

What disgruntled fans and alumni need to understand continued from page 1

over the weekend and I jotted down some notes that I want to share with you ... There are very strong emotions on both sides ... I've encouraged our staff and team to join me in participating after games if they are comfortable doing that. I do believe it's important that we acknowledge and thank our fans after a hard-fought game. Sam Ehlinger and some of our team did join me in standing with the fans who had cheered us so hard and helped us greatly in our comeback against Oklahoma, and I applaud them and respect that. Many of our coaches and staff also remained on the field with them to show ap-



***The UT campus committee, directed by Dr. Richard J. Reddick, is focused on gathering and chronicling accurate data on the origins and meaning of "The Eyes of Texas".**

preciation to our great university and our fans and we will continue to encourage participation for all of those that are comfortable doing so. That said, some members of our program

have concerns and aren't comfortable participating at this time, and I respect that as well."

What disgruntled fans and alumni (mostly white) need to understand is they can't force UT football players (mostly Black) to view "The Eyes of Texas" as they do. It's the same way whites and blacks react to athletes kneeling for the Star-Spangled Banner because it has a different meaning for the two races.

If UT football players believe "The Eyes of Texas" is offensive and has racist overtones, just let it go. Instead of white people trying to force Black people to see things from a white perspective, try looking at it

from a Black perspective for a change. Try to understand why Blacks and whites see race through a different lens.

On top of everything else, UT football players are choosing not to stand and sing "The Eyes of Texas" with the blessing of their head football coach and UT's administration, which has the support of university president Jay Hartzell.

They're not breaking any rules or going rogue. They're simply following their heart and their convictions. This is America, after all. Land of the free, home of the brave, where everyone has freedom of choice.

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BET Her "Waiting Room" Program Illuminates Breast Cancer Awareness Month



By Naomi Richard
VILLAGER
Entertainment Reporter

(VILLAGER) - Every two minutes, a woman in the United States is diagnosed with breast cancer. In that moment, her life changes forever. According to the **World Health Organization**, there are about 1.38 million new cases and 458,000 deaths from breast cancer each year. Also, according to the **Mayo Clinic**, breast cancer can occur in both men and women, but it is far more common in women. Breast cancer is by far the most common cancer in women worldwide, both in the developed and developing countries.

This summer, producer **Tressa Azarel Smallwood** of **MegaMind Media**, in partnership with **BET Networks** affiliate **BET Her**, launched the first rollout of four female-centric original short films spotlighting women's mental health issues. They were directed by prominent African American women primarily known for being in front of the camera. Veteran Hollywood stars **Kim Fields** (*Living Single*), **Victoria Rowell** (*The Young and the Restless*), **Sheryl Lee Ralph** (*Moesha*) and **Vanessa Bell Calloway** (*Coming to America*) each directed 20-minute dramatic shorts focusing on topics vital to today's black families.

BET Her, which is focused on programming aimed towards women of color, recog-



Sheryl Lee Ralph attends Koshie Mills' "The Diaspora Dialogues" International Luncheon in Marina del Rey, California. Photo by Naomi Richard.

nizes and pays tribute to October's Breast Cancer Awareness initiative. Set to air October 17, 2020, **BET Her** will feature exclusive programming, **"The Waiting Room."** The upcoming shorts include 2 episodes: **"Like, Comment, Subscribe"** and **"A Long Look in the Mirror."**

"Like, Comment, Subscribe" is directed by **Sheryl Lee Ralph**, written by **Shateka "SJ" Johnson**, and stars newcomer **Jasmine Luv** (*Chicago Med*) with a cameo appearance by **Victoria Rowell** (*Home of the Brave*). It follows a wedding vlogger and bride-to-be herself as she chronicles her journey after being diagnosed with Stage II breast cancer. Through her journey, you will see the ups, the downs and the love shared with her fiancé. **Sheryl Lee Ralph** has been at the forefront of women's health issues



Vanessa Bell Calloway attends 51st NAACP Image Awards in Hollywood, California. Photo by Naomi Richard

for 25 years and outspoken on love and care for oneself for a long fulfilling life.

Vanessa Bell Calloway directs **"A Long Look in the Mirror"** starring **Golden Brooks** (*Girlfriends*). Written by **Deshawn Plair** and **Sade Oyinate**, it tells the story of a fractured mother-daughter relationship that is tested to the limits after the youth-ob-

essed mother receives a cancer diagnosis. She struggles to cope with the illness. The theatrical interpretation is especially meaningful to Calloway, who is herself a breast cancer survivor.

"BET Her is dedicated to telling stories that support and celebrate black women in front of and behind the camera as well as bringing awareness to important issues directly affecting the black community," said **Lorisa Bates**, VP of Content Strategy, Co-Productions and Multiplatform. "We are proud to be the platform for these powerful stories and of the work that our female talent has put into these projects that are ever so timely. Making a difference is what each and every person involved in this initiative holds dear."

We applaud **BET Her** for illuminating the struggles, challenges and the devastation caused by breast cancer for many families.

Remember, early detection **can** save lives. This includes doing monthly breast self-exams, and scheduling regular clinical breast exams and mammograms.

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"This life, therefore, is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end, but it is the road. All does not yet gleam in glory, but all is being purified." --- Martin Luther
Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

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