

# Kaspar's Resignation A Sign Of The Times

By John Harris Jr. | VILLAGER Sports Columnist



(VILLAGER) - The hits keep on coming.

Former Texas State basketball coach Danny Kaspar is the latest white college coach to lose his job because of racist and insensitive behavior directed toward his Black athletes.

He isn't the first to lose his job in this manner, and he won't be the last.

Kaspar resigned in September following a university investigation, three months after a former player accused him of making racist remarks. The player, Jaylen Shead, attended Connally High School, where he was a three-year starter and was named first-team all-district as a junior and senior. He signed with Cal Poly, where he played for two seasons before transferring to Texas State. In his one season at Texas State, Shead ranked second in the Sun Belt Conference in assists.

Think about it. Af-



## Danny Kaspar

ter transferring to be closer to home at Texas State, Shead then transferred to another school on the West Coast. Connecting the dots, you don't have to be a mind reader to know that something shady went down between Shead and Kaspar, resulting in the player leaving San Marcos.

In early June, right after the police killing of George Floyd that resulted in social justice protests against police brutality across the nation, Shead, who transferred to Washington State for his senior season, alleged on social media that Kaspar often verbally mistreated his players. In one instance, Shead wrote, "If we would be in the hallway and (Kaspar) heard us say the n word, he would

tell us, if y'all say the n word that means I can say it." In another instance, Shead wrote that during a running drill, Kaspar said that Shead was "running like the cops were behind him." Shead also wrote that Kaspar limited how long players could wear their hair in twists or dreadlocks because it made them look like "gangsters."

All in all, it was enough to result in Kaspar's resignation last month.

Get your popcorn ready. This is only the tip of the iceberg.

Eight Black former University of Iowa football players announced this week they are seeking \$20 million in compensation and for the school's athletic director, head football Kurt Ferentz and assistant coach Brian Ferentz (the head coach's son) to be fired over alleged intentional racial discrimination during the players' college careers.

It's no longer a question if the next shoe will drop and another white college coach is fired or resigns because of accusations or revelations of racist behavior, but when.



Naomi Richard

(VILLAGER) - Every two minutes, a woman in the United States is diagnosed with breast cancer.

Merriam-Webster defines "full circle" as a series of developments that lead back to the original situation or to a complete reversal of the original position. My life came *full circle* on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 when I heard my normally poetic, laughter-providing menopause physician say in a soft voice, "You have breast cancer." I was shocked and I began to weep. Not a quiet, soundless weep, but the type of weeping that is a cry out for your mother to hold you, rub your head, and tell you everything will be okay. The irony was I had prepared for hearing those words my entire adult life.

My circle started to form in 2003 when I lost my mother to this same horrible disease. She was a young 60-year-old with a vibrant, active life. She left behind three children, her aging parents, four grandchildren, and my son who she was never able to meet. It was then that I began preparing to hear the words "You have cancer."

After my mother's diagnosis, I became driven to make a difference to support other women going through breast cancer. I was the American Cancer

# Full Circle: Family, Friends and Community

Article written by Kenya Johnson  
and edited by Naomi Richard



Kenya Johnson

Society's Regional Director of Health Initiatives, I have visited oncology centers and hospitals throughout Texas, talking to cancer patients, and hearing their stories of survivorship. I worked in the Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for the State of Texas. I was later named the Vice President of Programs for Livestrong, all while serving as a board member and volunteer for Susan G. Komen. In the African American community, I was often called the "cancer lady"—I pushed the importance of mammography and early detection to churches, community organizations, and anyone else who would listen.

Fast forward to my diagnosis. All kinds of things went through my

48-year-old mind but the main focus was my children. How do I tell my son who may hear me crying? How do I tell my daughter in her first year of college in Virginia going through midterms? How do I tell my significant other, my brother, my sisters, my dad, my aunts, friends, and even my ex-husband? What do I say? How do I say it? As I muttered the words, "I have breast cancer," I made a promise to myself that nobody should have to make in their lifetime, "I'm going to be just fine. I have no other choice."

My first appointment was the day after my diagnosis, and it was full steam ahead. I saw my breast surgeon; my oncologist performed multiple exams and scans; I scheduled my port placement the next week, and started chemotherapy that Friday!

Going through this was tough for all of us, especially for my friends who live out of town. I am a Chicago girl and they traveled to support and love on me. I am also blessed with an amazing network of friends here in the Austin area. The usual suspects, my sorority sisters in Alpha Kappa Alpha, my Link sisters in the Austin Chapter, my work family at the Department of Family and Protective Services, my alumni family of Southern University, my church family, and more.

**Full circle** is my story. I went from serving others to now being served. I am happy to report that I am cancer-free and will continue this journey with medical treatments and daily medication. Susan G. Komen continues to support women like me in this fight. Join me at <https://komengreatercetx.org/> in supporting their efforts to end breast cancer in our community.

# Congressional Black Caucus says Trump's Ice Cube-assisted 'Platinum Plan' looks familiar

by Kelsey Minor | THE GRIO

(GRIO) - Ice Cube, real name O'Shea Jackson, became a household name for as a founder member of rap group NWA and later acting in top big-budget movies like Friday and The Barbershop.

But more recently, his name became a trending topic on Oct. 13 when Trump campaign adviser Katrina Pierson thanked and apparently revealed for the first time publicly that the entertainer had helped in revising President Donald Trump's "The Platinum Plan" — an agenda based on priorities for Black America.

That set off a firestorm of responses from Black Twitter, in part, because the rapper who was once a vocal critic of Mr. Trump was now appearing to be in lockstep with him.

In a series of his own tweets, Ice Cube defended his decision to give input on the Trump plan saying, "I will advise anybody on the planet who has the power to help Black Americans close the enormous wealth gap." He added that his meeting with



Sheila Jackson Lee

the administration was not an endorsement but rather an opportunity to discuss his Contract with Black America, which includes initiatives on racial injustices, prison and police reform, and employment opportunities.

"I have not heard first hand of any attempt to reach out to any senior members of the caucus about this," Democratic Representative Sheila Jackson Lee, (D-TX) tells theGrio when asked about Ice Cube's Black America plan, which the Congressional Black Caucus says makes similar points brought forth in their Jobs and Justice Act 2020 legislation proposal introduced in September.

What's more, Rep. Jackson Lee says the Trump administration has shown little interest



Ice Cube

in the needs of Black America. "They have not been a friend of poor people, working people, small businesses, and they certainly have not been a friend of African Americans and people of color," she says.

In 2015, then-presidential candidate Trump urged Black America to consider him, asking, "What do you have to lose?" After elected, he briefly sat down with Black faith leaders and heads of historically Black colleges and universities. He touted his First Step Act, formally known as the Formerly Incarcerated Reenter Society Transformed Safely Transitioning Evperson Act, a bipartisan criminal justice bill passed by the 115th Congress and signed by Trump in December 2018.

# Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Tsoke (Chuch) Adjavon  
VILLAGER Columnist



(VILLAGER) - For decades October has been proclaimed Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast Cancer affects women of all races and ethnic backgrounds. In the African American community, breast cancer is more devastating. According to the statistics, "an estimated 27,060 new cases of breast cancer are expected to occur among African Americans in 2020." Also, statistics show that "it's also the second leading cause of cancer death among African American women (lung cancer is the major cause of cancer death among these women)."

Breast cancer tends to kill more minority women due to the fact there is no pre-diagnosis done. These cancerous cells tend to grow and thus become a life-threatening disease. Moreover, breast cancer is one of the high-risk diseases that kill Black women in the United States. Consequently, it is critical for all communities, especially the Black community, to fight this disease.

As we enter Breast Cancer Awareness month, numerous nonprofits and businesses will do activities to raise the attention of this disease. For instance, the Susan G. Komen of Austin foundation plans to host events and fundraising over this issue. Some small businesses also plan to do activities and raise awareness. The Secret of Youth Spa and Wellness Center in Round Rock will put out brochures and information about this disease.