

# THE MONTHLY STANDARD

Volume 7 Issue 50

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Edition: Aug. / Sept. 2024

**50th Edition**



**AALIYAH**

**GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Page 6**

Also in this Issue:

Pardon John Brown: Page 4

Eat at Niki's: Page 7

Unknown Hall of Famer: Back Page

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**NIKKI'S PIZZA**  
SINCE 1980  
A GREEKTOWN TRADITION

**DETROIT'S BEST PIZZA! -735 BEAUBIEN**

**King Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 React to gravity
- 5 G-man's org.
- 8 Gym-floor padding
- 12 Sandwich cookie
- 13 "— the fields we go ..."
- 14 Shrek is one
- 15 Paper quantity
- 16 Leave
- 18 Distinguish
- 20 Senate staffers
- 21 "Monty Python" starter
- 22 Solidify
- 23 Intended
- 26 Faint
- 30 Noah's boat
- 31 Actor Cruise
- 32 Omega preceder
- 33 Protract
- 36 Tablet bearer
- 38 Bagel topping
- 39 Yon maiden
- 40 Rice (Sp.)
- 43 Endure
- 47 Omit
- 49 Emanation
- 50 Logical
- 51 Ailing
- 52 "— It Romantic?"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33			34	35					36	37		
			38						39			
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47						48				49		
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

- DOWN**
- 1 Dress-maker's dummy
  - 2 Vicinity
  - 3 Plumbing problem
  - 4 Chinese noodle recipe
  - 5 Concentrate (on)
  - 6 Suspenders alternative
  - 7 Anger
  - 8 Aesopian
  - 9 Enthusiastic, plus
  - 10 Verifiable
  - 11 Collections
  - 17 Tarzan's clique
  - 19 Giant in Coopers-town
  - 22 Group of whales
  - 23 Crazy
  - 24 Blunder
  - 25 Alias (Abbr.)
  - 26 Cauldron
  - 27 Chances, for short
  - 28 Work with
  - 29 "— the sea son to be
  - 31 Formal wear
  - 34 Boxer's gear
  - 35 Seep
  - 36 First name of 19-Down
  - 37 Invest with authority
  - 39 With ardor
  - 40 Moreover
  - 41 Peruse
  - 42 McNally partner
  - 43 Island dance
  - 44 River of England
  - 45 Coffee shop array
  - 46 Skin art, for short
  - 48 Lubricate

**CryptoQuip**

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

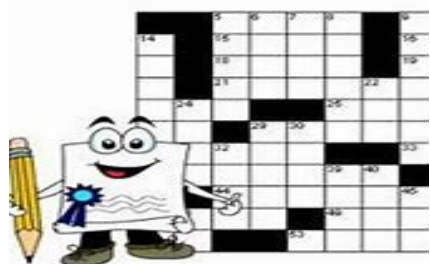
Clue: S equals T

ES RT HERQNY KQMSWT YOER, F

REDM MEZU KEWSFZFKECS

MJMCSNEOOT SEDM E SNWC

HQW SUM JMWYM.



**PUZZLE PAGE  
HAVE FUN!**



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Detroit's Organ Man

At Comerica Park a musical revival is taking place led by Dave Calendine. He's the organist for the Detroit Tigers and Dave truly loves his job. "It's awesome bringing back a tradition that hasn't been in Detroit for 42 years." The Monthly Standard questioned Dave on the number of years when we asked: *Didn't the Tigers have organ music at Tiger Stadium in 1999 during the last game?* The lighthearted Calendine quipped: "Yes they did, but that music was brought to you by Memorex." His answer gave us both a good laugh.

The return of live organ music to Detroit Tigers' games has rekindled a nostalgic atmosphere, reminiscent of baseball's golden age. With each note, Dave enhances the excitement of the game. He knows it too! "It's so much fun being a part of the off field entertainment" says Calendine. His repertoire spans classic ballpark anthems to contemporary hits. Fans are encouraged to cheer and sing along, and they do. "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" is a fan favorite as well as the "Addams Family" theme. Whether the team is winning or losing Dave ensures a good time is had by all at Comerica Park.

Beyond the diamond, Detroit's Organ Man is also a fixture in the city's vibrant theater scene. He performs at the Fox, Fisher, Redford, and Senate theaters. His commitment to the arts enriches the cultural fabric of Detroit, making him a cherished figure in the community. Dave is also committed to Detroit. He lives Downtown and loves it. The Warren, Ohio native was recruited to by the Ilitch organization to play organ over 30 years ago. "Back then, I moved Downtown and everybody thought I was crazy. Now people look at me as a trendsetter."

Currently, Dave plays the organ at Comerica Park only on weekends. Let's hope the Tigers give us more organ music. It's time-honored, and works. If the fans reaction mean anything, and it does, next season we'll hear Dave's euphonious organ playing at all 81 home games. As the 2024 Tigers season winds down, each weekend, fans can look forward to the uplifting melodies of Detroit's Organ Man, Dave Calendine. His dignified playing is a reminder of the joy and tradition that live music brings to America's pastime.



Dave Calendine



Dave at work with a great view of the field

Please make  
pies & Circulate

Opinions are encouraged  
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Wednesday September 18, 2024

Detroit and other Michigan Cities  
will visit Lansing (the state capitol)  
and

**Step Up for Safe Driving**  
Residents will petition lawmakers to  
enact and enforce laws that  
will put an end to red light running  
and drag racing.

\*This event has been approved by the state.  
Chartered buses and cars will meet and leave  
Bert's Warehouse near downtown Detroit  
at 9:00am and return at 4:00pm. Participants  
from other cities can meet at the Lansing  
State Capitol at 11:00am.  
The program will start at 12 noon.  
It is advisable to bring a lawn chair.  
If you wish to travel by chartered bus call

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Driving is an option.

Opinions are encouraged

1123 people in Michigan die  
each year in traffic accidents,  
that equals 21 people per week.  
In Detroit alone 156 deaths  
equaling 3 per week.  
20,000 accidents

James Ford



I walked away  
but will you?

## Help Detroit Red Lights Prevent Auto Accidents

The Flyer (at left) says it ALL. For more  
information call James Ford at either  
phone number provided on the flyer.



detroitredlights@gmail.com



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Google: detroitredlights.com

# President Biden: PARDON JOHN BROWN!

John Brown, one of America's greatest heroes, is still considered a criminal. We The People must change that. Born in the year 1800, John Brown had abolitionism in his blood. His father, Owen Brown was an abolitionist. In fact, the elder Brown knew Harriet Tubman. Owen was a conductor on the Underground Railroad. Later in life, John Brown called Harriet, General Tubman. For those who do not know what an abolitionist is: They were citizens, both Black and White, who were determined to ABOLISH slavery. By 1837, after seeing years of harsh treatment by pro-slavery forces, John Brown had enough. A pro-slavery mob in Illinois lynched a Presbyterian minister, newspaper editor, journalist, and abolitionist named Elijah Lovejoy. Upon hearing about the crime Brown arose in his Ohio church, raised his right hand to God and spoke this solemn oath: **"Here before God, in the presence of these witnesses, from this time, I consecrate my life to the destruction of slavery."** John Brown was a kind soul. His moral compass was heartfelt. He considered all men as his equal. When his neighbors asked him to help them shoot Native Americans because of a hunting dispute Brown said: **"I will have nothing to do with so mean an act."** Instead Brown invited both Natives and Black men to his home for dinner. Such action in that day and age was incredibly rare and kind. Native Americans were seen as Savages. Black people were not considered human! According to the United States Constitution Blacks were only 3/5 of a human being. During his lifetime Brown set moral examples for all to live by.



Portrait of John Brown



Takes oath to end slavery



Headed to gallows, kisses baby



Close-Up of scene above

The USA was evil. Setting a moral example had to be difficult. Brown was likely ostracized. All of his life Brown heard speeches against slavery. He was influenced by the great Black abolitionists of the day Frederick Douglas and Sojourner Truth. In 1855, Brown went to the Kansas Territory to fight against the violent pro slavery forces there. The goal was to have Kansas enter the Union as a Free State. Brown succeeded and became a nationally known figure. Next, Brown wanted to end slavery in the USA. In October of the year 1859, his hope was to incite a slave revolt by overtaking the United States Arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia (Now West Virginia) The raid on Harpers Ferry failed. Brown tried to take the arsenal with only 21 men. No slaves revolted against their masters. Brown and his band of freedom fighting insurrectionists were holed up inside the arsenal and surrounded by U.S. troops commanded by Colonel Robert E. Lee. Yes, the same Lee that fought against the United States for the Confederate Army to preserve slavery. Lee's men crashed the door and arrested Brown. He was convicted of treason and sentenced to death. On the day of his execution (December 2, 1859) Brown wrote his last prophetic thoughts on the issue of slavery. **"I, John Brown, am now quite certain that the crimes of this guilty land will never be purged away but with blood. I had, as I now think, vainly flattered myself that without very much bloodshed it may be done."** He was correct. Over 620,000 people died in the Civil War. Most of them singing John Brown's name as they marched into battle. We all agree the USA that endorsed slavery was an evil place. John Brown felt that way too. The wicked nation that executed him is long gone. The USA can prove it has matured by decriminalizing this great American hero and humanitarian, With this act, the U.S Government can close the door to slavery forever. **Pardon John Brown. Forthwith!**

## Solution To Detroit's Hospitality Needs Is Transforming the Ren Cen



The 2024 NFL Draft proves Detroit is on the rise. The city attracts visitors and businesses alike. However, the city faces a pressing challenge: a shortage of hotel rooms. One innovative solution lies in repurposing the iconic Renaissance Center (Ren Cen) into a vibrant hotel destination. Rather than tearing down its iconic towers transforming the Ren Cen into a hotel complex can breathe new life into this architectural gem.

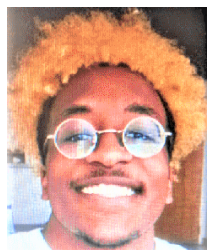
This approach not only preserves a significant piece of Detroit's skyline but also stimulates the local economy. More hotel rooms mean more visitors, which translates to increased revenue for local businesses. With its prime location along the Detroit River, the Ren Cen offers stunning views and easy access to downtown attractions. Embracing this vision for the Ren Cen can position Detroit as a premier destination, ensuring that the city continues to thrive in the years to come.

NOTE CREDIT THE ORGAN MAN FOR IDEA

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**SCRIPTURE -and you must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind and with your whole strength.' Mark 12:30**

# SPORTS



TREY OWENS

## Michigan Football Will Field A Good Team This Season But Do Not Expect Them To Go Undefeated

Michigan football is coming off the best stretch they've had in over a decade. They have won three straight Big Ten titles and claimed the ultimate prize, the national championship. However, Michigan has a unique problem to solve going into 2024. How do you keep everything the same when everything is different? The coaching staff is basically brand new. Starting at the top with Sherrone Moore replacing legendary Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh. Even though there are new faces in high places, Michigan and Moore won't skip a beat and will continue to sit at the table of college football's elite. The main reason Michigan will be stellar this upcoming season is the defense is still supremely talented. Returning veterans Will Johnson and Mason Graham will continue to wreak havoc on opposing offenses, becoming a top five unit in the sport once again.

The biggest question marks for the team lie on the offensive side of the ball. But with Moore being a former offensive lineman and line coach himself, I'm not worried about Michigan's offense because the identity of being a smash-mouth run first team will still be there. With Donovan Edwards finally taking the reins at tailback Michigan will be running to the new realigned playoff. The College Football Playoff will now have 12 teams vying for the national championship. Unfortunately, Michigan will not be undefeated going into the playoff this time around. This is a new team coming together and learning who they are, so there will be a loss or two on the schedule during the season, but that's what growing pains are for. Michigan will need to be playing its best come November, and based off of the blueprints left by Harbaugh, Michigan will be doing just that.

*(The Monthly Standard gladly endorses guest college football analyst Trey Owens who is enrolled at Rutgers University).*



Head Coach Sherrone Moore

AP



## Recent Trades Leave Fan Base Disillusioned

What happened? The Detroit Tigers were on a good stretch. They won 12 of 17 games against some really good teams. (Guardians, Dodgers, & Blue Jays) They were getting clutch hits, their confidence as a team was rising, and they seemed to be gelling as a team at the right time. Then they ran into their division rivals, the Minnesota Twins, and the first place Cleveland Guardians. They lost 6 out of 9 games and were shutout 3 times. To make matters worse, whatever continuity the team had is gone. At the trade deadline dependable starter Jack Flaherty was shipped off to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Ace reliever Andrew Chafin was booted to the Texas Rangers. Mark Canha (who was struggling) got dealt to the San Francisco Giants.

The fans are not happy. Christine Shupp Zingrich of Palm Coast, Florida said; "I guess they don't want to win." HOWDIDWEGETTOTHISPOINT from Portage, Michigan wrote: "A good player don't last long in Detroit when it comes to pay raise time." Denden from Flint wrote: "Well I'm done with the Tigers. They should've gotten something significant for Flaherty, but didn't." Richard from Grosse Pointe went off on the team: "Typical Detroit Tiger fashion across the board. They got nothing. Old minor leaguers. No guts, no glory. Now did I want them to trade Skubal? No. Only if it be an offer you couldn't refuse. Flaherty, they should've gotten something significant, but didn't. All you got was career minor leaguers. Season is now over on July 30th. Maybe.....One day." Richard we feel your pain. Your issue is noted. What's the point of acquiring Flaherty, Chafin, and Canha in the off-season, and signing them to one year contracts, just to trade them away for basically nothing in return? Not one of the players acquired by the Tigers are in the top 10 by the teams that traded them. The Canha trade, we can live with, but what's the point of trading proven major league pitchers for mere prospects? That means you start at square one again. THE REBUILDING NEVER STOPS. Detroit is a baseball town. Thus far, over 1.1 million fans have walked through the turnstiles at Comerica Park. If a TOTAL COMMITMENT from management is not shown by spending money on free agents, like Mike Ilitch did, a faction of the loyal Tiger fan base might rebel. There are many more frustrated Detroit Tigers fans out there whose laments are identical to those featured in this article. Tigers President Scott Harris is not worried. Speaking on a local radio show, Harris said: "We did not settle on castaways...We got the players we targeted and we're happy to add them to our system."



Tigers President Scott Harris MLB

# COVER STORY

## Detroit's Aaliyah: A Timeless Icon of Music and Film

All memorable entertainers are recognized by only one name. Liberace. Cher. Madonna. Usher. Ludacris. AALIYAH. Her legacy is all the greater because she became one of the greats in a very short time. August 25, 2024 will be the 23rd anniversary of her death from a horrific plane crash. It's still difficult to speak about her in the past tense. One has to wonder about the great performance art the world missed out on when she passed.

Aaliyah Dana Haughton was a multifaceted talent whose impact on music and film continues to resonate with fans around the world. She was born on January 16, 1979, in Brooklyn, New York, but her formative years were spent where she was raised: Detroit, Michigan. Aaliyah's family moved to Detroit when she was only five years old. They settled in the Sherwood Forest neighborhood and she went to Gesu elementary school. Her journey to stardom began at the young age of ten when she appeared on the nationally known talent show Star Search. Although she didn't win, the show was her stepping stone, and she leapt off of it to become a generational superstar. She first captured the public's attention with her debut album, "Age Ain't Nothing but a Number," released in 1994 when she was just 15 years old.



The album showcased her unique blend of R&B, hip-hop, and pop, establishing her as a formidable force in the music industry. Aaliyah's influence extended beyond music. She also made a significant mark in Hollywood. Her roles in films like "Romeo Must Die" and "Queen of the Damned" showcased her acting prowess and charisma, further solidifying her status as a cultural icon. Despite her untimely death Aaliyah's legacy endures.

Her music continues to attract new fans, with hits like "Back & Forth", "Try Again", and "Are You That Somebody?" remaining popular on streaming platforms and radio. Fans remember Aaliyah not only for her incredible talent but also for her timeless look, style and grace. As a pioneer for young artists, she broke barriers and set trends that are still felt in the industry today. Aaliyah's spirit lives on through her music and the countless lives she touched, ensuring that her legacy will never fade.



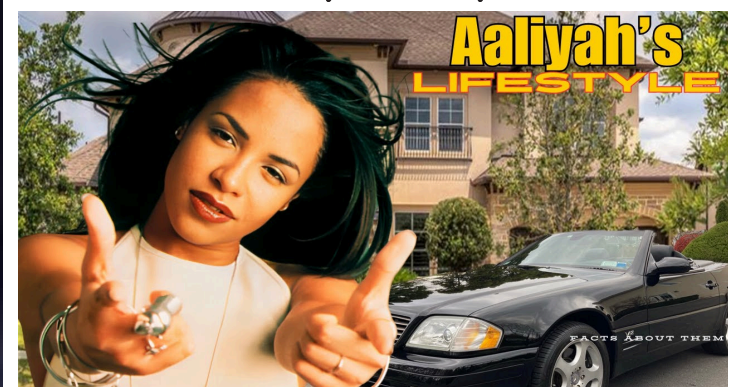
Aaliyah's Childhood Home-SEE VIDEO on [www.themonthlystandard.news](http://www.themonthlystandard.news)



AaliyahPhotos Pinterest



GESU-Aaliyah's Elementary School



Aaliyah's LIFESTYLE

# FEATURE STORY

## Hungry? Niki's \$10 Lunch Specials Can't Be Beat!

When visiting downtown Detroit, you must visit Niki's Pizza. Especially at lunch time. Located at 735 Beaubien in Greektown, this beloved eatery offers daily \$10 lunch specials that showcases the rich flavors of Mediterranean cuisine. Each day there will be something special waiting for you.

Monday's are for salads! Choose from Chicken Greek, Antipasto, Greek Gyro, or Chicken Caesar. All these delicious salads are ONLY \$10! They are all tasty, but our favorite is the Antipasto salad. It's a lighter option with a delightful mix of crisp greens, olives, salami, and provolone cheese, drizzled with a zesty vinaigrette. This salad is not only refreshing but also packed with flavor, making it a perfect midday pick-me-up.

Tuesday's are Gyro day! Choose between chicken or lamb. We love the lamb but for us the chicken stands out. It's a classic dish featuring tender marinated chicken wrapped in warm pita bread, complemented by fresh vegetables and a tangy tzatziki sauce. It's a satisfying choice that transports your taste buds straight to Greece. (Fries come with that too).

Wednesday is Pizza day! Large pizzas are HALF-OFF, ALL DAY!

Thursday is is Wrap day! For a hearty meal you cannot go wrong by choosing the Chicken Caesar, Grilled Chicken, or Crispy Chicken. All Wraps is are stuffed with chicken, fresh veggies, and a creamy dressing.

Friday is 1/2 pound burger day! The 1/2 lb. Burger with fries is a classic American staple that Niki's does exceptionally well. Juicy and flavorful, this burger is sure to satisfy any craving. (Soft drink included).

With such a diverse menu, Niki's \$10 lunch specials are a fantastic way to enjoy a delicious meal without overspending. Whether you're a local or vacationing in Detroit, make sure to stop by and indulge in these mouthwatering offerings! Niki's lunch specials are offered Monday through Friday from 11 am to 3 pm.



Chicken Caesar Salad



Gyro with fries



Half Pound Burger and Fries



Crispy Chicken Wrap

# LIVING A BASEBALL DREAM

## My Life As A Baseball

By Dana Redd



As a baby baseball, I would always dream about being in the World Series. I heard those baseballs are treated extra special. Let me briefly tell you about my life so far as a baseball. When I played my first game in the poor section of town, I was thrown in the back of an old pickup truck along with a few dirty, worn out baseballs on our way to a Little League game. There were only four of us and we had to play the entire game. I was hit by these little kids so many times, my stitches were about to unravel. They were also dropping me so much, I became determined to roll away and try to at least make it to a college campus, where the grass was cut and I could be treated with a little more respect.

I kept wishing for a way out and I finally got my opportunity one rainy afternoon (when I felt abused because of the weather conditions). A batter hit me into a puddle-filled bush. Both teams and their managers looked all over for me, but I was well-hidden, eyes closed and stiff as a corpse. I knew the other baseballs were probably a little upset with me for playing possum, but it worked and I was left on the field. That night I felt free. I knew it could only get better. I heard stories from older baseballs about living the glamorous life. They told me that if I ever made it to the big leagues I'd be only one of 100-200 baseballs used in ONE game. I was visualizing big, packed stadiums with the smell of hot dogs, peanuts and Cracker Jacks.

That next morning, I rolled myself into the bright sunshine and was found by a little kid who cleaned me up and took me to his home. He placed me on a windowsill and all we did was watch baseball games together. I spent lots of time dreaming about traveling to different cities and maybe get caught by a fan (where they didn't throw me back on the field), or even going to the Baseball Hall of Fame in a glass case. How awesome would that be? But right now, I'm in a good place.




## HELP COACH ROB CLEAN-UP DETROIT

Litter is a MAJOR problem in Detroit. This summer, The Monthly Standard has seen many big blue trash cans on the west side of town. So we investigated. When we found the man responsible for the cans we found out Coach Rob Sims is interested in cleaning up Detroit in more ways than one. **"The Movement-Stop The Violence"** was created by Sims and it's all about giving back. "I was a knucklehead coming up. So when I got the chance to help the kids I reached back." **At right, Sims is pictured with his wife Kenia.** She told us: "We are a grass roots organization working with youth. We started in 2004 and our goal is to keep kids out of trouble." Coach Rob continued: "We help kids with their school work. We teach them how to create businesses and how to fill out credit applications too. **To learn more, or donate call 586-238-9705.**



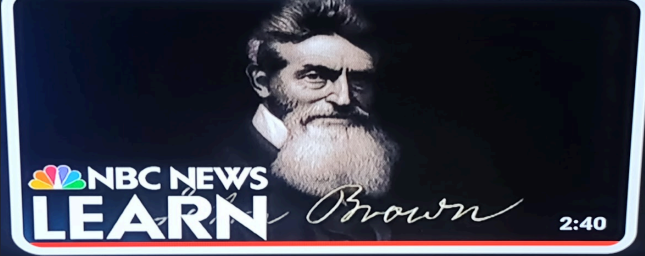
# YouTube

The Monthly Standard is an interactive newspaper. As you can see, most of our articles have a corresponding video attached to to give YOU a better perspective. To view our video content log on to [www.themonthlystandard.news](http://www.themonthlystandard.news).




**Aaliyah's Childhood Home**  
5:08

Inside of Aaliyah's Detroit Home 🏠



**NBC NEWS LEARN** *Brown*  
2:40

**John Brown's Bloody End to Slavery**



1:36:30

**One in a Million: The Ron LeFlore Story (1978) | LeVar Burton | From**

Aaliyah ay home & MORE!

John Brown

Current Movie of the Month



1:24

**Niki's Pizza-GreekTown Detroit- THE BEST!**



1:04

**Pete Hill - Baseball Hall of Fame**



2:12

**Detroit Redlights**

Niki's Pizza

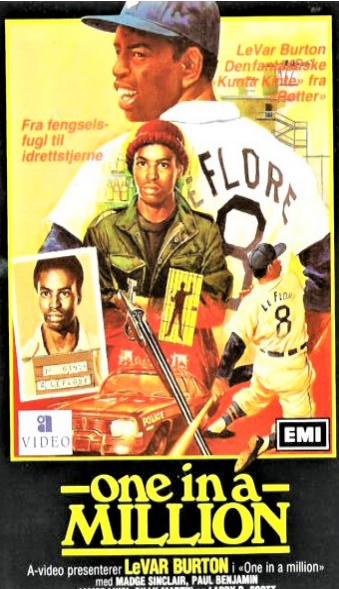
Pete Hill HOF Video

Detroit Redlights

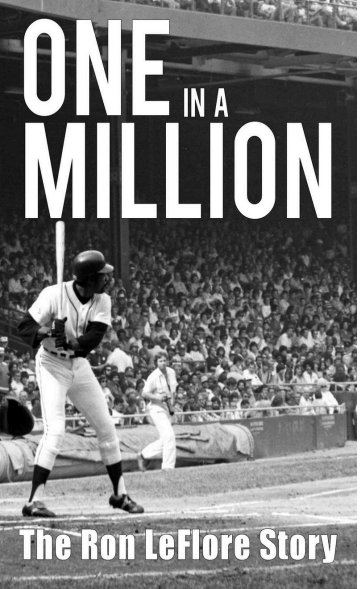
## MOVIE OF THE MONTH

### "One In A Million"

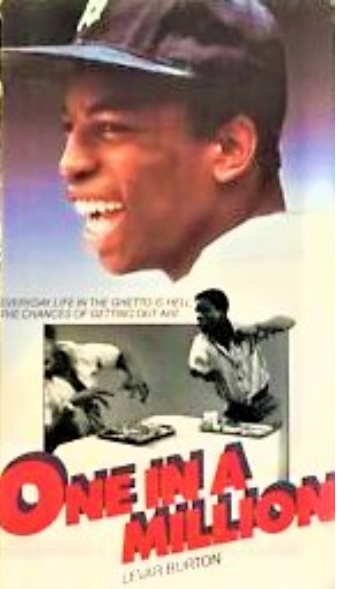
The Ron LeFlore story (One In A Million) began as a book by ex Detroit Free Press columnist Jim Hawkins. The book was released on January 1, 1978. The book was a hit. So much so, a movie was quickly shot, and released, in September 1978. The Ron LeFlore story is incredible. LeFlore was convicted of robbing a bar on Detroit's east side and sent to Jackson State Penitentiary. He never played organized baseball but somehow got noticed, IN PRISON. He got a tryout with the Tigers, and became a Major League Baseball All-Star! The movie stars LeVar Burton and many Detroit Tigers from the 1970's. To watch film go to: [www.themonthlystandard.news](http://www.themonthlystandard.news).



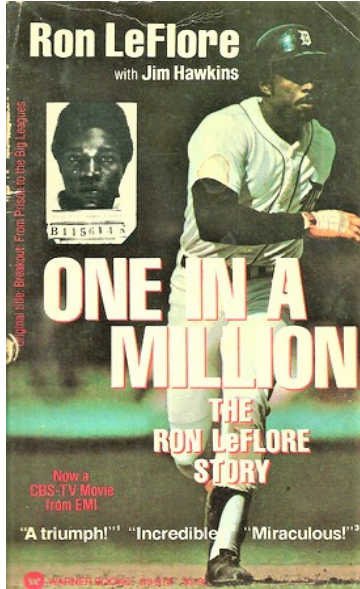
**one in a million**  
LeVar Burton  
The Ron LeFlore Story




**ONE IN A MILLION**  
The Ron LeFlore Story



**ONE IN A MILLION**  
LEVAR BURTON



**Ron LeFlore** with Jim Hawkins  
**ONE IN A MILLION**  
THE RON LEFLORE STORY



**THE RON LEFLORE STORY**  
**ONE IN A MILLION**

# CLASSIC GANGSTER COMICS & MORE!

WAR ON CRIME—The "Finger Man"

True Stories of G-Men Activities Based on Records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation—Modified in the Public Interest

By REX COLLIER



## top ten Pet Phobias

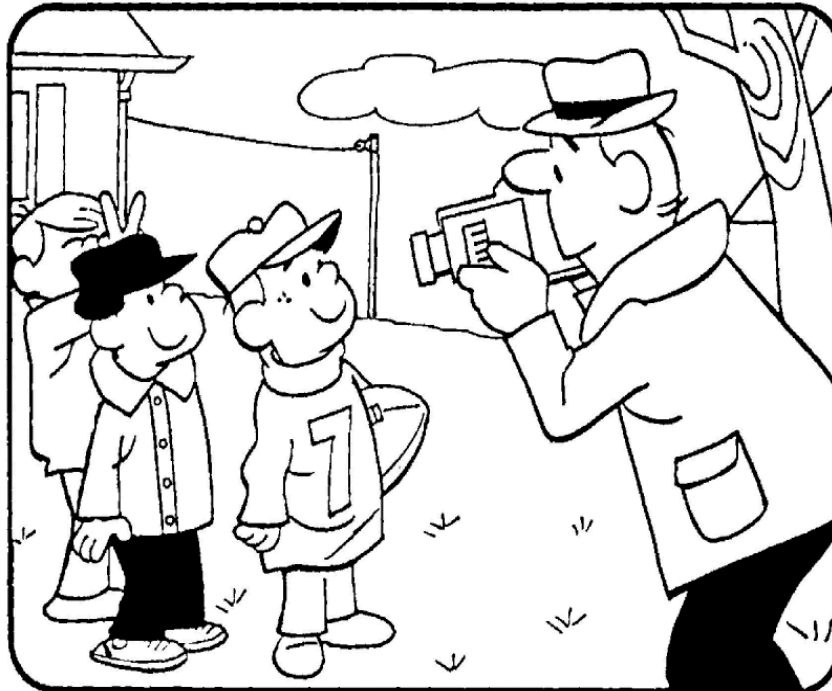
1. Thunder/lightning
2. The color white
3. Sitting
4. Rabies
5. Needles
6. Medications
7. Crowds
8. Being alone
9. Mirrors
10. Baths



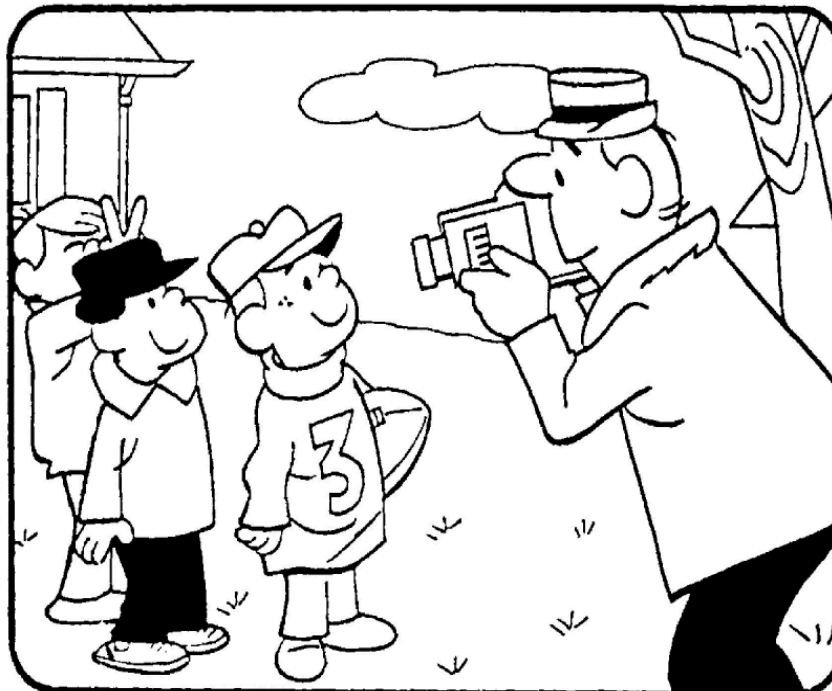
Source: dvm360.com

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Clothesline is missing. 2. Button strip is missing. 3. Number is different. 4. Hat is different. 5. Collar is different. 6. Pocket is missing.

## PUZZLE

## ANSWERS

— King Crossword —  
Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

F	A	L	L	F	B	I	M	A	T	S
O	R	E	O	O	E	R	O	G	R	E
R	E	A	M	C	L	E	A	R	O	U
M	A	K	E	O	U	T	P	A	G	E
				I	T	S	G	E	L	
M	E	A	N	T	P	A	S	S	O	U
A	R	K	T	O	M	P	S	I		
D	R	A	G	O	U	M	O	S	E	S
				L	O	X	H	E	R	
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S	A	N	E	I	L	L	I	S	N	T
O	D	D	S	L	A	Y	N	E	S	S

## CryptoQuip

answer

At my famous poetry slam, I make each participant eventually take a turn for the verse.

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# THE BACK PAGE

## PETE HILL

### THE UNKNOWN HALL OF FAME

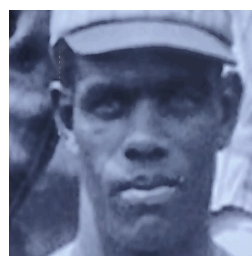
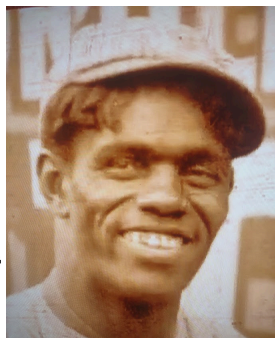
Pete Hill is the greatest baseball player you've never heard of. Hill is known as the first black superstar in baseball. It's been said, in his day, only Ty Cobb rivaled Hill's skill level. Unfortunately, no video exists of Pete Hill. Let's face it. Even the statistics we do have from his career are incomplete. The fact is, his true stats will never be known. Hill played in leagues that are long forgotten and records of his early box scores have long since disintegrated. His first year of professional baseball was in 1899 when he was only seventeen years old. Life was tough in those days. Many black teams barnstormed (went from town to town) and played all comers. Pete Hill was a part of that lifestyle.

#### Forgotten Legacy

Imagine the first 15 years of the careers of Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, and Barry Bonds being lost to history. That's what happened to Pete Hill. (Only bits and pieces of his early stats remain). The Hall of Fame charts his statistics beginning in 1914. At 32 years of age, he still had many great years of baseball ahead of him, but it's safe to infer his greatest years were lost to history. Thankfully, enough evidence of his greatness was compiled to qualify him for induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006. Still, hardly anybody knows him.

The Monthly Standard (TMS) knew there had to be somebody who could shed some light on Pete Hill's early days. We found him. Phil Dixon of Kansas City, Missouri is the preeminent expert concerning all facets of black baseball. Dixon was also member of the Negro Leagues Statistical Review Committee sanctioned by Major League Baseball. (That's the committee that recommended the inclusion of Negro League records into the MLB records books). Concerning Hill's impressive 1905 season, Dixon wrote: *"the aesthetics of Hill's left-handed hitting and throwing made it appear as though he had copied them from a text book. Because he was virtually clandestine, pitchers seldom recognized him until it was too late. Hill, throughout the season of 1905, pounded baseballs with a consistency that literally made pitchers scratch their heads in amazement. He was nearly impossible to keep off base."* Dixon, referring to Hill's performance against all levels of competition in 1905, said; *"Hill collected hits as if they came in bushels. His 1905 totals included three five-hit games, three games of four hits and an amazing twenty games in which he had three hits - a total of 87 hits in just 26 games."*

That snippet proves that Pete Hill had many superb seasons prior to 1914.



#### Modern Day Recognition

It's good the Detroit Tigers honor Norman "Turkey" Stearnes every year on Negro League weekend. At TMS, we believe there's room for Pete Hill to be honored too. Like Turkey, Pete Hill should have a plaque on the outside wall at Comerica Park. Hill should be inducted into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame too. Pete Hill, a forgotten gem of baseball history, deserves far more recognition than he has received. As a standout player in the early 20th century, Hill made significant contributions to the game. Despite his impressive statistics and undeniable talent, he remains overshadowed by his contemporaries such as Cool Papa Bell, Satchel Page, and Josh Gibson. Those players deserve their props. That's for sure, but, remembering them and forgetting Pete Hill is akin to remembering Joe DiMaggio, Lefty Grove, and Mickey Cochrane, but forgetting Ty Cobb. Speaking of Mickey Cochrane, his career mirrors Hill's in a way. Cochrane was already an established star when he arrived in Detroit. (Pudge Rodriguez too). They both quickly became fan favorites. Hill was already an established star when he became the player / manager of the Detroit Stars. Like Cochrane and Rodriguez, Pete Hill became a far favorite in Detroit too. (In all actuality, Pete did it first).

#### It's Time to Honor Pete Hill

It would be gratifying if the Detroit Tigers dedicated a special day to Pete Hill. Unveiling a plaque in his honor at Comerica Park would mean the world to his family. Pete Hill's nephew, Ron Hill, said: *"If the Tigers honored my uncle our entire family would be grateful and full of joy."* When TMS asked baseball historian Phil Dixon his thoughts about honoring Pete Hill at Comerica Park, he replied; *"That's a great idea because the Detroit Tigers are one of the few teams that have a Negro League weekend. They've already honored Turkey Stearnes. Honoring Pete Hill gives the Tigers the opportunity to showcase two negro league Hall of Famers from two different era's, and two of the best players to ever play baseball in Detroit."*

WE AGREE. If the Tigers honored Pete Hill in 2025 their gesture would not only celebrate his contributions, but also educate fans about the rich history of baseball, and the players who helped pave the way for future generations. It's time to give Pete Hill the recognition he truly deserves.

★ JOHN PRESTON "PETE" ★

# HILL

27 YEARS PRO

HEIGHT: 6'1"  
WEIGHT: 215

1910  
HIT SAFELY IN 115 OF 116 GAMES

CAREER BATTING AVG.  
**.326**

5 TOOL STAR

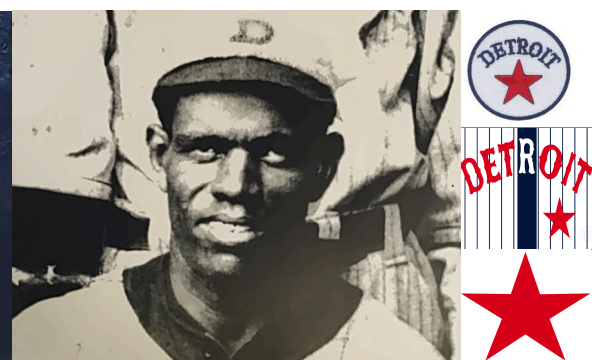
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INDUCTED INTO MLB HALL OF FAME

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NEGRO LEAGUES, 1920-1921, 1923-1925

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C V 62

## PETE HILL

(1882-1951)

John Preston "Pete" Hill, Negro League baseball player and manager, was born nearby on 12 Oct., probably 1882, and likely to formerly enslaved parents. Banned from whites-only major leagues, Hill became a star outfielder for African American teams, notably the Philadelphia Giants and Chicago American Giants. A Cuban League 1910/11 winter-season batting champion (with a .365 average), Hill hit 28 home runs for the Detroit Stars in 1919 (when Babe Ruth hit 29 in more games), marking Hill as among black baseball's earliest power hitters. Hill died 19 Dec. 1951 and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006.