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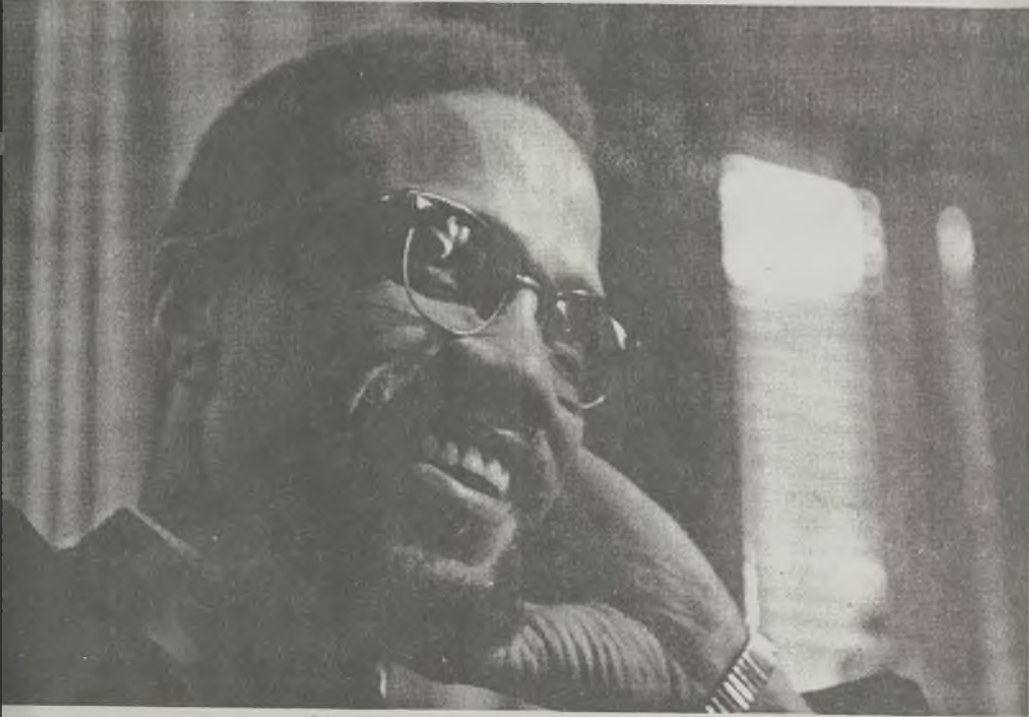
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Malcolm X

## First MLK's Kids, Now the Heirs Of Malcolm X Are Headed to Court

Special to the NNPA from the  
Houston Forward Times

Family members of Malcolm X have filed suit to prevent publication of the slain leader's diary. The issue is the diary Malcolm X kept during the year of his assassination, as he traveled through the Middle East and Africa. The diary has been reproduced for publication and lists the daughter of Malcolm X, Ilyasah Shabazz, as an editor. Other family members, however, are in a legal suit, alleging that the publisher, Third World Press, does not own the rights to the diary. The President of Third World Press, Bennett Johnson, disputes the family's claim and says the publisher has a contract signed by one of Malcolm X's daughters. The memo promoting the publication of the diary shows Malcolm X discussing the importance of the diary and has been added to the body of work already produced by Malcolm X.

"It's really beautiful that we get to see Malcolm in his own voice - without scholars, historians or observers telling us what he was thinking or what he was doing or what he meant," Shabazz says. Third World Press says the memoir "described deep personal connections [Malcolm X] developed during a time that was constantly colored by his prophetic sense of impending tragedy." They also promote the diary as a "unique" blueprint for African-Americans. The diary is scheduled to be published on November 23. Court papers filed by the heirs of Malcolm X in Manhattan court could delay or even prevent publica-

## NAACP Meets Nov. 24

The Durham Branch NAACP's Monthly Membership meeting will be Nov. 24 at 4 p.m. at Emmanuel AME Church, 2018 Riddle Rd..

Rev. Anita Thompson is the host pastor.

The public is invited to attend.

## LRSD, Joshua group support desegregation agreement

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) - The Little Rock School District and a group of patrons known as the Joshua Intervenors are both now on board with a planned settlement of a 30-year-old desegregation lawsuit that has resulted in the state's giving \$1 billion to integrate schools in Pulaski County.

A federal judge has set a hearing for Dec. 9 on the state of Arkansas' request to stop \$70 million in payments altogether. Attorney General Dustin McDaniel negotiated an agreement with the Little Rock, North Little Rock and Pulaski County school districts to end payments after four more years.

He also wanted the Joshua Intervenors to agree. Little Rock television station KATV reported the intervenors said Monday they were on board. The Little Rock district also voted Monday to proceed.

The district's board voted unanimously to go forward with or without the Joshua Intervenors. However, after a resolution was passed, the intervenors agreed to the settlement.

Part of the settlement includes continued payments from the state through the school year 2017-2018.

Prior to the board approving the settlement, members passed a resolution to commit to a facilities study, find out which schools are top priority and also focus on helping schools in southwest Little Rock.

It was this resolution that made the Joshua Intervenors jump on board.

McDaniel issued a statement calling the agreement "a historic milestone decades in the making."

"With this agreement, the state and the three Pulaski County school districts can move forward to focus on the best interests of the students, rather than on costly, burdensome litigation," he said.

He added that he looks forward to presenting the agreement to the court soon.

## HBCUs Struggling To Keep Up

By Dorothy Rowley  
Special to the NNPA  
from  
The Washington  
Informer

The president of the D.C.-based Thurgood Mar-

College Fund said recently that historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) are feeling the effects of underfunding, but are getting serious about resolving those

In doing so, the 106 schools - which the University of the District of Columbia and Howard University - can help keep their doors open.

"They're struggling and many are teetering on closing their doors," the president, Johnny Taylor, told NewsOne's Roland Martin about a crisis causing many of the nation's 104 HBCUs to lose millions of dollars.

"The reality is we are sending students home, we're laying off faculty - so we're impacting the markets and communities in which these schools exist and thrive or should be thriving," Taylor said. "So it's a real issue."

Asked about how college officials are dealing with the financial losses, Taylor said they're tightening spending in all areas.

"They're laying off," he said. "They're getting rid of work study [programs that have] helped many of us get through college."

Taylor said that the U.S. Department of Education has yet to fully grasp the severity of the schools' financial woes.

"They're closing libraries early and reducing operating hours and student services functions," he said.

Among HBCUs that have closed recently are Morris Brown College in Atlanta, which was \$35 million in debt at the time of its closure in 2012, and St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Va., which had only 111 students enrolled when it closed in June. Like the majority of HBCUs, both schools had been in existence for more than 100 years.

In April, Renee Higginbotham-Brooks, a member of Howard University's Board of Trustees, warned in a letter to her fellow trustees that the university could possibly be shuttered by 2016.

But Marybeth Gasman, an education policy professor at the University of Pennsylvania who has studied HBCUs at length, said the situation isn't as bad as it's made out to be. In a recent interview, she alluded to a newspaper ar-



Johnny Taylor, president of the Thurgood Marshall College Fund in D.C., said HBCUs are laying off faculty and staff and eliminating student work study programs. (Courtesy photo)

## GOP blocks key Obama court nominee in Senate vote

By Alan Fram

WASHINGTON (AP) - Senate Republicans blocked another of President Barack Obama's picks for one of the nation's top courts, the latest skirmish in a nominations battle that has intensified partisan tensions in the chamber.

The vote derailed Obama's selection of Georgetown University law professor Cornelia Pillard to fill one of three vacancies on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The roll call was 56-41 in favor of ending GOP procedural delays that have blocked Pillard from winning confirmation - four short of the 60 votes Democrats needed.

The D.C. circuit court is considered one of the nation's most powerful because it rules on administration orders and regulations and because its judges ultimately become Supreme Court justices. The D.C. circuit's eight current judges are divided evenly between Democratic and Republican nominees.

Democrats used the vote to assail Republicans for opposing female nominees to the D.C. circuit. Republicans have blocked votes on two other female nominees to the same court this year, attorneys Patricia Millett and Caitlin Halligan.

"Women are grossly underrepresented on our federal courts. So what kind of message are Senate Republicans sending by refusing to even allow three of the most qualified female attorneys in this country?" Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., said.

Sen. Charles Grassley, top Republican on the Judiciary panel, called such arguments "offensive," adding that Democrats' "last line of defense" to accuse Republicans of opposing nominees based upon gender or race.

Leahy's vote prompted Democrats to threaten anew to unilaterally rewrite Senate rules to make it harder for the chamber's minority party to block nominations. Democrats could do that by curbing a minority's ability to require 60 votes to end procedural delays called filibusters.

Republicans are inching closer and closer to that line. "I'd hope they'll turn back," said No. 3 Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

It is unclear that Democrats have enough votes to force such changes. Some senior lawmakers have long warned that it would boomerang against them if the GOP recaptured the Senate majority and the White House.

In a sign of shifting attitudes, Leahy - a senator for nearly four decades - said he now backs a rules change because blocking judges for political reasons "destroys the integrity of the federal judiciary."

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