



Forest Park Mentioned In Magazine

Said to Be Place Where Wealthy Blacks Reside

By JAMES R. STUART
Special to the Chronicle

Forest Park, a suburban town in the Oklahoma City metropolitan area, is mentioned in the August edition of *Ebony* magazine as one of several towns or cities in the nation where wealthy Blacks live.

“The Black Wealth Issue” is the theme of the magazine’s latest edition.

The mention of Forest Park is included in a piece, entitled “The State of Black Wealth: Where the Wealthy Are.”

Forest Park was selected as one of “a few pockets” of Black wealth, where majority Black neighborhoods have at least a third of Blacks who annually earn more than \$75,000.

In addition to Forest Park, the city of View Park-Windsor Hills, Calif., was mentioned.

View Park-Windsor Hills was described as a city economically affected by the oil fields of Inglewood, Calif., and is a contender for inclusion on CNN’s list of best places to live.

Mentioned, too, in the *Ebony* article were Ladera Heights, Calif., and several other cities east of Oklahoma.

The August edition of the magazine “swings wide the mansion doors, breaks open the vault and goes on the record with Black America’s best known but most private people, all to assemble the most in-depth look at Black wealth to date,” a news release said.

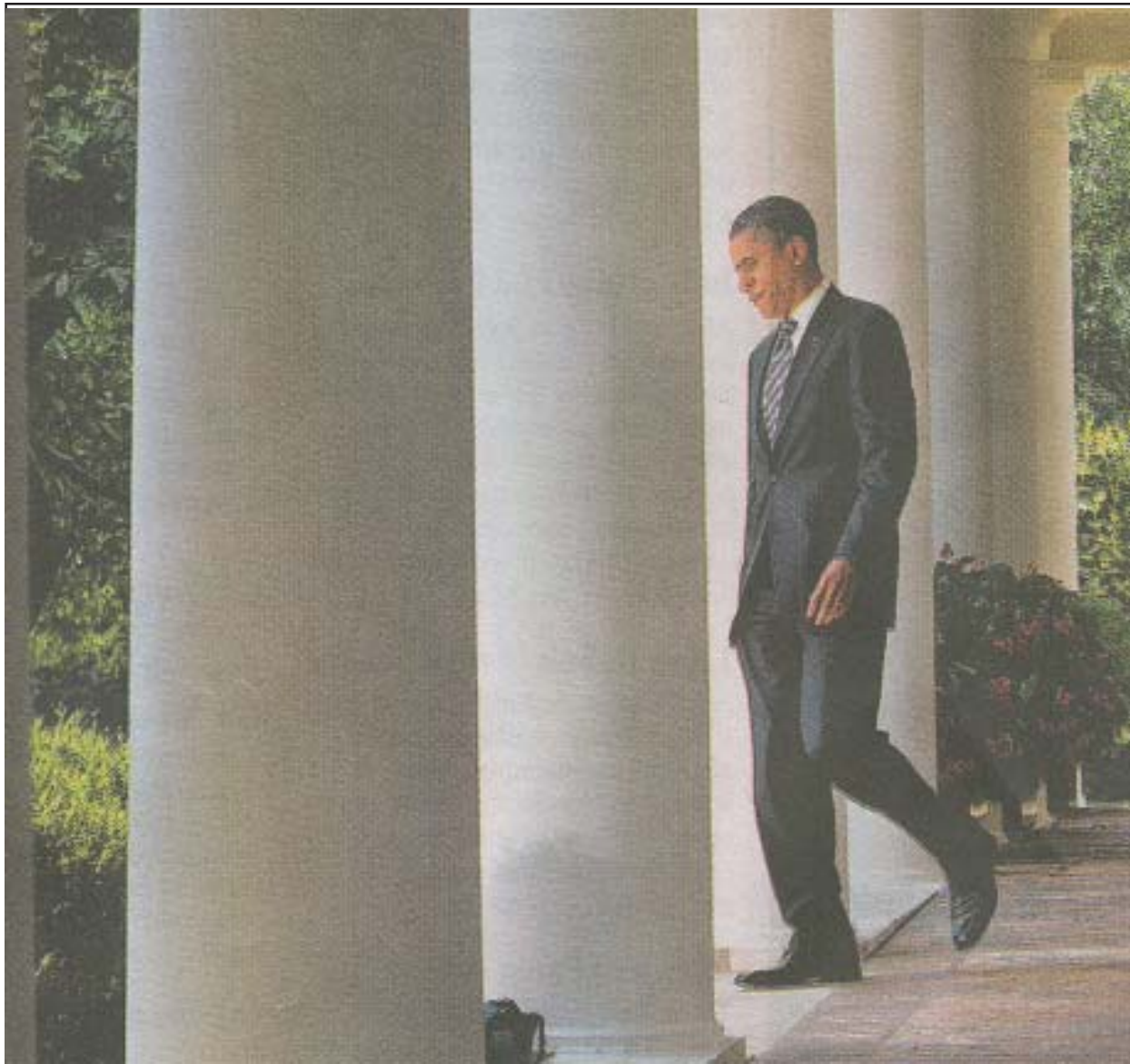
“Multi-million-dollar mogul Tyler Perry opens up to *Ebony* about his new role in the forthcoming film, ‘Good Deeds,’” the news release stated, “and how this one-man empire overcame impossible odds to reach improbable heights.”

“Wealth does not have to mean billion-dollar bank accounts, yachts and private hedge funds,” the news release went on, adding that the August edition offers advice from top financial advisors to the

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The town of Forest Park is among towns and cities in the nation mentioned in the latest edition of *Ebony* magazine as having a concentration of wealthy Blacks as residents.



After the Crisis

After President Barack Obama signed the hard-fought-for bill lifting the federal debt ceiling, he declared the troubles related to the crisis were avoidable and promised a new effort to spur job creation.

Local Principal

Harrison, Dubbed as a Champion Of Change, Participant in Seminar

By W. ORLANDO PIERCE
Special to the Chronicle

WASHINGTON—The principal of the Millwood Arts Academy was dubbed a Champion of Change by the President’s Committee on the Arts & the Humanities, and recently participated in a roundtable discussion held in the nation’s capital.

Christine Miles Harrison, who has been an educator for 31 years, was joined for the seminar by eight other “education champions,” who hailed from throughout the country.

Dr. Mary Schmidt Campbell, vice chairman of the arts and humanities committee and dean of the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University, was one of the moderators of the discussion.

At the invitation of the White House, the select group of Champions of Change is periodically called upon to gather in Washington to discuss programs they and their organizations have implemented.

Arts and Education

On July 19, the group assembled to discuss the role played by the arts in improving public school education.

Attending the seminar along with Mrs. Harrison were a school superintendent, principals, several not-for-profit chief executive officers, and representatives of a variety of educational and cultural organizations.

Those nine were joined by the committee’s Creative Coalition, a group of artists active in the entertainment industry, who are advocates of the arts as change agents for educational achievement.

(Actors Omar Epps, Tim Daly and Rachael Leigh Cook are among the Creative Coalition members.)

“[There is] compelling evidence that building creativity-rich schools and integrating arts strategies into classroom instruction is



Christine Miles Harrison

vital to preparing students for success,” Dr. Campbell said as the seminar began.

White House

“[Champions of Change],

nominated by their peers and selected by the White House, are making this a reality on the ground,” the seminar’s co-moderator declared.

“Their stories and expertise are both inspiring and instructive for other leaders and colleagues in effecting change,” she said.

Peter Cunningham, assistant secretary of communications of the federal Department of Education, reminded participants that schools are in crisis, citing dropout rates, declining performance indicators and the dissatisfaction of American business with the preparation of students.

He stressed that both President Barack Obama and Secretary of Education Arne Duncan believe that improving public schools is critical to the country’s future.

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First Black Faculty Member at University Of Oklahoma Is Dead

Henderson-Tolson Cultural Center Named for Him

By JAMES S. TYREE
Norman Transcript

NORMAN—Dr. Melvin B. Tolson Jr., a professor emeritus of modern languages and literature and the first Black faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, died Sunday after a lengthy illness.

He was 88.

The Henderson-Tolson Cultural Center at the university is named for Dr. Tolson and Dr. George Henderson, a retired professor, who also was one of the first Blacks to teach at the Norman school.

Dr. Tolson was the first Black to earn a master’s degree at what is now Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

He joined the University of Oklahoma faculty in 1959, two years after arriving in Norman as a doctoral student, and went on to teach French for 31 years.

Dr. Tolson won a Regents Award for Superior Teaching in 1967 and was elected into membership of the university’s chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa, the national honor society.

He was one of three faculty members who worked with students in forming the Afro-American Student Union, now called the Black Student Union.

Dr. Tolson served as a Univer-



Melvin B. Tolson Jr.

sity College advisor, as well.

The longtime educator served for several years on the staff of the National Defense Education Act Institutes for Secondary School French Teachers.

Dr. Henderson called Dr. Tolson “a superb teacher, friend, colleague and confidante.”

“Above all else, he was one of the kindest and most thoughtful persons I have ever known,” Dr. Henderson said.

“He was the brother I never had. He was my unassuming hero.”

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Aug. 6

Opala Is Set to Discuss The Struggles of Black Seminoles Freedmen

By ROBERT E. BARNES
Special to the Chronicle

WEWOKA—Dr. Joseph A. Opala will discuss “An African-American Odyssey: the Black Seminoles and Their 25-Year Struggle for Freedom” at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 6.

The seminar will be held at the Wewoka Civic Center, 123 N.

Mekuskey St.

The seminar is sponsored by the Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band of Oklahoma.

Dr. Opala,

a historian, will discuss the history of the Creek and Seminole Indian Freedmen, and their connection to the Gullah people and to Sierra Leone.

The speaker is the author of “Gullah Connection,” which outlines the link between the Gullahs in South Carolina and Georgia, and Sierra Leone.

The Gullahs live in small farming and fishing communities along the Atlantic Ocean coastal plain and on the chain of Sea Islands.

Because of their geographical isolation and strong community life, the Gullahs have been able to preserve more of their African cultural heritage than any other group of Blacks.

They speak a Creole language similar to Sierra Leone krio, use African names, tell African folktales, make African-style handicrafts and enjoy a rich cuisine based primarily on rice.

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Dr. Joseph A. Opala



Play With Me!

“One, Two, Three, Play With Me” sessions will be held through November at metropolitan area libraries. (See the complete story on Page A 9.)

