

DAVI7 12/01/17
UNC-CH SERIALS DEPARTMENT
DAVIS LIBRARY CB# 3938
P O BOX 8890
CHAPEL HILL NC 27599-0001
**CHILL



The Carolina Times

THE TRUTH UNBRIDLED

VOLUME 97 - NUMBER 9 DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA - SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018 TELEPHONE (919) 682-2913 PRICE: 50 CENTS



Chadwick Boseman stars in "Black Panther." (Marvel)

Film Review: Marvel's "Black Panther" Is Near Perfect

By Dwight Brown (NNPA Newswire Film Critic)
Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

The Black Panther character was first introduced into the Marvel Studios pantheon back in 1966. The launch took place in the comic book "Fantastic Four Vol.1" issue 52. So why did it take 52 years for that character to make its solo debut on the silver screen? Well, apparently it takes five decades to make a populous-loving, near-perfect Black Marvel film. And it is worth the wait.

Audiences got a taste for the newest incarnation of the character when T'Challa/Black Panther debuted in Captain America: Civil War, the saga in which Avenger characters battled against each other. With filmmaker Ryan Coogler ("Creed," "Fruitvale Station") as its director and spiritual guide and a script he co-wrote with Joe Robert Cole, this Marvel chapter is decidedly and unapologetically Afrocentric—it's all about the motherland and bit about urban America.

Upon the death of his father, the king of Wakanda, T'Challa, (Chadwick Boseman, "Get on Up," "42"), the prince, comes home to the mythical and modern, high-tech metropolis hidden somewhere in Africa. To ascend to the throne, the heir must take on challengers in a public ritual, witnessed by his people. He does. As the new king, vested with superhuman powers, Black Panther is the protector of his nation.

In short time, he is pulled out of his comfort zone when he is asked to track down Ulysses Klaue (Andy Serkis), a South African illegal arms dealer, who is involved with dastardly American mercenary Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan). The two have a precious Wakandan artifact, made of "Vibranium," a powerful, mystical, precious metal that empowers the kingdom and was the foundation material for Captain America's shield. The crooks intend to sell the relic to a CIA Agent (Martin Freeman). For some reason, Erik has an unbridled anger for T'Challa and his deceased father. He seeks their throne, which he feels is rightfully his.

The king is led into a dangerous Korean casino where the artifact purchase will go down. His guides are his love interest Nakia (Oscar winner Lupita Nyong'o, "12 Years A Slave") who is a Wakandan international spy and Okoye (Danai Gurira, "The Walking Dead"), the fearless head of Dora Milaje, the Wakanda Special Forces. The success or failure of their mission holds a key to Wakanda's future.

Coogler's rich and dense script features a plethora of characters who have varied relations with the king: There's W'Kabi (Daniel Kaluuya, "Get Out"), head of security for the Border Tribe; Shuri (Letitia Wright, "Urban Hymn"), T'Challa's tech wiz sister, who is also a scientist and inventor who supplies her brother with weapons and gadgets; M'Baku (Winston Duke, TV's "Person of Interest") leader of the Jabari Tribe, who once challenged T'Challa; and the Queen Mother Ramonda (Angela Bassett).

Once the plot and characters are set in place, the storyline winds its way through various countries, highlighting strong rivalries, a touch of romance and some comic moments. What's different about this Marvel episode is that there are also themes that debate whether wealthy African countries should stay self-contained or become an active part of the diaspora and advocate for social and economic justice in other places. That's not the kind of subplot or character motivation audiences will find in a Thor, Iron Man or a Captain America movie. Kudos to Coogler for being a courageous filmmaker able to handle social issues, as well as cartoon characters. Also, the dialogue can be very royal and serious or completely cheeky, like when Shuri off-handedly refers to the CIA agent as a "colonizer." It's a joke, but it's not a joke.



Chadwick Boseman stars in "Black Panther." (Marvel)

Billy Graham played complicated role in US race relations

By Jay Reeves

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) - The Rev. Billy Graham was single-minded when he preached about God, prefacing sermon points with the phrase "The Bible says ..." Yet he had a complicated role in race relations, particularly when confronting segregation in his native South.

In Alabama for one of his evangelistic crusades in 1965, just months after passage of the Civil Rights Act, Graham talked about the Confederate flag flying "proudly" atop the state Capitol and the fact that both of his grandfathers served as rebel soldiers, according to a recording available on his ministry's website. He didn't address the evils of segregation directly, talking instead about God's unique power to change people and communities.

But Graham also drew scorn from segregationists for speaking to racially mixed crowds and allowing blacks and whites to mingle during the trademark altar call that ended each service. The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was an ally, and King publicly credited Graham with helping the cause of civil rights.

As a white moderate who spoke with a Southern drawl, Graham helped ease the region's transition away from legalized segregation, said Steven P. Miller, a scholar who has written about Graham. Graham had a "huge base" of white support in the Bible Belt, Miller said, and those people listened to him.

"He could reach that audience as a native Southerner, but also because he spoke a familiar evangelical language - and because he was obviously not an activist," said Miller, author of the book "Billy Graham and the Rise of the Republican South."

"Ultimately, what Graham put forth was what we might now call a colorblind gospel," Miller said via email. "In this sense, he provided a familiarly Christian path for some white Southerners to back away from Jim Crow."

A current civil rights leader from Graham's native North Carolina, the Rev. William J. Barber II, credited Graham with meeting with King and agreeing to challenge segregation, an act Graham pursued through preaching reconciliation and peace rather than marching.

"Billy Graham inherited a faith in the American South that had accommodated itself to white supremacy, but he demonstrated a willingness to change and turn toward the truth," Barber said in a Facebook post after Graham's death. "He helped to tear down walls of segregation, not build them up."

Still, Graham had regrets. In an interview with The Associated Press in 2005, when he held his final crusade, Graham said he wished he had fought for civil rights more forcefully. In particular, Graham lamented not joining King and other pastors at voting rights marches in Selma, Alabama, in 1965.

"I think I made a mistake when I didn't go to Selma," Graham said. "I would like to have done more." Graham also apologized for making anti-Semitic remarks that were captured on the White House taping system installed by President Richard Nixon, who relied on Graham for both spiritual needs and political cover. The relationship between the two men helped turn the South into the solidly Republican territory it is today, Miller argues in his book.

Born in 1918 on the family farm near Charlotte, North Carolina, Graham grew up in a South strictly divided by race. In an act that sounds mundane now but was perilous at the time, he demanded the removal of ropes separating black and white audience members at a crusade in the South in the early 1950s.

Graham was an internationally known preacher traveling the world by 1955, when King first gained notice by leading a bus boycott against segregation in Montgomery, Alabama. Graham embraced King's work, and the two appeared on stage together during a Graham crusade at New York's Madison Square Garden in 1957. Graham paid the jail bond following King's arrest during demonstrations in Albany, Georgia, in 1962.

Following the racial violence of "Bloody Sunday" in Selma in 1965 and partly at the suggestion of President Lyndon B. Johnson, Graham toured Alabama, speaking to racially mixed crowds. It was during that trip that he recorded the message in which he spoke wistfully of his Confederate roots and God's ability to heal.

MLK's daughter supports students, says gun changes overdue

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.

ATLANTA (AP) - As the 50th anniversary of her father's assassination approaches, the daughter of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. said Feb. 22 that limiting access to guns is long overdue.

The Rev. Bernice King, speaking at The King Center in Atlanta, offered condolences to the families of the 17 people fatally shot Feb. 14 at a Florida high school and commended survivors for their activism to change gun laws.

She said she hopes people can "look toward solutions as these young people are forcing us to have the conversations, bipartisan conversations." She also plans to join them for the "March for Our Lives" in Washington next month.

"I thought about the fact that 50 years ago my father was taken away from us with a rifle," she said. "A few years after, my grandmother was slain. ... It is long past due in this society that we do something about the access to guns and the type of guns."

Martin Luther King Jr. was fatally shot on April 4, 1968, while standing on the balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee.

Starting April 4, The King Center will hold a series of events during a six-day span to commemorate the anniversary. The center will launch a cross-cultural act of kindness campaign, a peace prize award ceremony and a global bell ringing starting at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis and the King Center in Atlanta. King said she wants to focus on peace instead violence.

"Daddy gave the vision," King said. "He outlined philosophy and methodology. But it was the people who embraced it. I'm hoping it will revolutionize our society to come back to it. I hope we don't miss this moment. Daddy said we still have a choice: nonviolent coexistence or violent annihilation. For me, it's recommitting to my father's nonviolent philosophy and methodology as we move forward."

King said the planning for the anniversary was an opportunity for "deep healing."

Online: <http://www.mlk50forward.org/>

Associated Press writer Alex Sanz in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Talk-show host sues PBS for breach of contract after firing

WASHINGTON (AP) - Talk-show host Tavis Smiley is suing his former employer, the Public Broadcasting Service, for breach of contract after he was fired over sexual harassment allegations.

The Washington Post reports that the lawsuit was filed Feb. 20 in D.C. Superior Court against PBS, based in the Washington suburb of Arlington, Virginia.

PBS fired Smiley in December after it said it received multiple, credible allegations of workplace misconduct by Smiley on his eponymous late-night interview show.

Smiley has acknowledged having romantic relationships with colleagues over his career, but says they were consensual.

PBS called Smiley's lawsuit meritless and an effort to distract the public from his misconduct.

Smiley, who is African-American, contends in the lawsuit that racial bias contributed to his dismissal.