

10 THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

BY TANYA A. CHRISTIAN

1 GIRLS FIRST

In Kenya, two out of three teenage girls don't have access to sanitary pads and reproductive health education. To provide them with more resources, the Nairobi-based ZanaAfrica Foundation launched *Nia Teen*, a magazine that addresses questions about reproductive health, adolescence and puberty. The magazine is being distributed to more than 5,000 Kenyan girls three times a year and, in 2018, will expand to East Africa and other regions.

ISSUES

2

MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGH

Diabetes, which disproportionately affects African-Americans, often requires invasive glucose monitoring. In 2015 Black-owned firm Better Life Technologies Group applied for a patent on a wearable device that detects glucose levels and blood content in gases emanating

from the skin's surface, as opposed to pricking a finger. The instrument will be available by the end of 2019.



HONORING AN ICON

The Canadian \$10 bill is getting a face-lift. In 2018 the image of Viola Desmond, a Black civil rights leader, will replace that of the nation's first prime minister. She will become the first woman ever to appear on the country's banknote. In 1946 Desmond made her mark by refusing to give up her seat in a Whites-only section of a movie theater in Nova Scotia.

3 SOUL FOOD SHUTTLE

Detroit start-up The Soulcial Scene is looking to increase patronage of Black-owned restaurants in the city's downtown and midtown areas. This spring the company will provide shuttle services for area residents and workers to social events, like happy hours, at these establishments. Visit soulcialscene.com for more information.



“Live out loud, and understand that what's in your brain is really useful. Do not hide it. Don't dumb it down. Don't

apologize for it. Just put it on the table and let people deal with it.”

—Mrs. Michelle Obama, offering advice to young girls, during a CBS interview with Oprah Winfrey

5 HIGHLIGHTING OUR HISTORY

A cohort of researchers is acknowledging the underreported yet critical roles that Black women have played in shaping American history. The group reviewed some 800,000 documents via high-performance computing and found evidence of Black women's significance in the field of medical science and other contributions from colonial times to today. The findings (“Rescuing Lost History: Using Big Data to Recover Black Women's Lived Experiences”) were presented at a forum this past September.

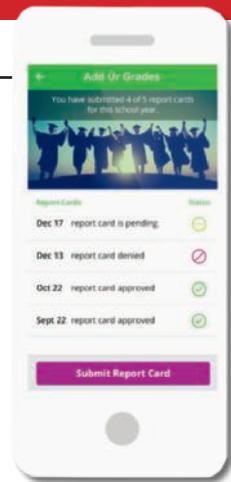
6 BLACK STUDENTS ABROAD

Just 5.6 percent of students who travel overseas are African-American, a recent study found. To help increase that percentage, We Go Too, a Black travel resource company, has partnered with Howard University to host a passport drive in April. At the event, students will be able to apply for a new passport, renew an old one and get free passport photos.



8 AN APP THAT REWARDS

There's a new way to congratulate students for a job well done. Kudzoo, a mobile app, allows students ages 13 and older to upload a photo of their report cards to gain Kudzoo Cash for good grades. The cash can then be redeemed for chances to receive deals, gift cards and scholarship information. Download Kudzoo from the App Store or Google Play.



9 BOLSTERING BLACK EMPLOYMENT

The United Negro College Fund has helped send hundreds of thousands of students to college since 1944. Over the next five years, the civil rights organization will continue its legacy by dispersing \$35.3 million in grants to 24 colleges and universities—most of which are HBCUs—for programs that will specifically address the unemployment and underemployment rates of Black college graduates.

“I guess they couldn't relate to me because I'm Black, I'm strong, I'm tall, I'm powerful and I'm confident. And my arms might not look like the girl's over there. Or my legs might not look like someone else's. Or my butt or my body or my anything...If you don't like it, I don't want you to like it. I'm not asking you to like it. I like it and I love me.”

—Serena Williams, on accepting her body, during an interview with Common for ESPN's *The Undeclared*



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