On December 25, 2006, at age 73, Brown passed away from a weeklong battle with pneumonia. In honor of his successful career, Brown was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, received a Grammy Award for lifetime achievement in 1992, and was a 2003 recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor.

Marvin Pentz Gaye, Jr., the “Prince of Soul,” was born on April 2, 1939, in Washington, D.C. In the late 1950s, Gaye joined a vocal group called The New Moonglows which caught the attention of Detroit music impresario, Berry Gordy Jr., and was signed onto Motown Records. Gaye's early years at Motown weren't as exciting and consisted of being the drummer for Motown legends such as Little Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, and more. However, Gaye would make a name for himself with his 1962 solo single, “Hitch Hike.” Gaye partnered up with Tammi Terrell to create many hit songs but unfortunately, Terrell passed away from a brain tumor in 1970. It was a dark time for Gaye and

even swore to never partner with another female vocalist and threatened to abandon the stage for good. Thankfully, Gaye didn't quit but after two loyal decades at Motown Records, Gaye signed with CBS's Columbia Records in 1982 and began to work on his last album, *Midnight Love*. The lead single, “Sexual Healing,” earned him his first two Grammy Awards and an American Music Award for Favorite Soul Single. Despite his success, Gaye struggled with addiction and depression and decided to stay with his parents for a while. This decision cost him his life as on April 1, 1984, Marvin Gaye Sr. shot and killed his son after a physical altercation. Gaye's father claimed it to be self-defense but would later be convicted of involuntary manslaughter. Three years after his death, Gaye was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Black History Month is a month dedicated to honoring those who positively impacted Black history. I chose to honor the pillars of soul music, James Brown and Marvin Gaye. Their impact on the music industry will never be forgotten and it's because of them and their hard work that we can appreciate what it truly means to be an artist. They dedicated their entire lives to their craft and never forgot where they came from. They made sure to address injustices in their music and used their influence for good. Though they both met tragic ends, the

legacy of James Brown and Marvin Gaye will never be forgotten.



Halle Bailey

by Morgan Scott, Managing Editor

Halle Bailey has been in the music industry for years.... She started her journey singing for Beyonce . Beyonce took Halle and her sister Chloe Bailey under her wing and taught them how to vocalize and just bring them to the next level. That was just the start to her career in 2016 . In 2017 she landed a role as a twin sister named Sky on *Grownish* she then took upon the role for four seasons. In 2023, Bailey released her debut solo single “Angel”, which was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best R&B Song. In July 2019, Disney announced that Halle had been cast as Ariel, in *The Little Mermaid*, a live-action remake of

the 1989 animated film of the same name. With this announcement coming out her casting caused a lot of backlash, with some claiming that casting an African-American in the role of Ariel was unfaithful to the original character. That a Black woman shouldn't be casted as a white character. The director of the film Rob Marshall said that Bailey, “possesses that rare combination of spirit, heart, youth, innocence, and substance. Marshall expressed that he was brought to tears by Bailey's singing. Bailey took on the role and transformed the thoughts on having another Black princess. She gave young Black girls a princess and a good person to look up to. After her performance Bailey received praise from critics

for her performance, being nominated at the Black Reel Award for Outstanding Breakthrough Performance and at the Saturn Award for Best Performance by a Younger Actor . Although *The Little Mermaid* wasn't the only film that Bailey has starred in recently.



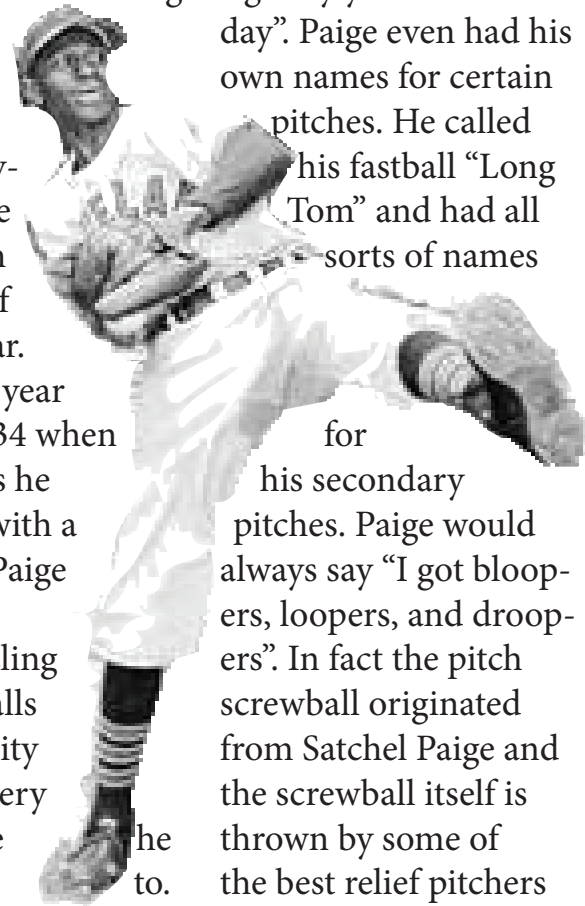
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Satchel Paige

by Andrew Danehl, Sports Writer

When it comes to Black History Month in the sports world, some of the most iconic names come to mind like Jackie Robinson and Jesse Owens. However, there's one athlete that doesn't always get mentioned. Satchel Paige was one of the greatest pitchers not only in his generation, but in baseball history. But, before we recognize Paige for all of his accomplishments and impacts in baseball, let's take a look back at the beginning. Leeroy Robert "Satchel" Paige was born on July 7, 1906 in Mobile, Alabama. Paige began playing baseball semi-professionally for the Mobile Tigers from 1924-1926. After being discharged from reform school, Paige began his professional

career for the Chattanooga Black Lookouts of the Southern Negro League. While traveling from team to team looking for the best paycheck, Paige would pitch hundreds of games a year. Paige's best year came in 1934 when in 19 games he went 13-3 with a 1.54 ERA. Paige was known for his dazzling breaking balls and his ability to throw every pitch where he wanted to. However, the one thing that Paige was best known for was his electric fastball. Paige could throw fastballs up to 105 MPH. As Paige started to hit old age,



Negro League legend Cool Papa Bell said "He could throw the ball right by your knees all day". Paige even had his own names for certain pitches. He called his fastball "Long Tom" and had all sorts of names for his secondary pitches. Paige would always say "I got bloopers, loopers, and droopers". In fact the pitch screwball originated from Satchel Paige and the screwball itself is thrown by some of the best relief pitchers in baseball today like Deven Williams of the Milwaukee Brewers. It wasn't until Paige was at the age of 42 that he made his American League debut for

the Cleveland Indians. Paige would end up helping Cleveland win the American League pennant and the World Series in 1948. That year Paige went 6-1 with a 2.48 ERA, including three complete games. After 1949, Paige spent three years with the St. Louis Browns where he earned two All-Star Game selections. Paige would go on to return to the minors with his old age and eventually returned to the majors at age 59. Paige signed a one game deal with the Athletics on September 26th, 1965. Paige was elected to the Hall of Fame in 1971 as the first electee of the NBL. Paige died on June 8th, 1982. "Age is a question of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter"-Satchel

Paige.

The African American Hero of Track and Field!

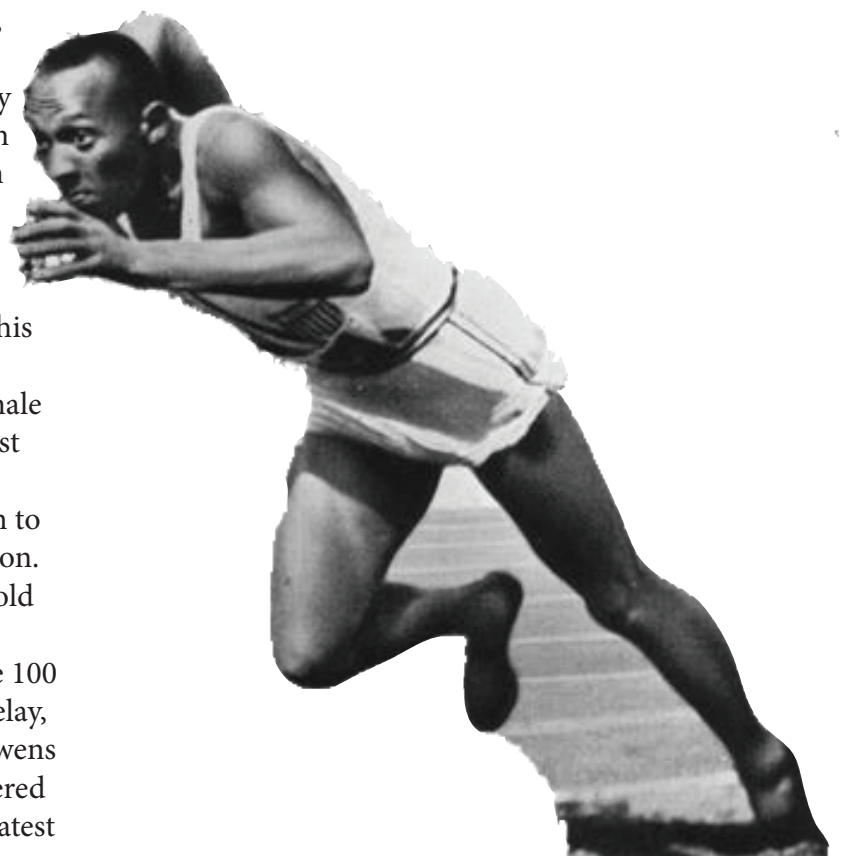
by Antoine Morgan, Sports Writer

Jesse Owens was an extraordinary sprinter in track and field during his time. He is well known as the most successful African-American athlete in the olympics. Jesse was specialized in sprinting events and long jump during his time as an athlete. His most notable feats are getting four gold medals in the olympics and setting three world records in less than a hour, being know as the greatest 45 minutes in a sport ever. Jesse was born in Oakville, Alabama on September 12, 1913. Despite that he was raised in Celvelend Ohio as his family wanted better opportunities there. He worked many jobs in his youth such as delivering groceries, loading cars, and

working in a shoe repair shop. Jesse realized he had a passion for running during this period of his life. Jesse soon after joined the track team at his middle school, Fairmount Junior High. Once he entered high school, he became a national sensation as he equaled the world record in the 100 yard dash with a 9.4 second record and long jumped 7.56 meters. Jesse after a successful career in high school soon attended Ohio State University. He was able to win eight NCAA championships within two years of college. Despite his success in the sport, he was still treated as a average Black male in that time period. They would only allow him to sleep in "Blacks only" hotels. On

top of that, they didn't give Jesse a scholarship for his efforts so he had to continue working in order to pay for college. In 1936, Jesse and his team traveled by ship to Germany to compete in the Berlin Summer Olympics. Fun fact is that before Jesse competed, Adi Dassler, the founder of Adidas, purasded Jesse to wear his shoes, making Jesse the first african american male athlete to receive the first sponsorship. Later that whole week, Jesse began to dominate the competition. He was able to earn 4 gold medals in the span of 6 days, getting gold in the 100 meter, 200 meter, 4x1 relay, and long jump. Jesse Owens will always be remembered for being one of the greatest

track and field athletes of all time.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Angela Bassett

by Tacori Jennings, Features Writer

Angela Bassett is an actress that has been in numerous films and television shows like *What's Love Got To Do With It*, *Black Panther*, *9-1-1* and many more. She had her break in 1993 where she starred in her first film *What's Love Got To Do With It*, where she played the young Anna Mae Bullock (Tina Turner). She began to take off after doing many strong black female roles. Unfortunately she didn't receive an academy award for these parts. Which shows her passion within the acting community to be able to continue to inspire many women around the world. On Jan.10, 2024, Bassett

received her first Oscar in the category Academy Honorary Award. She gave a speech that touched millions of people to continue their passions in life and to never let your loss diminish what you are truly passionate about. She states in her speech "I do this work because I find it meaningful and I hope it makes a difference and has an impact to be recognized in this way for what I love doing is truly wonderful, and I am beyond grateful." She has created a platform and has become an icon within the acting community. Playing these roles have changed many lives including mine.



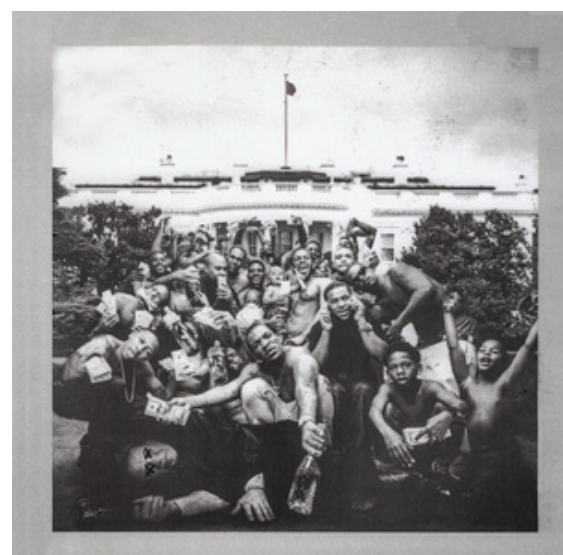
The Art of Kendrick Lamar

by Annika Biegel, Features Writer

Multi-Platinum, Grammy-award winning artist, Kendrick Lamar, has achieved massive success and impact since his debut album *good kid, m.A.A.d city* released in 2012. Since his rise of fame, Kendrick's songs have been most noted for their lyrical infusion of political criticism and social commentary. Kendrick Lamar was born in Compton, California in 1987. Lamar signed with Dr. Dre in 2012, producing his first album, debuting at number 2 on the Billboard 200 charts for his autobiographical narrative concept. With Kendrick's rising influence with his music, he has influenced a rise of social consciousness within this generation. His music, filled with dense, bruising lyrics, have helped encapsulate the Black experience and spread awareness of so-

cial issues that are in dire need of change. Kendrick Lamar's 2015 album, *To Pimp a Butterfly*, covers and makes note of the intense issues such as exploitation, living up to responsibilities, the importance of staying true to yourself, and finding strength in the face of adversity. The well-known song from that album "Alright" by Kendrick became an extremely significant and well-known anthem for the Black Lives Matter Movement, being a reminder that there is hope, but there is also heavy despair. Besides Lamar's moving and impactful music, he has also been personally involved with trying to help see a change. He has donated thousands of dollars to the programs for the Compton Unified School District and went on a five-stop world tour, the proceeds of which went to Habitat for Human-

ity, an organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. Additionally, he has also donated thousands to the Red Cross and headlined for the Global Citizen Festival, helping bring awareness and fight gender inequality and extreme poverty. The inspirational and artistic aspect of Kendrick Lamar's music comes from his ability to write to evoke emotion. He utilizes his art as a means to make awareness of societal issues, using his voice both literally and figuratively. Lamar has used his platform to spread his story, as well as embedding deep political overtones covering racial and socio-economic discrimination, stereotypes, gun violence, and oppressive conditions, impacting others' perspectives on their struggles and a voice for many issues in need of change.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Gordon Parks

For Black History Month I will tell you all about a man called Gordon Parks. He was an African American photographer and he was born on November 30, 1912 and he was born in Fort Scott, Kansas. He bought his first camera, a Voigtlander Brilliant, at a Seattle pawn shop for \$7.50 around 1937. The photography clerk who gave him his first roll of film saw the potential in him and decided to let him shoot a couple of photos. A couple of years later Gordon was the first African American on the staff of Life magazine. He said, "I knew at that point I had to have a camera." Gordon was also one of the first African Americans to direct a major film called *Shaft* which had an amazing impact on shaping the blaxploitation genre. Even so, the movie

made enough money from saving the company from bankruptcy. Gordon was also a talented artist, writer, and painter. From Gordon's point of view from photography, he said this: "A photographer can be a storyteller. Images of experience captured on film, when put together like words. Gordon's eye of photography was simply a sight to see and really caught the eye of many different people as well. In 1937 while working as a waiter at the North Coast Limited passenger train, he stumbled upon a magazine talking about depression and how photography captures the sadness of it as well. After that he was inspired and he started to teach himself photography. During this time he captured the beauty, power, and stature of Chicago socialite Marva

Louis. He also explored the churchgoers in Washington, DC, and his camera helped shine a light on the faces of African Americans, showing poverty, violence, and operations that defined the decade from 1934-1944. For all of those years, the things that help show the meaning and emotion of the different people for the time as well. In the 1940s he was called a freelance photographer for publications such as *Vogue*, *Glamour*, and *Ebony*. His 1948 photo essay on the life of a Harlem gang leader won him widespread acclaim and a position as the first African American staff photographer for Life. He also published *The Learning Tree*, a biographical account of a Black boy growing up in segregated Kansas. And he unfortunately passed away on-

Benjamin Gresham, Lead Photographer



March 7, 2006 from dying to cancer as well. And that is the story of Gordon Parks and his amazing photos.

Shirley Chisholm

One of the people in African American History is Shirley Chisholm. She was the first African American woman to be elected to the United States Congress. During her adult years, she joined the League of Women Voters, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. She fought for gender equality, seeking for everyone to be equal no matter the race or gender. She was also a co-founder of the National Women's Political Caucus, and later on, became the first Black woman and second woman ever to serve on the powerful House Rules Committee. Her campaign slogan "Unbought and Unbossed", encouraged her mindset and activities while also being a statement that she used to describe herself, showing how ambitious she was throughout her journey to becoming a successful African-American Congresswoman. With her passionate attitude towards politics, she aimed to strive higher than she ever could and wanted to help everyone that she possibly could. The ERA which is the Equal Rights Amendment had her support and she continued to protect the people, especially minorities who couldn't have a voice. One of the words that stood out and described her was "the people's politician", which showed how much she cared about helping out others in need and being the support that they

needed. Some topics that she touched on and spoke out against were women inequality, racial discrimination, etc. Chisholm made a heavy impact on the minority communities such as women, African-Americans, and more. With her being a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus and the National Women's Political Caucus, she pushed to bring those underlying issues to the surface and rose to be an important figure where she is greatly appreciated in African American history. One of her most significant quotes was "I want to be remembered as a woman ... who dared to be a catalyst of change."

Tina Turner

by Coryannah Hearn, Features Writer

With all the great music artists out there, Tina Turner was one of the best singers in the music industry. She made music in the genre of rhythm and blues, R&B, soul, and rock. One of her greatest hits was "What's Love Got to Do with It", which describes an attraction between two lovers and caused this song to become number 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, which made her the oldest woman to have a song reach number 1 in history while shaping the genre of music. Although she went through many hardships in life, she continued to motivate her audience with her voice and became the first African American artist to be on the cover of the Rolling Stone. With her powerful voice and songs, she inspired artists that may be your favorites such as Janet Jackson, Rihanna, Beyoncé, and many



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Ayo Edebiri Rise to Fame by Bright Akli, Staff Reporter

Ayo Edebiri is the public's new sensation on the big screen. Ayo is from Boston, Massachusetts and is the daughter of immigrants her father Dele Edebiri is from Nigeria and her mom Helen O'Neal Edebiri is from Barbados. After high school Ayo attended New York University (NYU), she studied Dramatic Writing. She didn't always want to be an actor in the beginning, she initially went to school to become an English teacher. In her interview with Collider Extras she tells the interviewer her admiration for history, English and working with people particularly children. After student teaching she quickly realized the attitudes of teenagers in high school and

realized she needed a change in career paths. Then she began interning and working as a personal assistant in the industry. She pursued writing to become a better performer and also maybe write something for herself in the future. At twenty-five she wrote and voice acted on Big Mouth and also wrote for What We Do In The Shadows in 2022 at twenty-seven. Her decision to fully commit to play-writing and acting is what allowed her to have her breakthrough in Hollywood after years of being in a field she wasn't truly passionate about. Ayo has been in notable movies and shows through her career such as a voice role in Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse, starring role in Bottoms, What We Do

In The Dark, and many more. However her sudden rise to fame is accredited to her role as Sydney Adamu in the comedy-drama series The Bear. Ayo is now a critically acclaimed actor and has won an Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series, 2024 Winner Critics Choice Award Best Actress in a Comedy Series, 2024 Winner Golden Globe Best Performance by a Female Actor in a Television Series, Musical or Comedy. Her rise in popularity may seem sudden to some but the reality is that it took years of work and truly dedicating herself to what she was passionate about.



Storm Reid

by Kyla Ward, Editor in Chief

There are plenty of African-American actresses that do not get their flowers, so I want to shed a light on a young actress named Storm Reid. Storm Reid is a 20 year old actress that was born in Atlanta Georgia. She began appearing on television screens at the young age of three after she told her mom that she wanted to be a superstar. Reid's mom Robyn Simpson Reid took her seriously and started her off doing commercials and when she was 10 years old she had her debut in the movie "12 Years a Slave". Reid is also on the Emmy nominated show Euphoria starring Zendaya, and she plays the younger sister, Gia. Storm Reid has Teen Choice Award nomination, NAACP

image award nominated, BET award nominated, and there are more awards she has been nominated for. Recently Storm Reid won her very first Emmy for outstanding guest actress in the drama series "The Last of Us" for her role as Riley Abel. Throughout her career she has named Zendaya as her role model, and she has also stated that she would love to work with Viola Davis, Denzel Washington, and a couple more people. Back in 2020 Storm Reid graduated high school at the age of 16 and she finished school a month early. Now she is enrolled in college and she goes to University of Southern California where she will be receiving her Bachelor of arts in the school of dramatic arts and she will

be minoring in African American Studies. Reid also has her own production company called "A Seed & Wings". Back in 2013 her sister and her mom created this production company so that they could create content that represented the real world and tell stories that aren't being told. They also did this so that they can employ people and give people a chance that have not been able to show their talents. The name "A Seed & Wings" is about people taking risks no matter what others may say and how they make you feel, you just have to have faith in yourself and that is all that matters.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

True Power: An Insight on The Black Panther Party

by Christian Freeman, Review Writer

October 15, 1966, Oakland, CA. The world would be changed forever, not just for Black people, not just for racial climate, but the world at its core would be changed by the will of one party. That would be The Black Panther Party. Originally called "The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense" Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale set out to create an ideal of defense for Black communities. On an even grander scale however, their goals were to seize control from companies, elitists and institutions that have negatively affected their communities. However these ideals spun into a frenzy when people began to realize just how radical the Black Panther Party was. In May of 1967, a small group of members within the party led by Seale, Marched into the Californian State Legislature in Sacramento completely armed to the teeth in order to protest the Mulford Act. With this one gesture of real power being given to the Black community, the authorities would set out to try to quell the up and coming militia, and the Black Panther Party would challenge the rule of the police. Ultimately causing an

uproar in fire fights. To date the most escalated fire fight would happen with the LAPD against the Black Panther Party on December 8th, 1969. The LAPD would use false information to create a warrant to search a BPP headquarters building for "Stolen Weapons". This would devolve into a fire fight of huge proportions. Eventually even a tank, yes a military tank was brought in to be used as artillery against the Black Panther Party. It seems like the tank was a given considering 13 party members were arrested but the LAPD wasn't successful in killing any members like the Chicago PD did. The Authorities believed it was a good idea to combat the BPP in other aspects. Enter William O'Neal. An informant for the FBI, and the titular character of a movie released in 2021, "Judas and the Black Messiah". William O'Neal was to infiltrate the Black Panther Party and relinquish anything he learned to the police. Along with about 67 other informants these rarely made a dent in the BPP's plans according to history, however in the case of O'Neal himself he would only escape with his life. Eventually taking his own. From 1966 to

1982, with Major chapters in its life line the Black Panther Party would slowly come to an end due to police resistance and all of the counter intelligence the informants would cause. While the rise and fall of the Black Panther Party is apparent and sometimes hard to fully understand, the changes the party would inspire is nothing to scoff at. Rather something to give praise to, many were lucky to have the help of the Black Panther Party in their lives.



LeBron James

by Britney Olaleye, Managing Editor

In a triumphant celebration of Black History Month, we shine a spotlight on LeBron James, an iconic figure whose achievements extend far beyond the basketball court. As one of the greatest athletes of our time, LeBron James has not only redefined the game of basketball but has also become a symbol of resilience and empowerment. Born on December 30, 1984, in Akron, Ohio, LeBron Raymone James quickly rose from the challenges of a modest upbringing to become a household name in the sports world. His basketball journey began at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, where he gained national attention for his extraordinary skills, leading his team to three state championships. LeBron's professional career kicked off in 2003

when he was selected as the first overall pick in the NBA Draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers. This marked the beginning of a career that would see him shatter records and redefine what it means to be a basketball legend. With multiple NBA championships, MVP awards, and All-Star selections, LeBron's impact on the game is legendary. Beyond the basketball court, LeBron James has emerged as a powerful advocate for social justice and equality. The "I PROMISE School" in his hometown of Akron is an example of his commitment to education, providing underprivileged children with access to quality learning environments and resources. In a crucial year like 2020, when racial injustice took center stage, LeBron stepped up. He played

a crucial role in creating "More Than A Vote," a non-profit organization fighting against voter suppression. His voice became a powerful tool in advocating for social justice, inspiring not just basketball fans but everyone to stand up for what's right. As we honor Black History Month, LeBron James stands as a beacon of inspiration and resilience. His journey from a determined young athlete in Akron to a global icon is a testament to the power of passion, hard work, and using one's influence to make a positive impact on society. LeBron's legacy extends far beyond the basketball court, marking him not only as a sports

legend but as a symbol of Black excellence.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Youngboy Never Broke Again

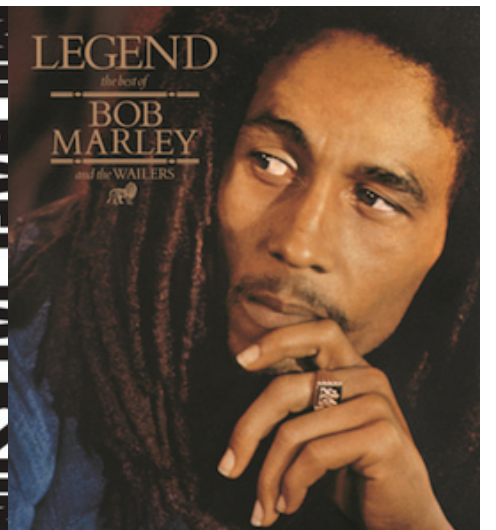
Taisen Jimerson; EIC

Worldwide rapper NBA Youngboy, has had control of the rap game for 7-8 years as he has produced great quality music. He's over achieved his ceiling, changed the rap game, inspired styles, put on for his city, and made musical flows that young rappers and artists look to seek after. He's been making a solid foundation since he was 16, as he's been a consistent and an efficient rapper to his fans. Kentrell Gaulden aka NBA Youngboy, was born on October 20, 1999. He grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, just like fellow rappers such as Boosie, Kevin Gates, Lil Phat, Fredo Bang, Webbie, and Foxx. Coming up as a kid, he was in between homes and had a rough childhood. As a toddler he broke his neck while wrestling, requiring him to wear a brace on his head until the spine healed all the way up. This ended up giving the nickname "Denthead", as he accepted his bumps on his forehead as a part of his identity. As a growing boy his Dad was incarcerated ever since he was born and his Mother lost rights to take care of him due to her being ill-fit of a mother. That left Kentrell only able to be raised by Grandmother. He stayed with his Grandmother on 38th st, Chipewawa, in North Baton Rouge. Kentrell Gaulden was inducted into the street life when he was first with his rap group, TBG (Top Boy Gorilla's). He was with TBG from ages 13-15, as he was shad-

owing head artists like Da Real Gee Money and Fredo Bang. He left the group in 2014-2015 due to complications with his family. A 14-year old Kentrell started rapping on his own and developing his craft. He proclaimed his stage name as NBA Youngboy because NBA stands for Never Broke Again. Legal problems caused him to change it because the NBA league didn't want affiliation. In 2015 he released his first mixtape called "Life before Fame" and it gave him a little buzz. He would then break into his debut with hit songs that following year like "I ain't hiding", "38 baby", "Gravity", and "Down Chick" with his famous debut album, "38 baby". At age 17 he worked hard at his craft as he produced top 100 billboard songs like "No smoke" and "Graffiti". He establishes his clothing craft for his NeverBrokeAgain brand and it blows up. His music had so much influence on people of all ages, and he was only 16-17 years old. However, Youngboy Never Broke Again's best year was 2018. In 2018, YOUNGBOY showed us the versatility of his music. Producing drill songs like "Overdose", pop hits like "Outside today", and melancholic taste like "Genie". All of these songs were featured on his album of the year, Until Death Call My Name, releasing April 27, 2018. This album was Youngboy's first US top-ten debut album as it charts 43,000 album-equivalent units.

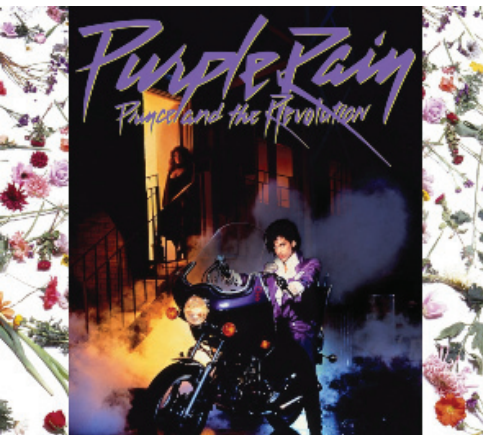
It also debuted as number seven on the US billboard 200 chart. At age 18 Youngboy had already the fanbase, musical foundation, guidance, and management as he signed with Atlantic records that previous year. Complications with authorities have been hindering the young artist, but he has shown his kindness to humanity. His music has helped people with trauma and problems as they can relate to his music, he has donated to his city on multiple occasions, he collaborates with small artists to give them better opportunities at their dreams, and he put his city on the map in these last few years. He has influenced the style of the game with the way he dresses and acts as well. As of recently he has been staying out of trouble, taking care of his family, being a consistent and efficient artist, putting on more rappers under his label, and being in his most calm and collected state of mind. He has been running the rap game since he was 16 years old. From the years 2016-2024, has been a great run so far for this young artist, and he is only just 24 years old. It is more to come from NBA Youngboy as he is dropping a new project in 3 months from now. He has saved lives emotionally, imprinted his name as a legend in the game already at a young age, and has received recognition from other great rappers in his time and before his time. Youngboy Never

Broke Again is a phenomenal Black Man and his talent is unmatched to this new age eye as he receives slander nowadays. He is blackballed by the music industry and is still very successful all around. This is an example of a Young Black Man that came from poverty and violence, and turned his life around, not only for his family and friends but for the good of himself and the Almighty.

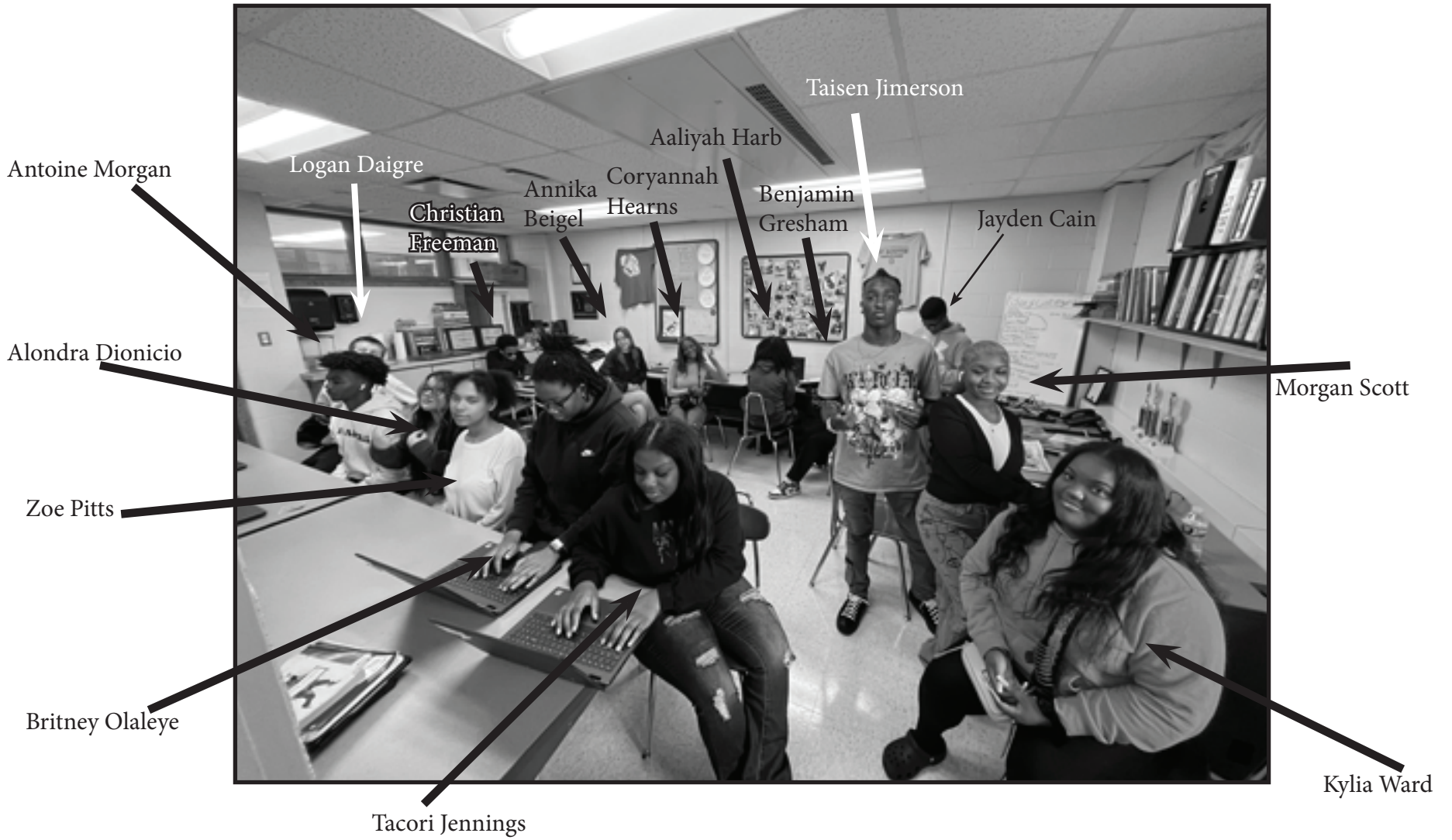


TOP SELLING ALBUMS OF ALL TIME

These albums by Black artists have each sold at least 20 million copies and are among the top 50 highest selling albums in history



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Nnyla Lampkin- 2017

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Nnyla Lampkin, the first Black valedictorian in TF South history

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