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Don't Miss the WI Bridge Center Section

Let's Protect our Planet - Do Something Honoring Earth Day 2018

Black Men's Conference Focuses on New Strategies, Empowerment

By Barrington M. Salmon
Special to The Informer

A common theme and a unifying thread that tied together almost a week of lectures, forums and workshops at the 10,000 Black Men's Conference this month was the assertion that African Americans must do for self.

Regardless of the topic — whether it was business, education, finances or politics — lecturers, speakers and presenters such as Dr. Cornel West, Professor Griff, Dr. Tony Browder, D.C. Attorney Malik Zulu Shabazz, Professor James Small and Ilyasah Shabazz, author, community activist and daughter of slain human rights activist Malcolm X, stressed the importance of nation building, independence and self-sufficiency.

African Americans are confronted with a mélange of issues, including the widespread killing of primarily unarmed Black men, women and children by law enforcement; the troubling rise of bigotry, white privilege and nativism; racial profiling; police brutality; an increasingly hostile president and administration; and self-destructive behavior that impedes or stunts Black people's progress.

These realities are what prompted organizers to create a vehicle for change.

Jauhar Abraham, one of the conference organizers, characterized the week's activities a success, adding that

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▲ Attorney Malik Zulu Shabazz (center) speaks to those gathered at the White House during the 10,000 Black Men's March on April 21. /Photo by Mark Mahoney

Cosby Witness: Accuser's Edict was No Blacks and No Women

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

Jurors on Tuesday began deliberating the fate of comedian Bill Cosby in his sexual assault retrial after closing arguments were made.

Cosby could face up to 30 years in prison if convicted on the three counts of aggravated indecent assault he's been charged with.

Defense attorneys rested after presenting evidence from a Federal Aviation Administration expert, who confirmed the authenticity of records that show the icon could not have been in

Pennsylvania when prosecutors said he assaulted Andrea Constand in January 2004.

Ironically, it appeared from records that Cosby may have been in Toronto — Constand's hometown.

In the initial trial last year, jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict on any of the three counts alleged against the funnyman, whose lawyers didn't call any witnesses during that trial.

This year, his team led by famed defense attorney Tom Mesereau, called six witnesses and the judge

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D.C. Council Advances Student Discipline Bill

By Stacy M. Brown
WI Senior Writer

District Councilmembers have taken a big step to reduce suspensions and expulsions, particularly as African American and other students of color are often the primary targets of such discipline.

The Council voted unanimously to advance the "Student Fair Access to School Act," which would reduce the use of exclusionary discipline practices, including suspensions and expulsions.

"The full Council has taken the first step to protect every student's right to an education, of which suspensions and expulsions deprive them," said At-Large Councilmember David Grosso, who introduced

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▲ Comedian Bill Cosby exits a Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, courtroom on April 20. /Pool photo

