



TRANSCRIPT

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Host: Roland Martin

**Guests: Bishop T.D. Jakes, The Potter's House; and
Film Producer, "Jumping the Broom"**

Lamar and Ronnie Tyler, Bloggers, blackandmarriedwithkids.com

**Sophia Nelson, Author *Black Woman Redefined*; Contributor, The Grio.com;
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TV One – Washington Watch

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K. Wills Transcripts

**(HEAD-
LINES)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: At the top of our agenda this week: 16 months out, Pres. Barack Obama is far ahead of GOP presidential hopefuls. Will it last to November 2012? The Black Caucus talks jobs with the President, and Sarah Palin keeps targeting the President by making issues out of non-issues. This time, it's conscious rapper Common visiting the White House. Our “Washington Watch” newsmaker, Bishop T.D. Jakes, who goes Hollywood as a producer of the hit comedy “Jumping the Broom.” He talks faith, politics and marriage. Plus, in a special roundtable, a husband-and-wife blogging team and documentary pr- -- director weigh in on the portrayal of Black marriages on the big and small screen. And no “Washington Watch” would be complete without our journalists’ roundtable, with Cynthia Tucker, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the “Atlanta Journal Constitution”; Sophia Nelson, contributor to TheGrio.com and MSNB contributor; Robert Traynham, host of “Roll Call TV” on the Comcast Network; and syndicated columnist George Curry. Also, we talk with Chris Martin, of the duo Kid ‘n’ Play, about hip-hop and Florida A&M University. All that and more today on “Washington Watch.”

**(SEG-
MENT 1)**

MR. MARTIN: This show might be called “Washington Watch,” but one of the things that we like to do is focus on a variety of issues and not just politics. There're so

many concerns of African-Americans, social, political and cultural; faith as well, and so we always like to mix it all in on this show. So, joining me right now to discuss a different kind of topic is Bishop T.D. Jakes of The Potter's House. He has – he's the producer of three Hollywood films. His latest is "Jumping the Broom," and many of you've known him from his preaching here on TV One, on TBN, all across the country. And he has folks talking about marriage and family online – Twitter – barbershops, beauty salons, the kitchen table – you name it. He joins us right now from New York.

Bishop Jakes, welcome to "Washington Watch."

BISHOP T.D. JAKES: Thank you, Roland. It's a pleasure to be with you.

MR. MARTIN: Now, I saw the movie "Jumping the Broom" this week, and I want to get to that in a moment; but there're of course – there are *some* political issues I would like to run by you, first of all, and so let's get right into it.

One of the things that we have seen over the last couple of weeks since the killing of Osama bin Laden – we have seen a different kind of reaction from Americans. What do you say, as a Christian, to the reaction of celebration, if you will, of the death of Osama bin Laden? How do you counsel Christians, counsel Americans on that kind of display at the news of the death of someone – even a terror leader?

BISHOP JAKES: Well, you know, Jesus gives us a great example of forgiveness on the cross when he says, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And so if you're going to be a Christian and – in which means to be "Christ-like," that is the ultimate goal. But I think it's important that we also understand that Christians are

people, too, who have been traumatized and who have been shocked and appalled at – at the atrocities of 9-11. And I – I – I’m kind of slow to be critical of people having a very human reaction, much like Miriam did when she got to the Red Sea and saw Pharaoh drowning in the Red Sea and began to beat her tambourine and dance. I don’t think that we should chasten people who’ve been traumatized, but lift up a standard that the ultimate goal, once you get beyond that first human reaction – whatever that may be – is to become more Christ-like.

MR. MARTIN: We hear folks call for massive cuts to programs to confront the deficit. We see some Catholic scholars who have been critical of Speaker John Boehner and him pushing this whole notion of cutting trillions of dollars. What do you say to political leaders who are saying “cut, cut, cut,” even when it affects the poor, even when it affects the people not at the top of the income brackets, but the bottom folks?

BISHOP JAKES: Well, I’m – I’m very concerned. I know that you cannot spend money that you don’t have, but I am a little bit shocked and appalled that sometimes the quickest places we are to cut are amongst those who are facing the greatest hardships, travesties which they did not bring on themselves. And I applaud the Catholic Church, because all churches have to be the voice for those who are speechless in the process of making these decisions. I think it’s very, very important for us to cut the budget. I think the budget is out of control and out of hand, but we have to find ways to do it that are not going to be [a] detriment to the society for the next

hundred years.

MR. MARTIN: Rev. Franklin Graham has made some comments on several occasions, as recently as three weeks ago, really questioning the faith, if you will, of the President. He said the President has told him that he's a Christian, but he basically said that going to church does not make you a Christian. But the President is on record as saying that he walked down that aisle; he gave his life to Christ. So, what do you say to folks – like Rev. Graham who, frankly, are muddying the water – but other people who are questioning the Christianity of this president?

BISHOP JAKES: I find it insulting. We didn't question the Christianity of Pres. Bush when he said he accepted Christ, and I – I – I'm disappointed in Rev. Franklin Graham in that regard. I wish he had the diplomacy of his father, who brought the Gospel to people without being nuanced by politics, because when you do those things, you offend people that you're actually called to save and to serve. And I – I – I would hope that he would see the rationale in – in apologizing for such statements, because if the President's faith is suspect, then all of our faiths are suspect, because the Bible is quite clear about what it takes to be saved, and the President has been quite open about his accepting Christ and him openly confessing it before men. And if it's good enough for the Bible, it ought to be good enough for the rest of us.

MR. MARTIN: I certainly agree with you on that.

All right. On to "Jumping the Broom." It is a movie that you intend as a celebration of faith and family. Of course, you are one of the producers of the film,

along with Our Stories [Films], run by, of course, Tracey Edmonds, the company founded by Bob Johnson. Right now, we're going to take a look at a clip where the Sabrina Watson character, played by Paula Patton, meets her future mother-in-law, played by Loretta Devine.

[FILM CLIP – SCENE WHEN THE PROSPECTIVE IN-LAWS MEET.]

MR. MARTIN: Bishop, that was the beginning of lots of drama in the film that – that scene there; but it's also real, because when we talk about marriages, people say it's just about the bride and the groom, but the reality is people *do* bring the extended family and their drama into the relationships.

BISHOP JAKES: They absolutely do, and inadvertently you find yourself in a situation where you're not only marrying the person that you chose, you're marrying everybody that's connected to them. Their drunk uncle gets in trouble. Their – someb- -- sister gets arrested. You – you find yourself entangled in their affairs, and the drama that ensues in "Jumping the Broom" is typical to families coming together, often, who are not in love with each other, even though one of the family members has chosen one from the other family.

MR. MARTIN: \$15.7 million – tha- -- that's how much money "Jumping the Broom" earned on the opening weekend, making it the number-one romantic comedy. Why do you think the movie has had such a reaction, has created the kind of celebration, if you will, and acceptance from audiences across the coun- -- c- -- across the country?

BISHOP JAKES: Well, you know, first of all, the – the movie has exceeded our own expectations. The projections throughout Hollywood were not as high as – as the realities were, but I really believed in this movie, and I really thought we had a – the dream cast, a great story, a wonderful director. Salim Akil is just – he is the director of – of “The Game” as well and did “Girlfriends” and several other things. But this is really just a hallmark of his work. I think it’s a really, really great piece. And when you have quality, and you put it onscreen, people will come to it, and they will support it. And we need to send this message to Hollywood that we’re tired of others telling us who we are. We want to tell our own stories, and we want to give a holistic picture of the diversity that exists within the African-American community.

Bigger, still, though I think you have to understand that this is more than just a Black thing. There’re many non-Black people who went to this movie and said, “Hey, this resonates with me.” It’s quality filming, and that’s why it’s the number-one comedy this week amongst all people and all cultures. People really enjoy “Jumping the Broom.”

MR. MARTIN: Le- -- let me shift to the issue of this – this – this whole focus on marriage and African-Americans. I also saw Tyler Perry’s “Madea’s Big Happy Family.” Even in that particular film, you had this tension and drama between two married couples and how they were at each other’s throat[s], and how it impacted the family. We saw this whole issue in this movie prior to marriage. When you look at divorce stats in this country, this whole issue of marriage is huge in the Black community, because

we have more children born out of wedlock than any other group . Also, we're seeing African-Americans getting married later in life.

And so how do – how are we able to use movies like this to really get people to understand the importance of marriage and also to recognize how that has a huge role, frankly, in the state of Black families today?

BISHOP JAKES: I don't know what we can do to get the word out any better e- -- other than to use every vehicle that we can. "Jumping the Broom" was an opportunity for me to raise a discussion about marriage and how important it is, but it is really seated in the reality that the statistics of – of people who are incarcerated [are] *extremely* high amongst those who come from fatherless homes, single-parent homes. These – these are opportunities that really skew people toward suicides, depressions in almost every area. Where there aren't stable homes, we have these kinds of problems.

Now, I don't want to suggest that there aren't single mothers who have, against all odds, been –

MR. MARTIN: I understand.

BISHOP JAKES: -- sheroes and effe- -- yet[?], and effectively done a good job. But that is not the ideal situation. W- -- never have we seen a generation who chose to be single mothers, who wanted to be without husbands in their lives, who see men as option in the family process. And so I'm r- -- really trying to get people to get back into the area of building the family. Albeit we are broken and fallen, and all of us have issues, but the family needs to be some place of solidarity, that gives you a launching

pad that I still think our children need today.

MR. MARTIN: Bishop, in your book, *Before You Do*, you talk about the mistakes that couples make when it comes to marriage. Do you believe that people have unrealistic expectations today when it comes to – to what actually happens in marriage, and what is required to make a marriage work?

BISHOP JAKES: I absolutely do, and I think you know, our generation has something to do with the blame of it because so- -- in- -- in- -- inadvertently or advertently, we have passed on this ideology that things are easier than they are, whether it's marriage, or preaching, or business, or whatever it is. The coming generation thought it was easier, and when they get into it, and they find out how much work is involved, they jump out like grease out of a hot pan. And I'm really concerned about that, because the reality is marriages are worth fighting for, and – and you should do everything you can.

Now, s- -- having said that, Roland, let's quickly go back and say there *are* people who stay when they need to leave. There are people –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

BISHOP JAKES: -- who're being beaten and being abused and being mistreated, and I *never* want to project an idea that says you should stay in a house where you are in danger, or your children are in danger. But we must get a message that, just because somebody doesn't make toast, or they didn't make their bed up –

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

BISHOP JAKES: -- or they lost their job, or they gained 20 pounds doesn't constitute *divorce*. You[ve] got to learn how to stick to something: your job, your school, your family. And some days you're going to be happy; some days, you're not going to be happy.

MR. MARTIN: Bishop, you've been married to your wife Serita for more than 30 years, and I've read several of your books, read stories. And I think what people often have to understand [is] they see Bishop T.D. Jakes, Potter's House, mega church leader, traveling around the world, books and things along those lines. But [there] was a time when -- when you were simply T.D. Jakes -- Rev. T.D. Jakes; small church; West Virginia; digging ditches; wife having to, frankly, have food stamps to feed the family. And so please talk about that portion as well, because I don't want to give anything away, but -- in "Jumping the Broom." There's a financial change in the life of one of these families, but one of the characters says, "I'm not leaving my husband."

BISHOP JAKES: Well, you -- you -- here's the thing about it. I related to both sides of the families. I understand what it is to struggle. Right -- maybe a year or so after I got married, I lost the job that I had had for five years. It was my dream job. I ran out of unemployment. I can relate to what many Americans are going through right now. I can remember when I saw the tail lights of my car going out of the driveway, and it wasn't being stolen; it was being repossessed. Lights off, gas off. My idea of success was trying to get all the utilities to stay on at one time.

But we stuck it out. It was *really* bad. I mean, Roland, it was *really* bad. I had

two, little children. Couldn't buy diapers. I can remember going out picking apples to feed the kids dinner. We had nothing to eat. We had tough times. I got out. I got a lawnmower and started cutting grass. I started a lawn cutting service. I got a shovel, started digging ditches. My brother and I started replacing gas lines to make a hundred dollars to buy some diapers for my boys that are now 30 years old.

You have to do what you have to do. A lot of people see me now, but they have no *clue* of what I've been through to get where I am. And so I *do* relate to the struggle, and I would not be here today if my wife and I had divided and started fighting each other and blaming each other. We got behind each other. We supported each other, and we survived it. And marriage is about survival. You can't make it 30, 40, 50 years without somebody doing something stupid. You have to forgive people. You have to rebuild. You have to fortify. If you fall out with everybody, you die alone.

MR. MARTIN: Bishop T.D. Jakes, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

BISHOP JAKES: Thank you, sir. Have a great day.

MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

Folks, our discussion on marriage and family is not over. Coming up, are Black Hollywood producers accurately portraying our lives as we lead them? Or, should we simply relax and enjoy the show? Also, how can we confront the realities of African-American marriages beyond the big screen? A special roundtable is up next.

And later, our panel of journalists takes up the President's chances for reelection and his meeting with members of the Congressional Black Caucus at the White House.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 2)**

MR. MARTIN: Two, new movies, folks: Tyler Perry's "Madea's Big Happy Family" and Bishop T.D. Jakes' "Jumping the Broom," both drawing praise as well as some criticism. Critics argue the characters aren't realistic, while others say the movies tackle crucial issues, like marriage and family, that need to be addressed openly in all communities, but specifically [among] African-Americans.

Here to praise and, I suspect, also criticize *some* of [the] elements of both films are the creators of the blog blackandmarriedwithkids.com, husband-and-wife team Lamar and Ronnie Tyler; Sophia Nelson, author of *Black Woman Redefined*; and Janks Morton, the man behind the documentary "What Black Men [Really] Think."

Everybody, welcome to "Washington Watch."

OFF CAMERA: Thank you for having us.

MR. MARTIN: Just finished chatting with Bishop T.D. Jakes, obviously, one of the producers of the film, also along with "Our Stories" with – Tracey Edmonds work – works with. And it's very interesting when you see the reaction, because I think with *this* film, folks were like, "Oh, this is great!" "This is wonderful!" "You're seeing the real issues when it comes to African-Americans and marriage." But when I also saw Tyler Perry's "Madea's Big Happy Family," I also saw two married couples dealing with the drama in the relationships. Yet, folks don't want to talk about *that* issue when it comes to marriage. What do you make of that?

MS. SOPHIA NELSON: Well, think about it. “Jumping the Broom” was much more positive. It was a lovely setting. It was up in the Vineyard. It was beautiful, and everybody was kind of happy. In the T.D. Ja- -- I mean – sorry. In the Tyler Perry adaption of this last movie that he did, I saw – it was *rough*. People were arguing and nasty, and it wasn’t a pretty scene, so folks don’t want to deal with that.

MR. MARTIN: Now, I – I w- -- I want to play a clip from Tyler Perry’s “Madea’s Big Happy Family.” So, folks, check this out.

[FILM CLIP OF THREE MEN COMPLAINING ABOUT WOMEN.]

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.] Now, the reality is that *is* reality. I’ve – I’ve bee- -- I’ve seen guys have the same conversation, who are frustrated in their marriages – with different elements. And so why is it that we are afraid to actually have that kind of discussion –

MR. JANKS MORTON: I –

MR. MARTIN: -- and actually see it?

MR. MORTON: -- I don’t think it’s fair. I think it’s disproportionate representation. We’re not saying that it doesn’t occur, but when Hollywood tries to portray Black marriage, Black family, or the Black experience, they won’t take the mosaic. They’ll take the fray[?], the dramatic, and over exaggerate it as that’s the normative behavior of what we do.

MR. MARTIN: But that isn’t the only film, because, frankly, I could stand here and talk about “Love Jones.” I can talk about “The Wood.” I can talk about “Brown

Sugar.” I can talk about “The Best Man.” I can talk about any number of films where you have had the relationship drama in those films, but also in the Tyler Perry films, at the end of them, the couple doesn’t divorce. They also de- -- you also have redemption. You also are confronting the drama in the relationships, and so you might see it, but you also are not seeing the brokenness at the end of it as well. So, we have to acknowledge that as well.

Thoughts?

MR. LAMAR TYLER: You know, I think ab- -- along the lines of what Janks what saying. When we look at films like, you know, “Madea’s” – you know, the last one that came out, it’s the construct of how many of those films are being made. You know, how many films – I think when T.D. Jakes comes out with a movie like “Jumping the Broom,” people are so excited to see successful African-American families in those films. You know, they – they’re excited to see us just defined in a different way.

MR. MARTIN: Bu- -- but –

MR. TYLER: [Crosstalk]- --

MR. MARTIN: -- is it – but is it a question, though, of seeing successful African-American films, or the point that Sophia talked about – that is they’re on the Vineyard; these folks are having the jobs? But the reality is whether they’re on the Vineyard and successful, or whether they are broke as all get-out, the problem[s] in the marriages are still the same.

MR. MORTON: But what – the – the hunger is we- -- I mean especially with

Lamar – I mean they’ve got a great film. It’s – it’s a positive representation of Black marriage. People were hungry, and it’s not just to – to sit in front of the wide screen and see something that you know exists – I’m not – we’re not go- --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MORTON: -- right –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. MORTON: -- but we want to see something that reflects more of what our *experience* is.

MS. RONNIE TYLER: Yeah. Reflects the spectrum. I notice with T.D. Jakes’ movie, why did both mothers have to be over-the-top angry? There could be some balance. And – you know, and – and – and the same with Med- -- the Mede- -- “Madea” movie. African-American women are just being portrayed as *angry*. I mean that’s the overall theme when –

MR. MARTIN: Well –

MS. TYLER: -- I walked –

MR. MARTIN: -- but, look –

MS. TYLER: -- away from that.

MR. MARTIN: -- I – I’ve seen romantic comedies. I’ve seen Candice Bergen in films, the woman – Reese Witherspoon, “Sweet” – I think it was “Sweet Home Alabama.” And let’s just say she wasn’t the most wonderful, nice, positive as well. And so I mean let’s just –

MS. NELSON: But that's not –

MR. MARTIN: -- be honest –

MS. TYLER: But *both* –

MS. NELSON: -- a stereotype –

MS. TYLER: -- mothers?

MS. NELSON: -- Roland, in White –

[CROSSTALK.]

MR. MORTON: [Crosstalk] –

MS. NELSON: -- women.

MR. MARTIN: No, no, no. But –

MR. MORTON: -- that doesn't work.

MR. MARTIN: -- but –

MS. TYLER: You have –

MR. MARTIN: -- bu- -- but I –

MS. TYLER: -- to –

MR. MARTIN: -- but I – but I'm making a point, and that is aren't we – aren't we sometimes so sensitive in that we want to see – 'cause when we say "positive film," let's be honest. Movies are called "dramas" for a reason, 'cause –

MS. TYLER: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- *people like drama*.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: Whether you're White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, we like drama. And so when you have all sugar, and it's all saccharine, let's just be honest. We're not necessarily running around, trying to go see it.

MS. NELSON: But [to] pick up on Ronnie's point, the images of the two, Black mothers in "Jumping the Broom" – and I don't want to spoil it for people who haven't seen it – they were very stereotypical. They were the extreme. The Angela Bassett character was the bourgie, Vineyard mom with the jacked-up marriage, drinkin', kinda – [waves her hand dismissively with attitude] – "whatever," and then the mom – the other mom was from Brooklyn. She was just not nice to this young woman. She even tried to wreck the marriage up at one point – or, the to-be marriage.

MS. TYLER: Yes.

MS. NELSON: And it was the stereotypes of angry versus bourgie Black women. None of them [was] –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MS. NELSON: -- happy –

MS. TYLER: Right.

MS. NELSON: -- which was the bad news in the story. So – you know.

But I think that "Not Easily Broken," which is another T.D. Jakes film – I thought was fabulous, because even though it dealt with the hardship of marriage and what happens, as you said, it had a good ending. And if we stick together – and these guys are all more qualified than I, as – being the unmarried person – here to talk about this –

then you can make it.

MR. MARTIN: And how many of us saw “Not Easily Broken”?

MR. TYLER: I saw it.

MS. NELSON: I saw it.

MS. TYLER: I did.

MR. MORTON: Yeah, I saw it.

MR. MARTIN: How much money did it make its opening weekend?

MS. NELSON: I don’t know.

MR. MORTON: Not much.

MR. MARTIN: Didn’t make \$15.7 million.

MR. MORTON: Not[?] much[?] – no.

MR. MARTIN: I mean “Down in the Delta” – I could talk about that film. I could talk about “Meet the Browns.” Angela Bassett played in that movie.

MR. MORTON: Right.

MS. NELSON: Right.

MR. MARTIN: Falling In love with Rick Fox –

MS. NELSON: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- same thing.

MS. NELSON: [Crosstalk] –

MR. MARTIN: My point there is it’s very interesting, when we talk about certain films, that our audiences still determine – the audience, at the end of the day, will

determine what they want to see.

MR. MORTON: Right. What we produce.

MR. MARTIN: So, we can criticize what we see on the screen –

MR. MORTON: Right.

MR. MARTIN: -- but when the audiences say, “I want to see that,” aren’t they also making a call?

MR. TYLER: Definitely. I still think that’s one of the largest problems in the African-American community. We profess so much how we don’t want films like “Madea,” how we don’t want these stereotypical films, and – and “new-age blaxploitation” – and we call them “shuckin’ an’ jivin’.” But like you said, on Friday afternoon, those are all the films we’re lining up down the block to see.

MR. MARTIN: Also, in both of these films, you also have faith. And so it’s interesting you would see all of those elements in the films, but people still will say, “Yeah, but it still had this.” So, it – so, at some point, isn’t the gr- -- the satisfaction that we have “Madea’s Big Happy Family” *and* “Jumping the Broom”? So, therefore, folks are satisfied?

MS. NELSON: Sure.

MS. TYLER: Sure. I mean, yeah, I – I g- -- we di- -- we had options this –

MR. MARTIN: You sh- -- you –

MS. TYLER: -- weekend.

MR. MARTIN: -- didn’t wanna give that up!

[LAUGHTER.]

MS. TYLER: [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: You *know* that's not – you didn't wanna give that up!

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: She was kinda like, "Yeah, dang! I'm – [crosstalk]" –

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: -- "Oh, wait." See – see? Even my –

MR. TYLER: That's what –

MR. MARTIN: -- guest! You didn't –

MR. TYLER: -- that's what I –

MR. MARTIN: -- wanna –

MR. TYLER: -- go through in the house. [Chuckles.]

MR. MARTIN: -- give that up!

MR. TYLER: That's what I go through in –

MS. TYLER: I didn't. [Chuckles.]

MR. TYLER: -- the house. [Laughs.]

MR. MARTIN: See?

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MORTON: Yeah, you're right. I mean it's – it's so – it's – it's – it's just a peculiar – I mean even a – a – Ha- -- Harry B- -- well, anyway, it's been written about over our history about how we're hyper critical. We have been lambasted and

stereotyped and shown –

MS. NELSON: [Crosstalk.]

MR. MORTON: -- these less-than-desirable behaviors just put onto the American psyche and our psyche, which then reflects on how we think about ourselves.

MR. MARTIN: And I'll tell you at the end of the day, Hollywood is about drama, conflict. That is the reality. Whether you['re] Black, White, Hispanic does not matter. That's what people like. They love drama. "Real Housewives of Washington, D.C." – not that much drama. Got cancelled.

MR. MORTON: Cancelled.

MR. MARTIN: The other shows? They're still on the air.

MR. MORTON: 'S a good point.

MR. MARTIN: Folks, we certainly appreciate it. Thanks a bunch.

MR. MORTON: Thank you.

MS. TYLER: Thank you.

MR. TYLER: Thank you.

MR. MARTIN: All right, folks.

Sophia, you're going to stick around for our journalists' roundtable discussion.

That is up next.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 3)**

MR. MARTIN: He's ba-a-ack! Former Republican House Speaker Newt

Gingrich wants to take on Pres. Barack Obama – good luck – and the current GOP House Speaker John Boehner calls for deep cuts as long as those cuts don't affect Big Oil.

We're going to jump right into it with Cynthia Tucker, Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for "The Atlanta Journal Constitution"; Sophia Nelson, contributor to TheGrio.com and MSNBC analyst – also, she's a new book author, "Black Woman Redefined"; Robert Traynham, host of "Roll Call TV" on the Comcast Network; and my man syndicated columnist George Curry.

All right, folks. So, Gingrich throws his hat into the ring.

MS. NELSON: [Shakes her head.] Um-um-um.

MR. MARTIN: He's apologized on, of course, TB- -- CBN, explaining away that he has so much passion for America, he cheated on his wife.

[SNICKERING.]

MR. MARTIN: Do you think he is going to be able to ignore the multiple affairs, the questions to his character?

MS. CYNTHIA TUCKER: Of course not. Of course not. Newt has *so much baggage*, it's hard –

MR. MARTIN: He might as well –

MS. TUCKER: -- to see –

MR. MARTIN: -- by a skycap, huh?

MS. TUCKER: -- I'm *tellin'* you.

MR. MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

MS. TUCKER: It's hard to see how he's going to carry the weight through the first *month* or two of a campaign season. And it's not just the record of infidelities. It's the record of all the outrageous things that he's said over the years and the number of positions that he's held that he's now trying to run away from. Newt is a guy who once thought climate change was real and thought cap-and-trade was a good –

MR. MARTIN: And this is –

MS. TUCKER: -- idea.

MR. MARTIN: -- a guy who was Georgia congressman.

MS. TUCKER: I've known –

MR. MARTIN: You – you –

MS. TUCKER: -- him s- --

MR. MARTIN: -- you know him –

MS. TUCKER: -- I've known –

MR. MARTIN: -- very well.

MS. TUCKER: -- I've known him since the late '70s. He runs his mouth a mile a minute. He has a lot of ideas. Most of them are boneheaded.

MR. MARTIN: Hold te- -- hold tight. Let's hear Newt Gingrich running his mouth on that big-mouth's show – Sean Hannity's show on Fox News, after his announcement.

[VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. NEWT GINGRICH: First of all, he's going to say whatever he needs to, to win. Second, he's going to have all the advantage of the – of the mainstream media. He's going to have all the advantages of left-wing billionaires like George Soros. He's going to have all the advantages of the Hollywood crowd. And they're going to go out, and they're going to have all the advantages of – of the unions, and so they're going to t- – they're going to try to raise a billion dollars for a very practical reason. He can't afford to run in a fair election.

I know, talking with Gov. Rick Perry and others – I know how to get the whole country to resemble Texas. Pres. Obama knows how to get the whole country to resemble Detroit.

[END OF VIDEO CLIP.]

MR. MARTIN: So, what do you make of that?

MS. NELSON: If that is the best the Republican Party has to offer against Barack Obama, it has a problem.

MR. MARTIN: *President* Barack Obama.

MS. NELSON: *President* Barack Obama.

I apologize, Mr. President. Yes, you're –

MR. ROBERT TRAYNHAM: Newt Gingrich –

MS. NELSON: -- absolutely right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- brings a lot of baggage, but he also brings a lot of passion to the ticket. Look, t- -- to Cynthia's –

MR. MARTIN: Ron Paul –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- point –

MR. MARTIN: -- has a lot of passion – [crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- well, no, but – but passion –

MR. MARTIN: -- [crosstalk] – Ron –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- from an –

MR. MARTIN: -- Paul.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- intellectual standpoint. Say whatever you want about Newt Gingrich – and there's a lot to say about him from a personal standpoint; there's no question about it – he's a big ideas/thinker's guy, and that's why a lot of grassroots conservatives are perplexed. The reason why they're perplexed is because he's on his third marriage. He married his third marriage when he was dating his second wife. His second wife he proposed to when his first wife was dying on the – on a deathbed.

MS. NELSON: [Crosstalk.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: So, there's a lot of things going on from a personal standpoint. He brings a *lot* of baggage.

And the question –

MR. MARTIN: Let –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- becomes, in those three presidential primary states, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Iowa, the evangelicals probably will not swallow that pill. *However*, from an intellectual standpoint, he is *phenomenal* – a phenomenal –

MR. MARTIN: -- le- -- let me --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- candidate, because he's a brilliant individual from a political standpoint.

MR. MARTIN: -- let me just go ahead and step back, 'cause George is over there just smiling, just -- George, *go* right ahead!

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: I can *tell* you've just got something to say right now.

MR. GEORGE CURRY: The man is a serial *liar*. Everything he's -- even his *announcement!* I mean he said, "Well, 'The New York Times' -- that liberal media, they only praised on m- -- "one mi- -- "one movie by Ronald Reagan" -- and he picked the wrong one. They had panned it. And he lied because they had at least said four movies were great. And you can go every d- -- item by item. It d- -- just does not hold up. He's a serial liar. He's not going anywhere. And I don't know what kind of intellectual thinking you -- you're comparing him to, unless it's a --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Well --

MR. CURRY: -- *gnat*.

MR. MARTIN: Sophia.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- can I be ps- -- bu- -- but can --

MR. MARTIN: Go ahead.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- I be specific? Because -- a lot of people forget -- forget this, but back in 1993, Newt Gingrich was the one who was talking about nationalized

healthcare when it c- --

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha.

MR. CURRY: But he's not --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- well, no.

MR. CURRY: -- talking about it now.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but -- but, George --

MR. MARTIN: And also --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but to my --

MR. CURRY: [Chuckles.]

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- point -- but to my --

MR. MARTIN: -- and he did --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- point --

MR. MARTIN: -- support a healthcare mandate --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that's right.

MR. MARTIN: -- *then* --

MR. TRAYNHAM: That's right, so --

MR. MARTIN: -- but --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- you --

MR. MARTIN: -- to Cynthia's point, he's changed.

MS. TUCKER: Yes!

MR. TRAYNHAM: Okay, but --

MS. TUCKER: He's trying –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- my point i- --

MS. TUCKER: -- to run away from –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- look. I'm not –

MS. TUCKER: -- those very –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- defending –

MS. TUCKER: -- ideas.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- him. I'm just trying to be fair to him, that he –

MR. CURRY: [Crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- is a b- -- that he's a –

MR. CURRY: -- [crosstalk] –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- that he's a –

MR. CURRY: -- you're defending him.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- big thinker.

MS. TUCKER: Well, but –

MR. CURRY: You're defending him –

MS. TUCKER: -- he – yeah --

MR. CURRY: -- Robert.

MS. TUCKER: -- you know –

MR. TRAYNHAM: No –

MS. TUCKER: -- there –

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- George, don't --

MS. TUCKER: -- there -- there --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- don't go there.

MS. TUCKER: -- there is --

MR. TRAYNHAM: Don't -- don't --

MR. CURRY: Obviously --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- go there.

MS. TUCKER: -- there is --

MR. CURRY: -- you *are*!

MS. TUCKER: -- absolutely no doubt -- again, I've known the guy since the late '70s, since w- -- [he?] first ran for Congress. He has a very interesting mind, but he does not show by *any* means the kind of discipline --

MR. TRAYNHAM: I agree.

MS. TUCKER: -- required of a presidential candidate.

MR. TRAYNHAM: I agree.

MS. TUCKER: But I'm looking forward -- I'm -- I'm *delighted* that Newt has decided to enter the race, because he guarantees me at least one column a week.

MR. MARTIN: [Laughs.]

[LAUGHTER.]

MR. MARTIN: I had -- I -- I -- I had a[n] interesting debate this week with several people on my Twitter page -- namely Touré, who -- I call him a pop-culture critic who

wants to talk about politics, which is hilarious i- -- i- -- in itself. And -- and he talked about guaranteeing -- it's a lock that Pres. Barack Obama wins next November. You look at the poll numbers. Right now, he's faring well against *any* of these GOP candidates.

Is that a mistake for people to somehow believe --

OFF CAMERA: Absolutely.

MS. TUCKER: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- with the killing of Osama bin Laden --

MS. TUCKER: Yes.

MR. MARTIN: -- "Oh, he's a lock"?

MR. TRAYNHAM: Can I --

MS. NELSON: It's George Herbert Walker Bush in 1991. I remember this vividly. The Persian Gulf War, he's at 90 percent approval rating. Bill Clinton comes out of *nowhere*. Next thing you know, George Herbert Walker Bush ain't President no more.

MR. MARTIN: He was packin'.

MS. NELSON: He was *unbeatable*.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but let me go back one more. Back in 1978, there was the Iranian ho- -- hostage crisis, but it was also the whole issue with the Camp David Peace Accords. Jimmy Carter won in a landslide in the congressional midterm elections. He got trounced two years later in 1980. So, these midterm significant events are really big

in that moment –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- but they don't guarantee a reelection – [crosstalk].

MR. CURRY: It's impor- --

MS. TUCKER: And –

MR. CURRY: -- important, though, to remember that, you know, you also had – Clinton had numbers similar to these. I – I don't think you can say right now whether he's going to win or lose. These numbers are – are inflated right now because of Osama bin Laden, but it really should be higher, because they won't even give him credit for *that*. You['ve] got all the torturous –

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. CURRY: -- torturous deb- -- debate over torture, that people won't even give him credit.

MR. MARTIN: [Crosstalk.]

MR. CURRY: They try to justify *that*.

MS. TUCKER: But the – the important thing to remember is that the President does not assume his reelection is an automatic. You can tell. Even before he made his formal announcement, he was *already running*. That's why he is spending as much time as he is courting independents, people right in the middle. You know, he has pretty much thrown the left under the bus. The Congressional Black Caucus has tried and tried and tried to get his attention on issues like jobs. They met with him last week

for an hour. He still isn't *moving* very far along on those issues.

MR. MARTIN: And –

MS. TUCKER: He's courting the middle of the electorate.

MR. MARTIN: -- I – I wa- -- I want to deal with that point. I was going to get to Speaker Boehner, but he can wait.

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. MARTIN: No, it's very interesting. The President did meet with the Congressional Black Caucus this week, and as I look at people's comments, I see the CBC constantly coming under attack. Yet, when they opposed the House Financial Reform Bill – Financial Services Bill – they didn't vote *against* it, but they said, "We want more" – they got *\$4 billion* in concessions, and Black folks still ripped the CBC, because when they question Pres. Obama, their constituents get upset. And so is the CBC – now, here they are, fighting for jobs.

MS. TUCKER: Exactly.

MR. MARTIN: The highest unemployment rate – Black folks. Black teens: *44 percent* unemployment rate.

MS. NELSON: Um-hum, um-hum.

MR. MARTIN: Yet, when the CBC is pushing the President on that, they get no support from –

MR. CURRY: Well –

MR. MARTIN: -- its constituents.

George.

MR. CURRY: -- I think that's the problem with any Black elected official. You know, we -- this is our first beige president, so, you know --

MR. MARTIN: *Stop it!*

[CHUCKLING.]

MR. CURRY: -- [chuckles] -- and so you -- so you go, and you -- you -- you -- you -- you want to raise these issues. And -- and if you criticize him at *all* -- even if you call him "Obama" instead of "President," we should call *all* the presidents by their f- -- by their last name -- people get mad about it. And -- and it's this thing that you can't *win*, I mean, because people don't even want you to be critiqu[ing] him, let alone criticize him.

And so I think they *do* raise this. They continue to raise the issue, but you can't get anywhere, because they're -- half of them -- you know, don't forget. Half of them endorsed Hillary --

MR. MARTIN: I gotcha.

MR. CURRY: -- and they had to follow *their* constituents. So, I think some of them learned by --

MR. TRAYNHAM: But, you know --

MR. CURRY: -- that as --

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- Roland --

MR. CURRY: -- well.

MR. TRAYNHAM: -- it's interesting you bring up that point. A couple of months

ago, I ran into a CBC member in the halls of Congress, and I asked him that very specific dynamic. And he said to me, “You know what? The President” – he said “Barack,” but I’m – I’m paraphra[sing].

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. TRAYNHAM: He says, “The President will be out of here in 2016. I plan on being here for the long term. So, at the end of the day, I have to answer to my constituents, and I have to hold my conscience accountable. And if that means – regardless of whether his skin color is purple – if that means that I need to ch-“ – “chastise him, or challenge him on the issues of jobs on the issue of healthcare, I’m going to do so.”

MR. MARTIN: Yeah, I – I just simply think that – again, I think, for people who are watching at home, when you actually look at – and folks ‘ll say, “Roland, why are you defending the CBC?” I will criticize them when need be. I will praise them when need be. But when they got *\$4 billion* for standing up against that bill and told the President, “We’re not going to give you our votes until we get more,” when people did not – people *still* criticized them, I’m saying, “How can you complain about \$4 billion?” That made no sense to me.

MR. CURRY: You know –

MS. NELSON: But, Rol- --

MR. CURRY: -- you know, he needs – he needs criticism, you know? Because

–

MS. NELSON: Absolutely.

MR. CURRY: -- because he's --

MS. NELSON: [Crosstalk.]

MR. CURRY: -- being forced --

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. CURRY: -- to the right.

MS. NELSON: Absolutely.

MR. CURRY: And unless --

MS. TUCKER: Exactly --

MR. CURRY: -- you do --

MS. TUCKER: -- right.

MR. MARTIN: Right.

MR. CURRY: -- that, you don't give him any cover. You're doing him a *favor* --

MS. NELSON: I agree.

MS. TUCKER: [Crosstalk.]

MR. CURRY: -- by critiquing him.

MS. NELSON: I a- --

MS. TUCKER: It is --

MS. NELSON: -- -gree.

MS. TUCKER: -- it is absolutely necessary --

MR. MARTIN: Gotcha.

MS. TUCKER: -- that he has that counterbalance on the left.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Cynthia, Sophia, Robert, George, we appreciate it.

Thanks a bunch.

Folks, up next, Smokey Fontaine with "Web Watch."

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 4)**

MR. MARTIN: Just when you thought Sarah Palin had gone away, she manages to thrust herself back into the media spotlight. News One's Smokey Fontaine joins me from News One's New York headquarters via the HP SkyRoom with that story.

Now, c- -- Smokey, it's all about Sarah Palin, Fox News and Common this week. Folks were really reacting online.

MR. SMOKEY FONTAINE: They were reacting because they know that the Republicans are stretching and reaching. It feels like they're desperate.

Rapper Common was invited by Michelle Obama to read poetry at the White House. He is one of the most respected rappers that we've had. He has represented hip-hop culture almost better than anybody we can imagine, and he was actually not invited to the White House to rap. He was invited to read poetry.

Sarah Palin was all over it, saying that he was a "vile" rapper, that he should not have been invited, that he -- that he misrepresents himself and --

MR. MARTIN: Ca- -- right.

MR. FONTAINE: -- is about violence --

MR. MARTIN: Carl Rove –

MR. FONTAINE: -- and ignorance.

MR. MARTIN: -- called him a “thug” on Fox News. [Chuckles.]

MR. FONTAINE: Of *all* the rappers! This – this man Carl Rove needs to watch some kinda television. He needs to ask one of his children to define [for] him what it means to be a “thug rapper.” Common is none of that. He is also a Hollywood movie star.

It was one of the most commented [upon] stories on News One this week, people saying, “You know what? Enough is enough. We’ve got Osama bin Laden. You guys are reaching, and you’re done for the next election.”

MR. MARTIN: Another – another story folks were talking about: Albert Haynesworth of the Washington Redskins – he was, of course, involved – he was arrested by the cops, involved in an altercation. A woman claimed that he sexually abused her, and the police say he told them the claim could not be true, because – quote – “he doesn’t date Black girls” – unquote.

MR. FONTAINE: Roland, our sisters cannot catch a break. It feels like every couple of weeks, there’s a – there’s an issue in the media, there’s an issue in the news which is just denigrating African-American women. Here we have a multi million-dollar NFL player who’s defending himself against a lawsuit by basically saying, “You know what? I couldn’t ‘ve done it ‘cause I don’t date Black girls. I haven’t dated a Black girl in *years*.”

You know what? It's the kind of ignorance that, unfortunately, the Web just spews out. It's all over Twitter, all over Facebook and – and the Internet. And these are the kind[s] of things we have to make sure our brothers don't – even if it's true, just don't admit it in *public*, please.

MR. MARTIN: Well, first of all, I mean he is getting ripped left and right, so I doubt very seriously his female demographics – his numbers 'll be going up in that area.

MR. FONTAINE: You know, I mean he's someone who's – who's always kind of had a real, you know – his relationship with the media – he doesn't care. He says what he wants to say. This time, he may have gotten himself in trouble with the exact community he does *not* want to get in trouble with, and that's African-American women. And that's the end of that.

MR. MARTIN: All right, Smokey, we certainly appreciate it.

Folks, go to NewsOne.com.

Thanks a bunch.

MR. FONTAINE: Thank you, Roland.

MR. MARTIN: All right. Thank *you*.

All right, folks. It's time now for "My Perspective."

This week on Twitter, I had this wonderful battle with Pastor Jamal Bryant. He's a Kappa. I'm an Alpha, and you see me with my Life Member pin, wearing my Black and Old Gold. So, we were going at it, talking about our respective fraternities. And it's amazing to me when you do that, you have these sanctimonious people who come on

and say, “You shouldn’t be doing this. Both of you are respected. Why aren’t you sitting here talking about the news and the issues?” and things along those lines.

You know what I say? *Give me a break!* Do any of these people have any laughter in their life, any levity in their life? Do they actually *enjoy* life? This is a ritual that *all* of our fraternities do, all of our sororities do. We call it “the dozens.” We call it “cappin’” on each other. But it’s a way to sit here and have fun. He’s touting his fraternity – not as great as mine. I’m touting mine. I’ve done the same thing with Ricky Smiley, Tom Joyner, Steve Harvey when it comes to Omegas. I’ve done it with Warren Ballantine when it comes to Sigmas. It’s just what we *do*.

But I’m just amazed when people get so emotional, they get offended. One guy even said, you know, “You really should apologize for criticizing a pastor this way.”

It was all in fun.

Folks, here’s the deal. If your life is that horrible, your life is that bad, do me a favor. Pop in a comedy DVD, turn to somebody, listen to Richard Pryor, go watch *something*. But – trust me – your life doesn’t have to be that bad when you have no laughter whatsoever.

That’s my perspective. What’s yours?

Up next, hip-hop goes to college. We’ll talk with rapper and actor-turned-teacher Christopher “Play” Martin about rap’s influence on music, fashion and much more.

[END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 5)**

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Rap music has come a long way since its inception. Nowadays, college students are lining up to learn more about why this genre keeps getting hotter. Recently, I spoke with Christopher “Play” Martin, half of the hit-making duo Kid ‘N’ Play,* about how rap music is bigger than spitting lines over fierce beats. [JUMP TO INTERVIEW.]

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: It started off as rap in New York. Now it has broadened to hip-hop, and many folks said it was going to be a fad. Thirty-plus years later, they’re dead wrong. Hip-hop is here to stay, and its impact is undeniable. It is so influential, it has grown into a multi billion-dollar industry that has spread all across the world. And also, colleges and universities are creating courses for today’s youth interested in breaking into the industry.

Here to discuss the education of hip-hop are two representatives from the Institute for Hip Hop and Music Industry Studies* at Florida A&M University – many of you know it as FAMU – Christopher Martin, best known as “Play” from Kid ‘N Play; and Dr. Kawachi Clemons, Assistant Professor of Music and director of the Institute.

Gents, thanks a bunch.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: What’s up, Bro. Roland?

DR. KAWACHI CLEMONS: Thank you.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: [Chuckles.]

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Man, folks who – folks [are] probably at home, sayin’, “Oh, man! Y’all gotta be *kiddin’* me! A[n] institute on hip-hop? That’s the *last* thing we

need!”

Your response to that.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: Well, I think a lot of people misconstrue what that’s all about. The first thing most people think is that you’re going to come to this class to learn how –

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: This –

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: -- to rap.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- and listen to music all day long.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: And it’s not about that. That’s a *part* of it. We use the music, we use the images involved. It’s somewhat of a history book – unorthodox history book – in regards to just showing the journeys of a lot of people who’ve made a difference not only in hip-hop, but economically. [It] has influenced so many to do – some to do wrong, but a lot to do right, and we focus a lot on that. But it also introduces people to other things they can become in the industry, such as accountants, lawyers, producers. I mean so many things. A lot of people I know started out wanting to be rappers, and now they’re very successful in other areas of the business and being able to finance their dreams in regards to other things that don’t have nothin’ to *do* with hip-hop.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Doc, is there a comparison to what I – I – I – I would say sports management? Because when people started saying, “I want to go into sports management,” the initial thought then was, “Oh. What?” -- “What? You” – “You

can't play sports?"

But they'd say, "Wait a minute. No" – same thing; there're lawyers, doctors, so there're agents, there're all kind[s] of people – the folks who are on the physical side in terms of physical therapy; that the industry itself goes beyond just the athletic field. Same thing with the music. [It] goes beyond just the stage.

DR. CLEMONS: Yeah, that's correct. And, actually, at Florida A&M University, we have developed a curriculum in music industry, and that degree combines studies in music and business, as well as students have opportunities to learn about the behind-the-scenes of the production industry.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: You talked about the roles, but let's also look at the advancement that goes beyond just these basic jobs. All of a sudden, you see hip-hop infiltrating corporate America. You look at event companies that have been created –

DR. CLEMONS: Um-hum.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- around that as well. So, the job creation as a result of hip-hop has been absolutely enormous and, frankly, has transformed some industries.

DR. CLEMONS: Yeah, I think you're absolutely correct. And one of the things that we want to try to highlight here is creating an opportunity where students will be able to see all of those opportunities, because those opportunities aren't readily available in terms of when you think about representations of hip-hop. All we see is the video vixen and, you know, 50 Cent and Lil Wayne in front of the camera; but we never

talk about the behind-the-scenes of hip-hop.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Is it a part of the class as well – part of the Institute – the – the – where you look at the business deals even the artists cut themselves? Do you look at the vitamin water deal, I believe –

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: We do.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- that 50 Cent cut? You look at the Ciroc deal that P. Diddy cut? I mean the amount – I mean how these individuals are no longer artists; they are literally walking and talking brands and corporations.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: Well, we get into all of that, and I mean we really dissect it; because we get into the spirituality of it. We get into the – the environment, or the climates a lot of these artists came from to write the kind[s] of things that they write. We get into the – the – the dynamics in regards to what you just spoke about in regards to the fact of why things are the way they are. And a lot of these things – I know people have genuine concerns in regards to the messages that a lot of these artists bring. And we get into the fact of how there are repercussions –

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Um-hum.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: -- for those type[s] of records and those k- -- type[s] of choices where we really bring home that these are cautionary tales, that “things aren’t going to be any different for you, if you choose the same road. Let’s do something about making a change in hip-hop for the positive.”

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Was there any pushback in the creation of this?

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: *Of course.*

DR. CLEMONS: Yeah. I think –

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: [Crosstalk] –

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: What happened?

DR. CLEMONS: -- well, anytime you – you –

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: What did they –

DR. CLEMONS: -- you –

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: -- say?

DR. CLEMONS: -- start talking about doing hip-hop on a[n] academic level, people automatically think hip-hop and education – that seems to be sort of a paradox. Right?

But I think that what we try to do is – first of all, our Institute, we’re s- -- we’re solidified in a – in a foundation where we’re looking at developing a repository of hip-hop culture. So, we – we root hip-hop in African-American and Black sort of musical traditions, and we look at hip-hop as an extension of that narrative vernacular.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: How many students are enrolled in the Institute right now?

DR. CLEMONS: Well, right now, we have 112 students in our Hip Hop Seminar course.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Are many of them shocked by what they hear? And they say, I mean, “I thought hip-hop was this, but now” –

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: That's the biggest compliment –

DR. CLEMONS: Definitely.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MARTIN: -- is to hear from most of it[?]. I'm finishing up a documentary now called, "Can Hip Hop Go to School?" where I have a lot of well-known faces in the video, but what's more important is I follow Dr. Clemons and other academics – scholars and all-stars – in the education community, where a lot of these students, they – you know, you can see it on their faces. They *just didn't know*. And they look at it in a whole new different way and realize they have a responsibility, with this voice, with the influence, we need to create a change. You have to make a change.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: Where can folks go online and get more information about the program?

DR. CLEMONS: Oh. Florida A&M University's website: FAMU.edu.

MR. ROLAND MARTIN: All right.

[END OF INTERVIEW. END OF SEGMENT.]

**(SEG-
MENT 6)**

MR. MARTIN: That's it for this edition of TV One's "Washington Watch."

Be sure to go see "Jumping the Broom" as well as Tyler Perry's "Madea's Big Happy Family." Make it a date night.

I'm Roland Martin. Goodbye, and have a blessed week.

[END.]