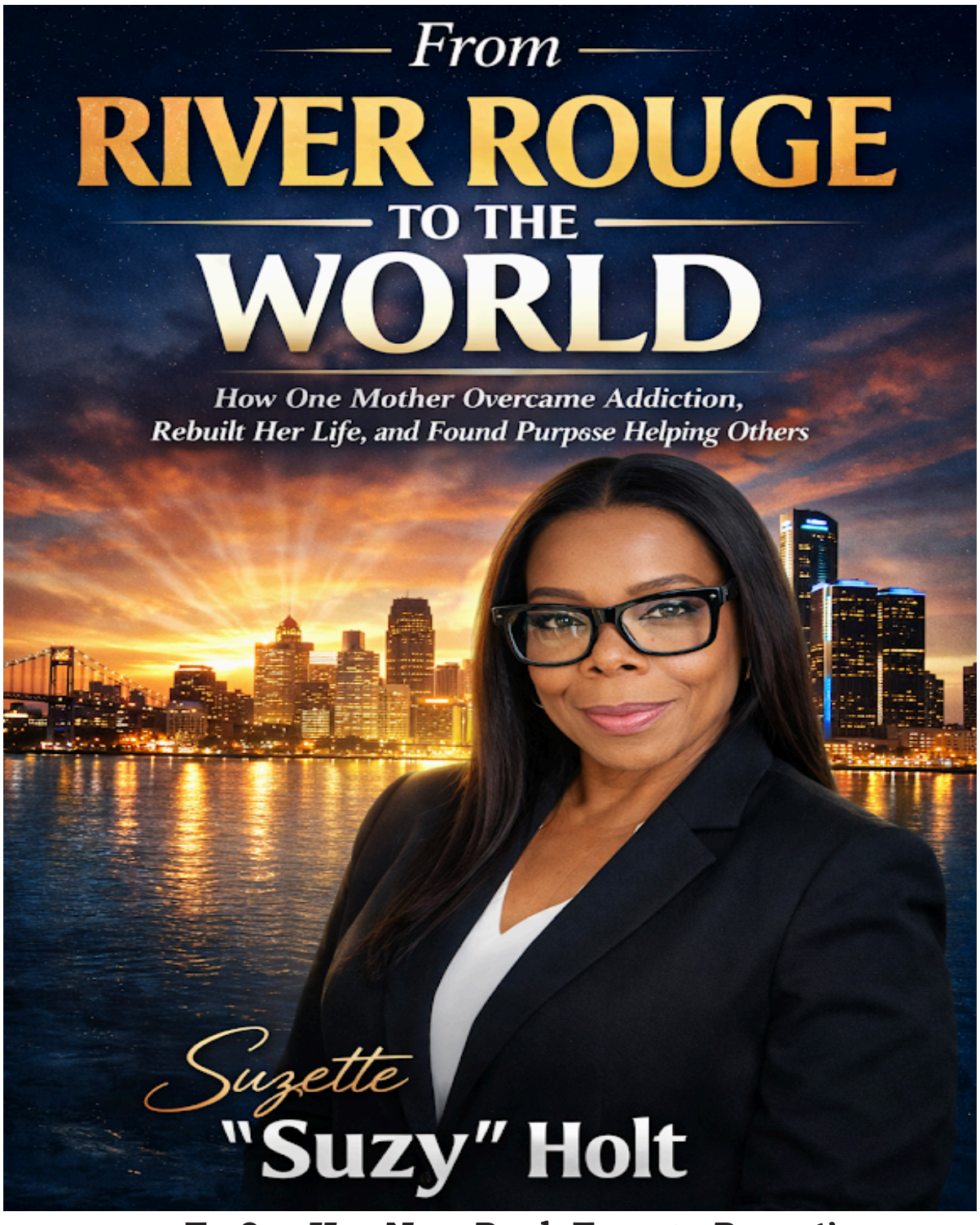
THE MONTHLY STANDARD

Volume 9 Issue 68 **FREE: PLEASE TAKE ONE!** Edition: Aug. / Sept. 2026

PORTRAIT OF TRUTH



To See Her New Book Turn to Page 6!

Also in this Issue:

Remembering Alex Johnson: Page 5

Undefeated Chaldean Pugilists: Page 7

Dana Redd: Page 8

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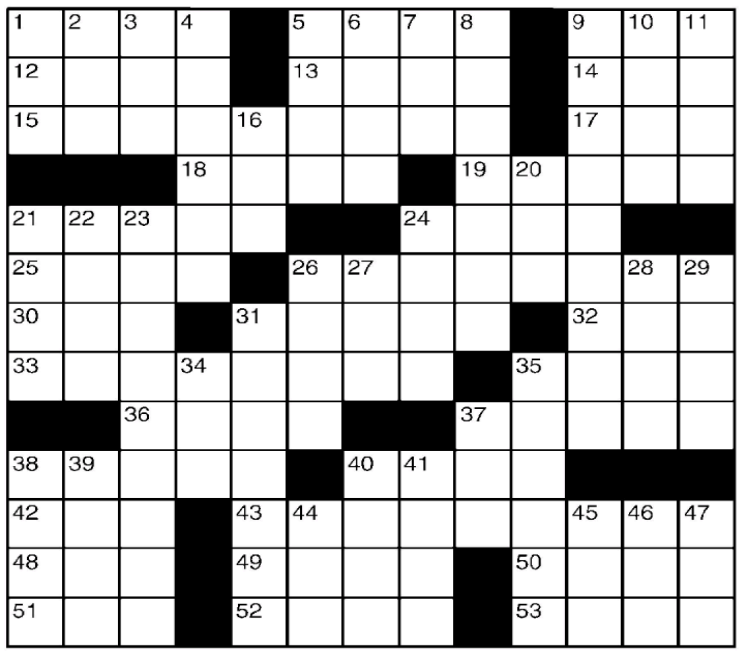
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A GREEKTOWN TRADITION

DETROIT'S BEST PIZZA!~735 BEAUBIEN

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Assistant
5 Praise to the skies
9 Banned bug spray
12 A-line originator
13 Choir member
14 Playwright Levin
15 Went on a tangent
17 Weep loudly
18 Approx-imately
19 Makes less intense
21 Military group
24 Sandwich shop
25 Colors
26 Sight-seers
30 Dadaist Jean
31 Debtors' woes
32 Take to court
33 Type of parking
35 DNA carrier
36 And others (Lat.)
37 Fragrant wood
38 Founded (on)
40 Ethereal
42 "Of course"
43 Talked over
48 Pirouette pivot
49 Great Lake
50 Architect Saarinen
51 Conclusion
52 Gridiron arbiters, for short
53 Anger

DOWN
1 Tack on
2 Midafter-noon, in a way
3 Pooch
4 Mistakes
5 Highland girl
6 As well
7 Multipurpose truck
8 Walks feebly
9 Permitted to leave
10 Let fall
11 Filing aids
16 Before
20 "The Greatest"
21 Bloke
22 Emanation
23 Sad
24 Boring
26 Cash drawer
27 Bullring bravo
28 Albacore, e.g.
29 Palm reader, for one
31 Football lining
34 Chowed down
35 Old Faithful, e.g.
37 French vineyard
38 Data amount
39 Ages and ages
40 "Yeah, right!"
41 Frosts
44 Rage
45 Vast expanse
46 Measure of work
47 Fawn's mama

MAGIC MAZE

THE — : MOVIE TITLES

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally

Alamo
Babe
Big Easy
Birds
Blob
Exorcist
Full Monty
Godfather
Graduate
Hustler
Jerk
Lion King
Natural
Piano
Rose

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.

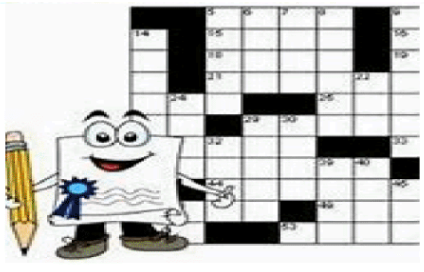
Clue: **S** equals **I**

LHRSEV ALB BMABTQSEDAHT

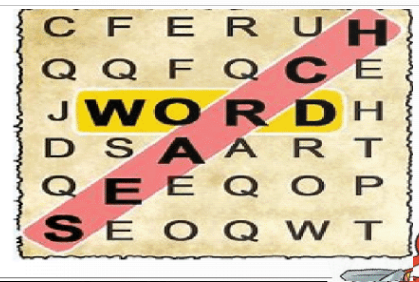
VKZ OHKFI ATSKQRL SE ALB

XHEABNA, S BMXFDSQBI

"QDZ ALB RBNA QDE OSE!"



PUZZLE PAGE
HAVE FUN!





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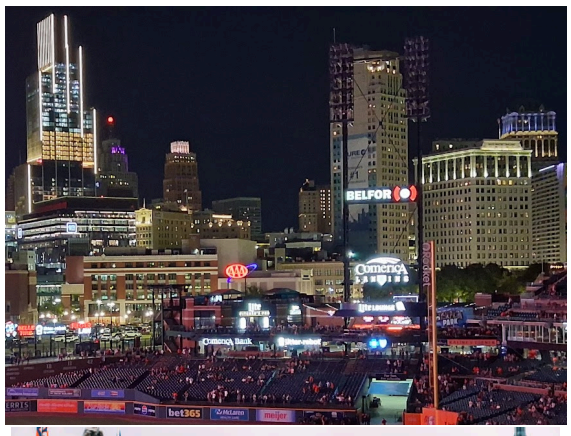
COMMUNITY


Life Changes
Circumstances Changes
Paris "Mooch" Reese
(Slick Styxx)
Has decided to make a big change
He's Retiring
From His Professional
Drumming Career
Relaxing and Enjoying Life
Come Help Him
Celebrate
with a
Jam Session
Any singers, Musicians, Entertainers and his Students
BYOB
WHITE PARTY
BRING YOUR OWN CHAIRS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
553 EATON, RIVER ROUGE
4:00PM UNTIL
Please contact
PISTOL PETEY 313-999-8543
or
VETA REESE 313-948-6397
If You Want To Participate

PICTORIAL REVIEW

Have you Visited Comerica Park Yet this Summer?

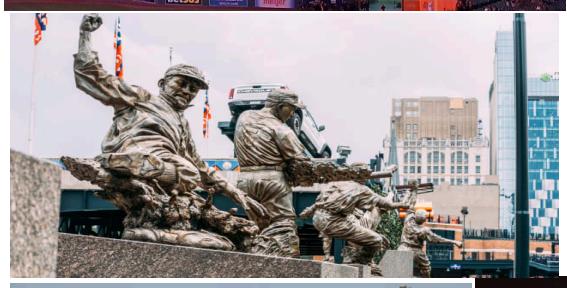
There's Food, Carnival Rides, Walk of History, Fireworks, Concerts, and Baseball!



















ART IN THE CITY

There's so much great stuff in Detroit! The Monthly Standard is here to show it to you. We need your help because Detroit is a BIG city! Contact us (above) if there's public art, or oddities, you want us to profile.



Oddity: Double sewer. Ardmore & Florence





E. Grand Blvd & Canton-Go Lions!



Unique-Agnes & Van Dyke



E. Lafayette east of Chene



E. Vernor east of Chene

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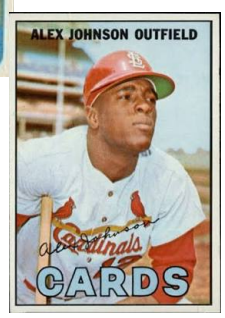
SCRIPTURE -Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31

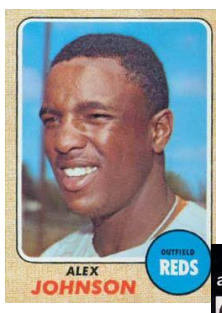
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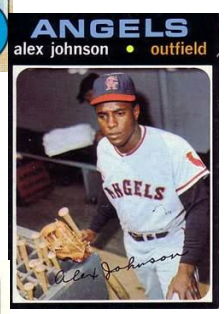
BASEBALL

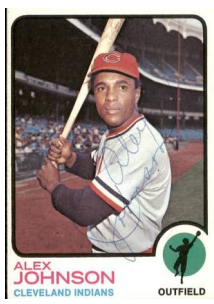
Racism Drove this Major League Baseball Player Crazy



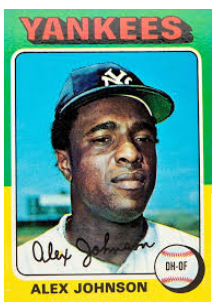


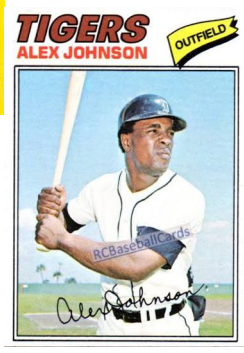












Hell yes I'm bitter. I've been bitter ever since I learned I was black. The society to which I was born and in which I grew up is anti-black. My attitude is nothing more than a reaction to their attitude.
-Alex Johnson (1971)

There's no doubt about it, Alex Johnson was an angry black man. Did he have a reason to be? Most definitely. Born in Arkansas in 1942, Alex Johnson's family moved to Detroit when he was an infant. This is the same Detroit that was not far removed from a black vs. white race riot in 1943. It's a certainty, he ran across racist white people in the city of Detroit during his youth. Being a great athlete did not shield him from racial slurs and general disrespect. Johnson had top notch skills from the start. He played sandlot baseball with future Tigers Willie Horton and Bill Freehan. Johnson was actually a two sport star. He was offered a football scholarship to play for Michigan State University but he chose baseball when he was drafted by the Philadelphia Phillies in 1961.

Johnson showed flashes of brilliance early in his career. In his first year in Philadelphia Johnson batted .303. Instead of embracing him, his Phillies teammates berated him by calling him "iron hands" because of his defensive struggles. The lack of camaraderie affected Johnson. He batted only .247 in his second year with the Phillies. After the 1965 season Johnson was traded to the St. Louis Cardinals. He was not well received there either. Batting coach Dick Sisler said Johnson "was at the end of his rope." After two lackluster years in St. Louis he was traded to Cincinnati. Johnson flourished in Cincinnati. Manager Dave Bristol treated him like a man and put no pressure on him. Johnson hit over .300 in 1968 and 1969 with the Reds. He was then traded in the California Angels.

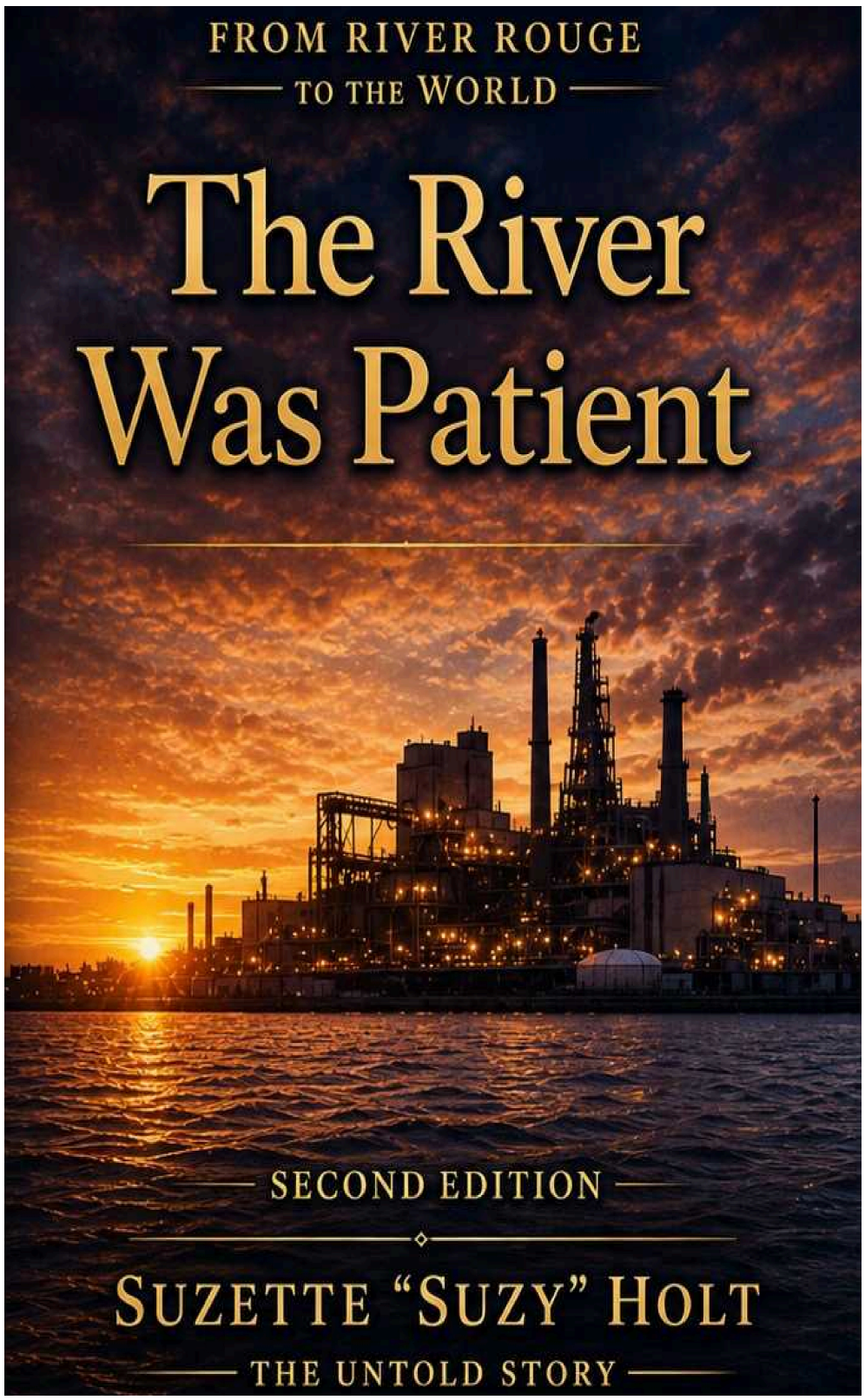
In 1970, Johnson had a stellar season, finishing with a .329 batting average which earned him the American League batting title. His remarkable performance at the plate was a testament to his talent and hard work, making him a fan favorite and establishing him as one of the league's premier hitters. Despite his on-field success, Johnson's career took a troubling turn in the years that followed. The internal abuse Johnson endured with the Phillies happened again with the Angels. His average dropped to only .259 in 1971. Reports began to surface regarding his mental health.

Racism is about power. Johnson, although he was an All-Star, knew he did not have any power. Johnson was sane, but extremely frustrated. He was not the only black player who dealt with issues of racism during that era. Curt Flood, Richie (Dick) Allen, and Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson have all spoke up about treatment they deemed as unfair during their playing career. Even Hank Aaron was accused of meandering. Johnson's struggles were compounded by accusations of loafing and indifferent play. Johnson was victimized, but he could not do anything about it. After benching him and fining him (five times) the Angels finally suspended Johnson on June 26, 1971.

MLB Player Association executive Marvin Miller, filed a historic grievance for Johnson to be arbitrated. Miller claimed Johnson had *an emotional disability*. A group of psychiatrists agreed by assessing that Johnson had a *paranoia like psychological condition.* Doctors also said: *Johnson suffered from psychological distress in a hostile environment.* Johnson never played for the Angels again. In the years that followed, he played for Cleveland, Texas, New York Yankees, and finished up his career playing for his hometown Detroit Tigers. After he retired Alex ran his father's truck repair business in Detroit. **After he left baseball Johnson never had an issue with his mental health.**

COVER STORY

New Book Tells Harrowing Tale of Addiction, Survival and Redemption



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Suzette "Suzy Holt was born Suzette Denise Lowery in River Rouge, Michigan. She is the daughter of William (Brother) and Hattie Lowery. Her book, "The River Was Patient" tells a story many can identify with. Rarely does an author keep Super Real. She lets you in.

Suzy allows you to be the proverbial fly on the wall. She tells you EVERYTHING! Yes, she reveals the deepest and darkest secrets of her life, and it all occurred on the streets of River Rouge, Southwest Detroit, and Ecorse. Many of you reading this account are survivors, like Suzy, and may have run across Suzy or personally know her.

Some of you will be surprised by candor. All will be entertained by her story. The Monthly Standard asked Suzy about growing up by the river. Here's what she said:
"The river never stopped moving — and neither did I. No matter how many times life pulled me under, I found my way back to the surface.

A lot of that is because of where I come from.

I love the Downriver area with everything in me. I love the community. I love the people. I love the support that has always been there — steady and real, the kind you don't have to ask for. What I love most is the intimacy of it. In River Rouge, Southwest Detroit, and Ecorse, if someone is not your friend, they are your family.

It is that simple and that powerful. You can get mad at somebody on Monday and by Friday they are right there beside you, showing up the way only people who truly claim you can show up. That is not something you find everywhere. That is something special. That is something sacred.

These communities built something into me before I knew I was going to need it. The resilience. The stubbornness. The refusal to stay down. The belief that no matter how hard things get, somebody on this river is going to be in your corner.

Your current circumstance is not your final destination. Say yes to your life. Lean on your people. Let your community hold you when you cannot hold yourself. One decision can change everything — but it helps when you have a whole river of people behind you."

See what we mean? Suzy keeps it 100, and shows real love!
The Monthly Standard supports her and so should you.

BOXING

Chaldean Cousins are Ready to Throwdown at the Fox

Heavyweights Brandon Moore & Bryant Jennings Fight in the Main Event



Jonny Mansour G2G Promotions

Fight Night at the Fox! You better get your tickets now because if you wait too long you are gonna miss out. The scheduled 10 match card at Detroit's Fox Theater is going to be epic! What makes this card so great is the stars of the show are not in the main event. Chaldean cousins Jonny Mansour and Juju Ballo cannot wait to fight in Detroit. They are Chaldean, but they are not from Detroit. Both hail from San Diego, California. Mansour said: "I visited in February and it felt like my second home. The Iraqi community is huge out there. The entire middle eastern community is huge out there in Michigan. Their support has been huge for me."

JuJu is totally hyped. He says: "We're bringing the JuJu show to Detroit. When JuJu comes to a fight night it's always explosive. Fast hands, crazy punches, combinations and a smart technical fighter. That's what JuJu brings to the ring. I'm excited. Yeah!"



Julius "JuJu" Ballo G2G Promotions

The Main Event



Brandon Moore Ring

Moore vs. Jennings is a worthy main event. I interviewed both combatants. I asked Moore if he wanted to predict a round the fight would end Moore said: "Jennings is no slouch...I don't wanna disrespect him." Jennings comments were different. When I called Moore a DOG, Bryant said: "I know dogs. He's not a dog. I don't view him as a dog. Hell no. Hasn't been in enough circumstances and environments to be labeled a dog. We have to watch how we label people dogs because dog is a label we're very proud to have. We can't have somebody in the group or in the club that hasn't put their work in. For if any reason he is successful against me on August 29th maybe he can inherit the name dog. This is his test right now." Jennings said: "I am locked and loaded." **Don't miss it!**



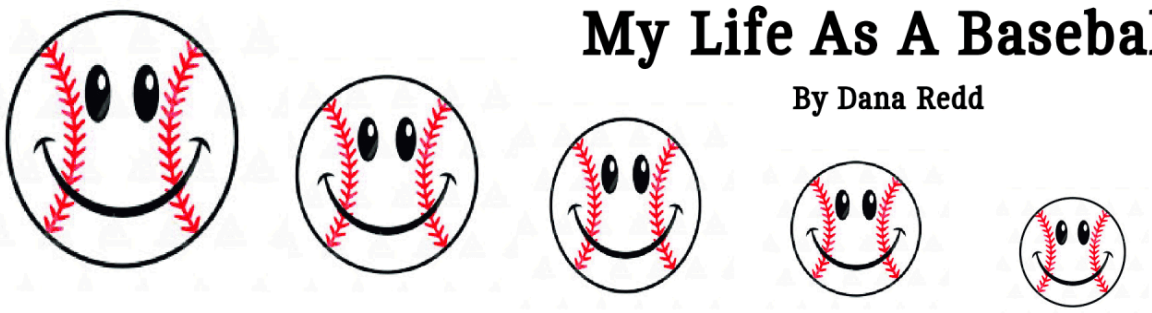
Bryant Jennings ESPN



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

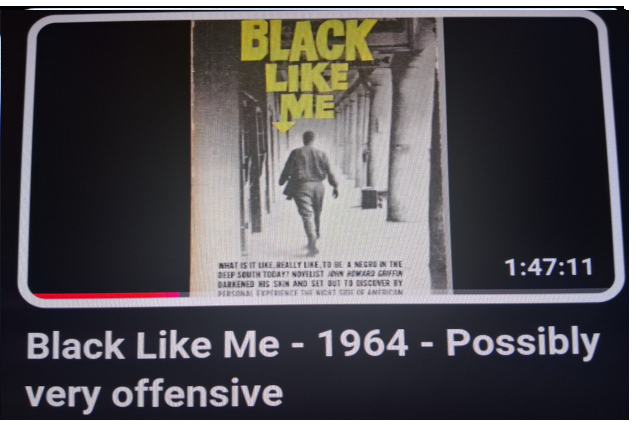
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Jonny Mansour



JuJu Gallo



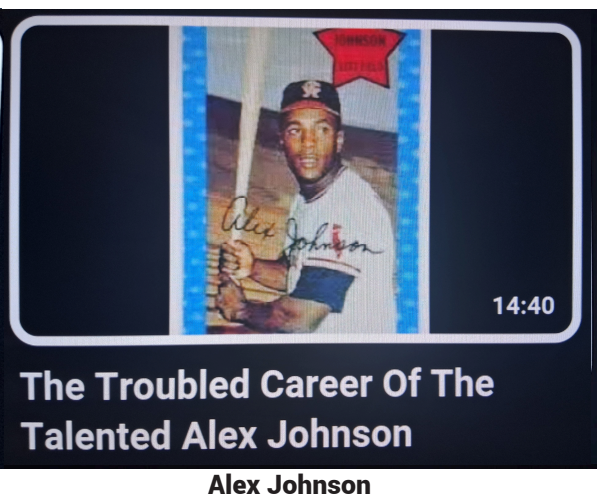
Movie of the Month-Black Like Me



Bryant Jennings



Brandon Moore



Alex Johnson

MOVIE OF THE MONTH

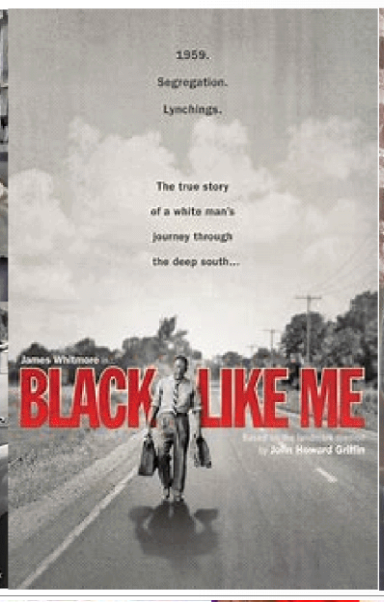
"Black Like Me"

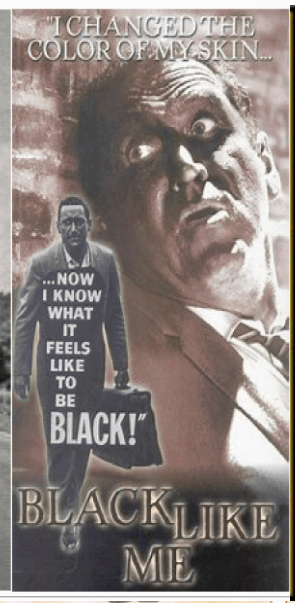
This Movie of the Month was suggested by YOU the reader. Mr. Samuel Gibson called and mentioned "Black Like Me." The 1964 release stars James Whitmore as a white journalist (John Horton) who uses multiple treatments to darken his skin. After he achieves his goal, Horton goes to the deep south. He immediately experiences the racism he seeks. As the film progresses Horton cannot stomach the blatant discrimination he receives, and even loses his cool. This film is a must watch because it is apposite to the current African American diaspora. To watch "Black Like Me" simply go to our website. **www.themonthlystandard.news**











CLASSIC GANGSTER COMICS

WAR ON CRIME—Escape . . and Giving the Alarm! 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

Favorite Men's College Basketball Team

1. Duke
2. Kentucky
3. North Carolina
4. Connecticut
5. Ohio State
6. UCLA
7. Michigan
8. Michigan State
9. Notre Dame
10. Wisconsin

SOURCE: The Harris Poll

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fish is missing. 2. Car is missing. 3. Arm is lowered. 4. Remote control is missing. 5. Clown is reversed. 6. Coat is opened.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

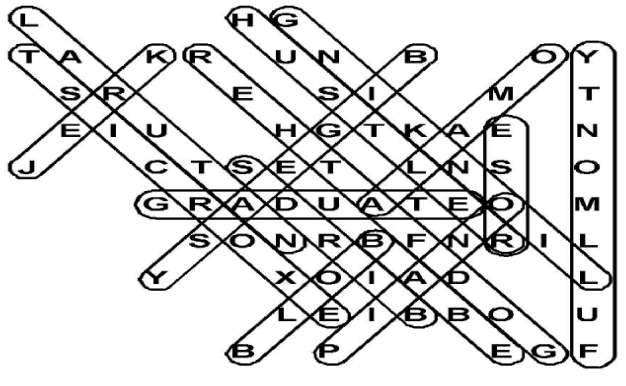
King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

THE — : MOVIE TITLES



CryptoQuip

answer

Hoping the exterminator guy would triumph in the contest, I exclaimed "May the pest man win!"

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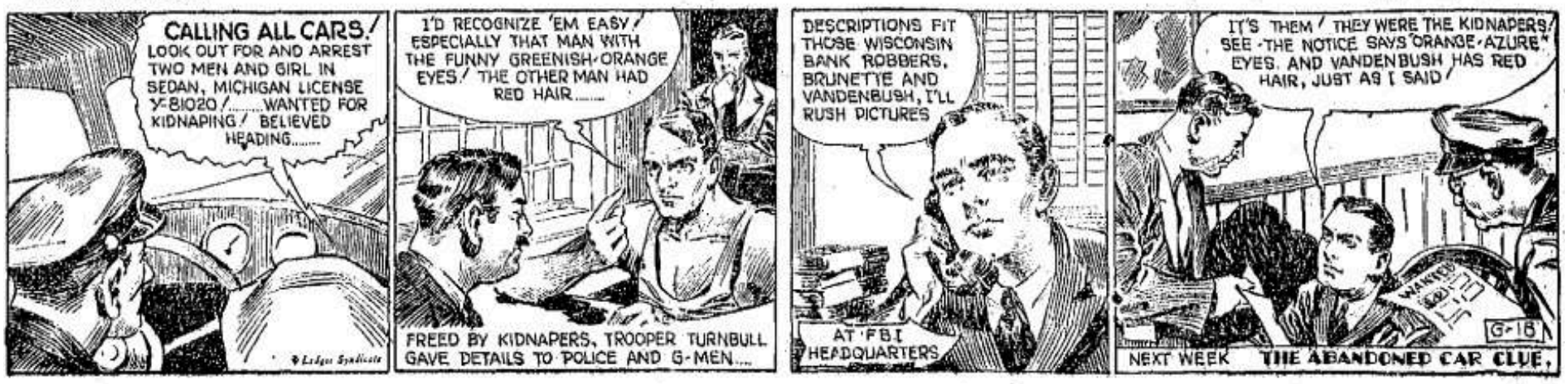
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WAR ON CRIME

By Rex Collier



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Monday thru Saturday:
7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
SUNDAY: 7:00 AM to 8 PM





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Monday thru Saturday:
7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Sunday:
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FROM THE OFFICE OF

WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER ERIC R. SABREE



PROBATE ASSISTANCE

Are you facing foreclosure and need assistance in starting a Wayne County probate court case because a property is in the name of a deceased family member?

CONTACT ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

United Community Housing Coalition: 313-725-4560
UCHCDetroit.org
help@uchcdetroit.org

Lakeshore Legal Aid: 888-783-8190
LakeshoreLegalAid.org
probono@lakeshorelegalaid.org

Call today and get the help you need. We are here to help!



WayneCountyMI.gov/treasurer | 313-224-5990