

Ebony

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Ebony Media Operations, will also maintain the magazine's Chicago headquarters and its New York editorial office.

Both sides declined to disclose the sale price of Ebony and Jet. However, some Ebony alumni believe Clear View Group bagged Ebony and Jet for a price that would have John H. Johnson rolling over in his grave.

The news angered many former Ebony employees.

Many believe the sale is another bad business decision that follows years of turnover and mismanagement at the two iconic magazines that lost their original purpose. Filled with fluff and light stories on beauty and fashion,

sources say top executives who lacked the vision and passion of John H. Johnson stripped Ebony and Jet of their soul.

While Johnson Publishing Company's top brass say the deal ensures the continuation of Ebony and Jet, many blacks bemoan the end of two historic, family-owned publications that shaped and elevated American black culture more than any publication, Black or white.

Stories and photos of black Americans and celebrities were often left out of mainstream newspapers and magazines. Model and actress Diahann Carroll made her career debut in Ebony. Billy Dee Williams stopped by the office shortly after filming "Lady Sings the Blues," with Diana Ross.



The announcement of the purchase was the first of several moves that ushered in a new chapter in Ebony and Jet's future. Ebony's current Editor-in-Chief Kierna Mayo jumped ship to take a position as senior vice president of content and brands at Interactive One.

Hours after the announcement, Columbia College Chicago announced that it was putting the iconic Johnson Publishing headquarters building up for sale. Six years ago, the school purchased the building at 820 S. Michigan from the Johnson family.

The deal with Clear View Group capped years of uncertainty and speculation of Ebony and Jet magazines. Both publications were hemorrhaging as they

competed with Essence magazine, a younger Black female-oriented publication that has made big gains on its older rivals. That 46-year-old publication is owned by Time Inc.

Still, many black and mainstream publications, have been losing millions of dollars in advertising revenue to the Internet since the late 1990s. On June 23, 2014, Jet magazine — Ebony's pocket-book-sized sister publication that had been around for 71 years — published its final print edition. Jet, the digital version still exists.

Both publications are now under new ownership, but with a deal shrouded in mystery, the future of Ebony and Jet remain uncertain. It's been reported that Clear View Group is black-owned, but a search for the owner Michael Gibson, turned up empty. The Crusader was unable to find any information or website on the Clear View Group.

There are also questions as to why a black businessman buying Ebony and Jet would refrain from appearing in public to proudly announce the heroic rescue of two iconic magazines. What risks could there be for such a move?

Johnson Publishing did not return an email from the Crusader, but in a television interview with Roland Martin on "NewsOne Now," Rogers remained tight-lipped about Ebony's new owner. She defended the sale of the iconic magazine, describing it as "extremely important" for Ebony's survival.



Whole Man Ministries' Homes 4 Our Heroes initiative has one house left to finish rehabbing on Cameron Avenue.

Whole Man

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"It's amazing for me to see a people, the veterans, that have fallen and need a helping hand," he said. "Once such a vital part of our society, to see them where they seem like they've lost their dignity, but when they get keys to their own place, to see the change in them, it's amazing."

The city gave grants to various community organizations in this year's budget like the Arts Council, Experiment in Self Reliance and HARRY Veterans Community Outreach Organization. Those organizations were chosen based on the recommendations of the Community Agency

Allocation Committee. The committee is made of nine citizens who review city grant requests. Other organizations that were turned down this year were Women of Wisdom, Josh

Separately, Whole Man has been raising funds to finish restoring its last house on Cameron Avenue. Homes 4 Our Heroes has used volunteer labor to convert five dilapidated

the last house. The project still has \$30,000 to go and, if all goes well, it will be completed by Veterans Day of this year.

Whole Man pastor Barry Washington said he plans to fund the effort by raffling a donated car and applying for other grants.

"We will continue to push forward and try to raise funds," he said.

He said though the city donated the buildings and gave his organization a loan to help pay for some of the rehab work, Homes 4 Our Heroes has yet to receive a grant from the city.

Two houses at other sites were donated to the cause, one is currently occupied with a veteran and the other is in need of rehabilitation before it can be used.

"We will continue to push forward and try to raise funds."

—Barry Washington, Pastor

Howard Foundation, Industries for the Blind, and a Freedom Tree at IDR (Institute for Dismantling Racism) initiative called Share Cooperative of Winston-Salem.

houses on Cameron into duplexes for homeless veterans. Currently, four are completed and house six veterans. BB&T has given \$20,000 in donations and in-kind volunteer labor to

Discount

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black schools, in addition to UNC-Pembroke and Western Carolina University, increase their enrollments.

Charging that his life had also been threatened, Apodaca removed his bill.

Fast forward to Monday evening, June 27,

when leaders of the state Senate and House announced that they have a \$22 billion budget agreement ready for both houses to ratify this week, and Gov. Pat McCrory to possibly sign no later than Friday, in time for the new fiscal year beginning July 1.

In as part of the new budget is the provision Apodaca said he would kill, a \$500-per-semester

tuition, this time involving just three schools — UNC-Pembroke, Western Carolina University and Elizabeth City State University.

Senate Majority Leader Phil Berger said the schools were re-included because their chancellors asked to be. He added that ECSU was in "critical" need of the program because a March audit showed a sharp drop in

enrollment, with only 232 students out of over 1186 freshmen admitted who actually enrolled.

The Rev. Dr. William Barber II, president of the N.C. NAACP, continues to criticize the move, charging that it is just a "shell game" to ultimately close ECSU down. Apodaca says the budget has \$40 million allotted to help all three schools with any shortfalls next year.

NBTF

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raising \$10 million for the exhibits themselves.

The commissioners also unanimously approved a \$400,000 grant for the Arts Council to purchase a currently vacant 10,000-square-foot building at 419 Spruce Street. The building is next to UNC School of the Arts Stevens Center on Fourth Street downtown and may be used as part of potential expansion of the performance venue.

According to Arts Council President Jim Sparrow, the building is being considered as a new home for the New Winston Museum, currently located on South Marshall Street, and the NBTF Hall of Fame. It could act as a short-term and permanent home for the museums, which are discussing a possible joint operating strategy. He said if the decision is made to use the building for those museums, it could open by the time the NBTF happens next year.

"It's a possibility we could do relatively quickly if that's something they feel is aligned with what they want to do," said Sparrow.



Sparrow



Kortienaar

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