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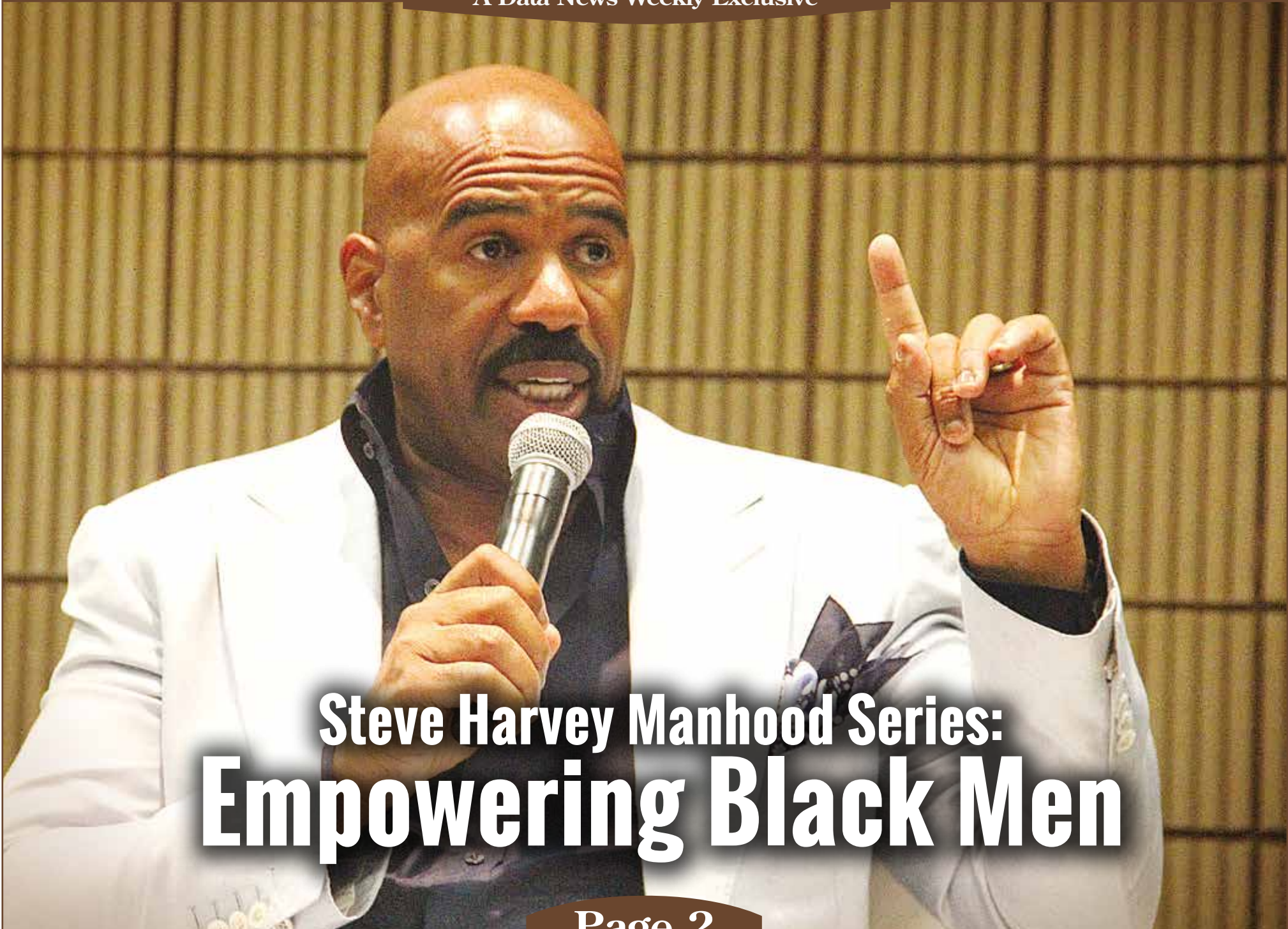
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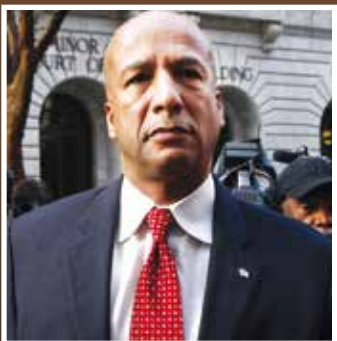
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Empowering Black Men

Steve Harvey Manhood Series Takes on Issues Affecting Black Males



Above are the young men of Beacon Industries who gathered at the Steve Harvey Manhood Series during the Essence Festival to take part in workshops, seminars and lectures designed to empower young Black men. Photo by Edwin Buggage, cover Image provided by Peter Nakhid

By Edwin Buggage

Steve Harvey Comes to New Orleans to Inspire Men

As throngs of people walked around the Morial Convention Center during the "Party with a Purpose" many panel discussions to place where leaders in the

African-American community spoke about issues that affect our community; this year in addition to speaking to a large audience Steve Harvey took part in a smaller seminar that brought together men and boys to discuss issues of manhood. Known for his frankness, candor and insight for an hour he spoke from the heart inspiring those who came to hear him speak. During his talk

he spoke about the formula for success, one of which is identifying your gift, "It is important that you find out what is your gift; find what's inside of you that is already great and attach a vehicle to it that can lead to be successful in your life," says Harvey.

While he spoke the audience was fully immersed and attentive, going on the journey with Harvey, laugh-

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Talk show host and playwright Hal Clark, pictured above left with Minister Willie Muhammad, minister of the local Nation of Islam and community activist.



On the left is Brandon of Beacon Industries with Brandon Boutin, 1st Assistant Minister at Greater St. Stephen Ministries.

ing, thinking and in some instances shedding tears as he spoke of his struggles and triumphs. His words touched many, one of them was a young man named Brandon who was there with a group of young men from Beacon Industries, a company started by Shareef Cousin, who at 16 was sent to Angola and eventually released after spending 11 years; there for a crime he didn't commit. His group consisted of young men wearing blazers and presented themselves as young men of purpose and vision who came to listen and learn. Speaking on Steve Harvey's speech he says, "I got a lot from Mr. Harvey, especially when he spoke about writing down your dreams and having a vision for yourself and planning your future to be a successful person. These are some of the things we are learning being part of Beacon Industries, and we appreciate Steve Harvey taking the time to come out and speak to us."

Inspiration for the Next Generation

Serving others is part of Steve Harvey's mission, as he holds camps for young men each year, in addition he spoke of his goal of creating 10,000 college scholarships for young people to attend college. Closer to home there is a young man whose mission is saving lives, in addition to saving souls has been

the calling of Brandon Boutin, the 1st Assistant Minister at Greater St. Stephen Ministries. He feels that someone from the world of entertainment using their celebrity as a platform to impart wisdom on the community is a good thing that is much needed. "It was refreshing to hear Steve Harvey's words. As a minister sometimes we can preach, but other voices outside the church talking about some of the same things are needed, so I was moved by his words and hopefully they connected with the young people in the audience. Continuing he says, "It was great that he came to talk to men on their level with a message that was real and relevant, it was an awesome experience. The biggest thing I got out of today is that I hope that the young people begin to think, have discussions and think about having a vision. They need to begin to ask questions of how they see themselves, and what kinds of goals do they have for themselves and how do they get there. So in my role I want to be sure that I use what I do in the ministry to help young men reach their goals and fulfill their dreams."

The Pursuit of Greatness Begins with You

One of the things that resonated with many in the audience was when Harvey spoke of an inspiration board. Somewhere one can



Steve Harvey(center)surrounded by men who participated in the Manhood Series.

place their goals and dreams and be reminded of what it is they are striving for. Radio Talk Show Host and Playwright Hal Clark is someone who has employed this for some time to much success. Saying of Harvey's down to earth approach to imparting his message Clark remarks, "I really appreciated his candor, because rarely do you see a brother who's reached that type of status to come and be so candid about what it takes to be a success."

Continuing his remarks he says, "For me when he spoke of writing down your goals is something that stuck out to me. It is something my wife got me into many years ago. I am a living testimony to how that can work for you as well. When I look at myself I think of how I had goals to become a writer and a lot of other things that are happening for me are because I wrote them down and stayed focused on them. I went to New York to receive an award as a playwright. I am a testament to what he was talking about identifying your gift and doing it, and believing in it and doing the things necessary to achieve them."

Changing Lives One Brother at a Time

Willie Muhammad is the minister of the local Nation of Islam and is someone who is on the front lines fighting against injustice and work-

ing to change the lives of so many in the City. He was in attendance and was impressed and inspired by the words of Harvey.

Reflecting on the talk he says, "One of the good things we saw today from Mr. Harvey was an entertainer who has a concern about the Black community and the plight of Black males, because a lot of times we see them doing what they do as entertainers, but very often we do not see them in the community. This is not the case with Mr. Harvey who has throughout his career given voice to some of the issues that affect our community."

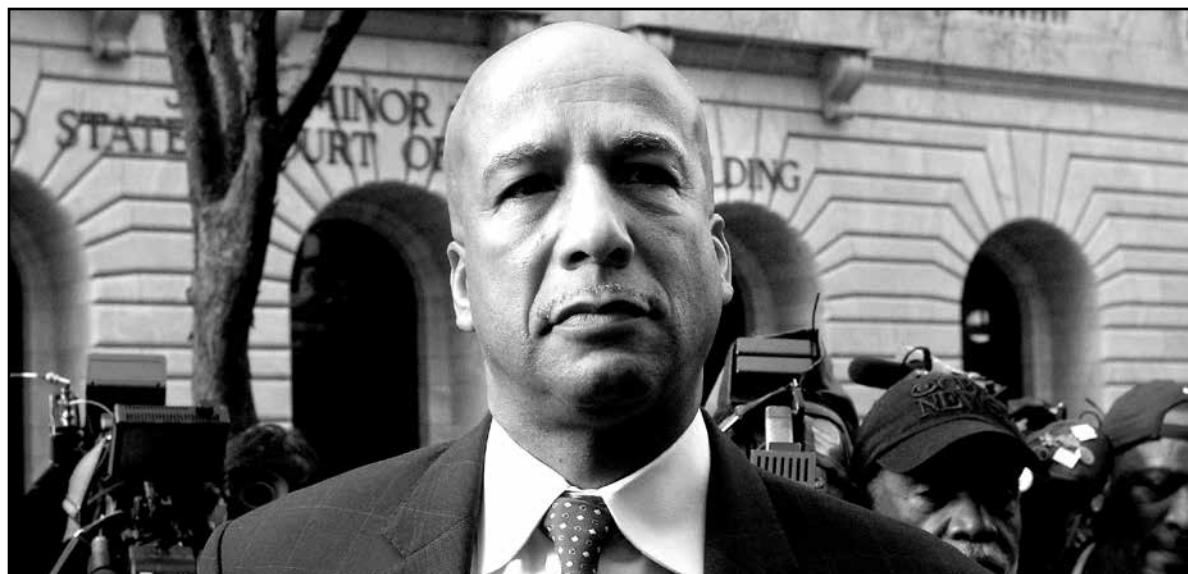
Much of the work of turning people's lives around has been one of the many successes of the Nation of Islam. Muhammad speaks on the approach that is used by the nation, "We follow the example of the Honorable Louis Farrakhan who teaches us to love our people wherever they are in life, so that way when we can see pass where they are so we can do whatever is necessary to help them. But I believe one of the things that stood out to me and it is something we try to do at the Nation of Islam is to have people identify their greatness and connect to that and let it manifest itself in their lives." Speaking about the success of the Nation of Islam and one of its greatest accomplishments Muhammad says, "One of the great successes of what we do is the Mil-

lion Man March, one-million were called and two- million showed up and men from around the country began to forge relationships and come up with ways to create solutions to the problems in our community. Recently, on our website we have been posting testimonies of so many of our brothers who are turning their lives around; I feel it is important that these stories get told more often to combat some of the negative perceptions of Black men.

I Am My Brother's Keeper

The work of Harvey mirrors the work of many men in the City and around the country that focuses on empowering our community, especially young men. Hal Clark speaks of the work he does inside of his church mentoring and feels proud of the work he and others are doing but feels it still falls short as many young men still fall through the cracks of society, "We have been doing this kind of outreach to young people for some time on my radio show. I also work in my church with a program called "Boys to Men," so I am actively involved with that and I want to take what Steve Harvey shared and spread that message around and encourage people to do more, but keep in mind many people are doing this great work in our community, but always more can be done."

Ray Nagin Sentenced To 10 Years In Prison



Former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was sentenced Wednesday to 10 years in prison for bribery, money laundering and other corruption that spanned his two terms as mayor — including the chaotic years after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005.

U.S. District Judge Helen Berigan handed down the sentence Wednesday morning.

Nagin was convicted Feb. 12 of accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars from businessmen who wanted work from the city or Nagin's support for various projects. The bribes came in the form of money, free vacations and truckloads of free granite for his family business.

The 58-year-old Democrat had defiantly denied any wrongdoing after his 2013 indictment and during his February trial.

Moments before sentencing, a subdued Nagin made a brief statement, thanking the judge for her professionalism. He made no apologies. "I trust that God's going to work all this out," he said.

After the sentencing Nagin smiled and hugged supporters as he walked out of the courtroom with his wife, Seletha, and other family members and friends.

Nagin is to report to the federal prison in Oakdale, Louisiana, in September.

Daughters Of Charity Services of New Orleans Hires New VP/COO

New Orleans, LA – Frank Folino has been hired as the new vice president/chief operating officer for Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans (DCSNO).

Folino will be responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans (DCSNO), and will work closely with the president and CEO to manage the profit and loss statement for the organization. He will also provide management oversight for the development of high-quality, cost-effective and integrated clinical programs within the organization.

"We are pleased to welcome Frank Folino to Daughters of Charity Services of New Orleans," said Michael G. Griffin, DCSNO's president and CEO. "Mr. Folino's experience and knowledge in health care management will aid us in ensuring

that the highest quality standards of direct patient care continue to be administered at the NCQA Level 3, and that our patients' experience with our clinical providers and business office associates is always excellent."

Folino comes to DCSNO from Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady (FMOL) Health System. There, he provided executive leadership to the Hospital Service District (HSD) Orleans Parish District A in the roles of project administrator for FMOL's management agreement/hospital activation planning, and administrator of East After Hours Urgent Care (EAHUC). Prior to this role, Folino provided executive leadership at the St. Bernard Health Center while acting as project administrator for the St. Bernard Parish Hospital project. Folino also enjoyed



long careers in executive leadership at Touro Infirmary and Hyatt Hotels Corporation.

Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage Receives Award from Victims and Citizens Against Crime



Victims and Citizens Against Crime held its 23rd Annual Award Night on June 26th 2014. New Orleans Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage was one of the recipients of the Outstanding Media Award.

Glynn Johns Reed, Founder of Juneteenth Freedom & Heritage Festival in Memphis and The Black Pages Magazine in New Orleans, Dies

(Memphis, TENN – July 6, 2014)
Glynn Johns Reed devoted much of her life to community service. She made pathways straight for some, motivated and empowered others, birthed a festival, and created a business magazine that entrepreneurs would use to promote their products and concepts.

In the process of helping others to achieve their goals in business and recognizing the importance of celebrating African American history, Reed shaped her own legacy as the founder of the Juneteenth Freedom & Heritage Festival in Memphis and the Black Pages Magazine in New Orleans.

The pioneer businesswoman and entrepreneur established a network of business owners and entrepreneurs from Memphis to New Orleans. She continued to network and create opportunities for others until a debilitating illness slowed her down. Reed died Sunday, July 6 at her home in Memphis in the Raleigh community. She was 66.

Reed accepted her role as a standard-bearer after graduating from Douglass High School in 1966. She would go on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Tennessee State University in 1971 during the era when Jim Crow laws were the acceptable status quo. It was during this time in her life that she sought to make a difference.

In New Orleans, where Reed had lived, she launched the Mes-



sage Board Telephone Answering Service, started publishing the Black Pages to promote black businesses, taught aspiring models at the Barbizon School of Modeling and managed the agency as well, performed in over 50 television commercials and movies, signed on

as a member of the Screen Actor's Guild, and was the first black concierge hired at the Hyatt Regency Hotel next to the Super Dome.

Two years after moving back to Memphis in 1991, Reed founded the Juneteenth Freedom & Heritage Festival in historic Douglass Park in the North Memphis community. She also taught inner-city preteens, teens and young adults the importance

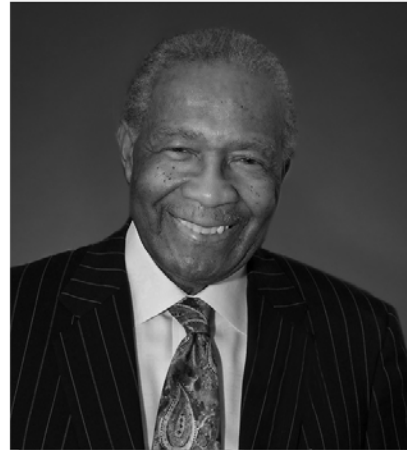
of etiquette and social grace at her own Ms. Glynn's Charm and Finishing School.

"For me, it was about blackness," Reed once explained to a reporter for a story. She ended the interview with her favorite quote from author Stephen Hunt: "If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much space."

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

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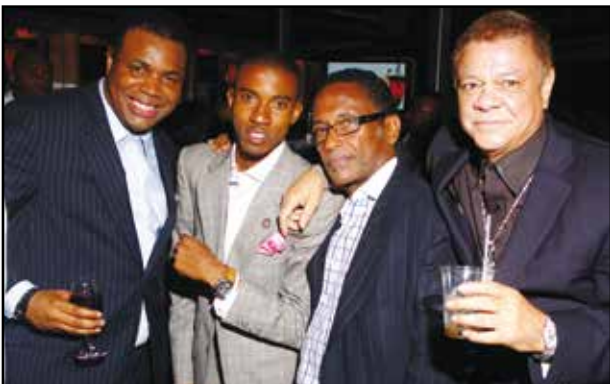
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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Essence Festival Highlights

Photos by Glenn Summers

The 20th Annual Essence Music Festival was nothing short of spectacular this year, as it continued its New Orleans tradition of music, food, empowerment and just plain fun! Festival attendees came from around the world to partake in the essence of Essence, and to drink in the pleasures of New Orleans, and of course, Data was there for every second of it!



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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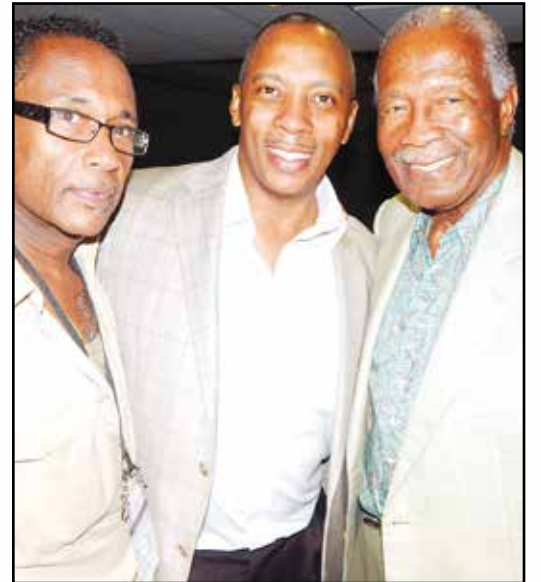
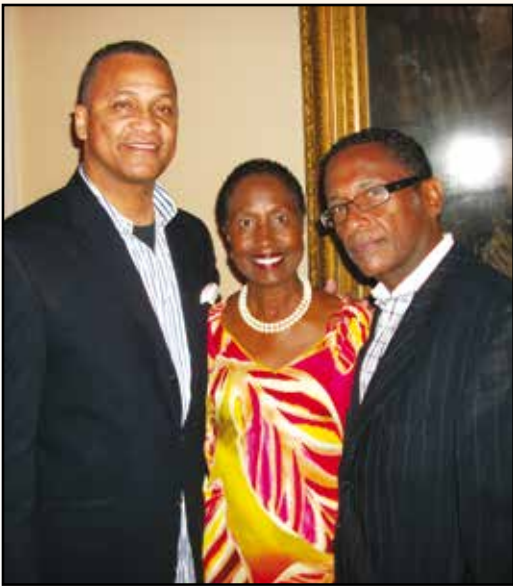
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Essence Festival Highlights

Provided by Ed Marshall



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Black Press

The Voice of Black America

Part 2



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

The June unemployment rate is was down to 6.1 percent. Yet, for the vast majority of more than 45

million Black Americans, the persistent unemployment rate in our communities is still way too high. It was 10.7 percent in June, down from 11.5 percent in May 2014.

This is the lowest Black unemployment rate since September 2008. For Black women, the unemployment rate fell in June to a single digit at 9 percent. If these unemployment trends continue, poverty in Black America may decline.

The Black Press of America not only reports the news, but we are also responsible to share perspec-

tives about how to further improve the economic condition of Black America. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, employers across the United States added 288,000 jobs last month. This figure was significantly higher than the 215,000 new jobs that leading economists had predicted.

An analysis of these latest labor statistics reveals that the "business sector" led as the largest growth creation over the past 30 days, with 67,000 jobs, compared to the retail and food services sector adding

40,000 and 33,000 jobs, respectively. Health care and manufacturing sectors added 21,000 and 16,000 jobs, respectively.

What does this mean for Black America?

First, we have to see ourselves beyond solely being trillion dollar annual consumers in the U.S. economy. Yes, we want more jobs. Yes, we want more economic development, equity and expanded wealth in our communities. We would like to end poverty in America. Yet, clearly the latest jobs report reveals that in or-

der to create more jobs, we have to create more businesses.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) is a national trade association of nearly 200 Black-owned newspapers. We are employers. If we expand our businesses, we will be able to hire more people. The more people we hire, the stronger the U.S. economy.

More than 45 million Black Americans and more than 45 mil-

**Commentary, Continued
on next page.**

Democrats 'Ain't Loyal'



George C. Curry
NNPA

Rev. Jamal Bryant of Baltimore was widely criticized recently for quoting a line from a popular Chris Brown's song: "Hoes Ain't Loyal." Bryant could have avoided controversy – and been on point – if he had instead said, "Democrats ain't loyal."

They ain't, to borrow the vernacular.

Although people of color comprised 45 percent of Democratic voters in 2012, less than 2 percent of the \$1.1 billion collected over a 4-year period by the three primary Democratic fundraising committees went to people of color – defined as U.S. residents who are African American, Latino, Asian American or Pacific Islander, or Native American – according to the "2014 Fannie Lou Hamer Report" by PowerPAC+, a national advocacy organization that helps elect progressives to office by building on the political

power of the multiracial majority in America.

Actually, the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) figures are even smaller than reported because the study counted any firm that had a person of color as a principal owner, not the more commonly accepted definition requiring that they be the majority owner.

The research was compiled from Federal Election Commission reports filed by the three largest Democratic fundraising committees: the National Democratic Committee, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

"Even amidst the massive infusion of 'outside' money, the Democratic Party remains the largest source of funds for Democrats seeking office (other than the Presidency). Each cycle, the

Party takes in hundreds of millions of dollars and uses these funds to provide the national electoral infrastructure and support those of the states," the report stated.

It explained, "While most of the media attention falls on the mega-donors who make significant financial contributions to the Democratic Party, in the aggregate, small donors actually contribute more to the Party's finances than do the mega-donors. Indeed, donors who

made contributions of less than \$200 provided a full third of the Party's financial resources over the past two cycles, having donated over \$371,345,529."

According to the report, "Well over half a billion dollars was spent on these consultants over the past two election cycles, an amount that represents approximately half of the funds raised and disbursed by the Party."

But few of those dollars found their way to people of color.

Overall, of 285 firms receiving disbursements from the Democratic Party in the 2010 and 2012 election cycles, only 14 – or 4.9 percent – were MBE firms. Five of the MBEs were polling firms, three provided communications services and six provided political strategy services or IT.

Among the 14 firms, four of them received 87 percent of all dollars disbursed to MBEs. They were, in order, Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., \$2,206,772.50 (25 percent of all MBE Research, dollars); SKD Knickerbocker, \$2,138,671 (24 percent); Brilliant Corners Research, Inc., \$1,908,369.26 (22 percent) and Thoughtworks (\$1,328,464.92).

Peter D. Hart, whose firm received the most MBE dollars, is a White male. Yet, highly-respected

Black pollster Ronald L. Lester received only \$45,670.00 from the Democratic Party, according to the report. Brilliant Corners, headed by Cornel Belcher, an African American, was third among MBEs with \$1.9 million. Dewey Square Group, with Minyon Moore, African American, and Maria Cardona, a Latina, on its team received only \$81,054.73, or 0.9 percent of MBE dollars.

Among the study's recommendations:

- Conduct a disparity study to diagnose the problem;
- Set goals for diversifying contract awards;
- Make a plan to increase access and capacity and
- Measure progress and hold decision-makers accountable.

In 2014, the Democratic Party has no credible excuse for such poor performance. Even with an exaggerated definition of what constitutes a Minority Business Enterprise, Democrats fall short.

"... Today's voter looks quite different from the model voter of even 50 years ago who was much more likely to be male, have a job with a union that afforded him time off to vote during the work day, and have access to an array of news sources that offered some semblance of balanced reporting on the candidates and their positions, among other

things," the report stated. "Today, women, especially those not married, form a core part of the Democratic Party's base, as do Voters of Color. To put it bluntly, these voters are already the largest constituencies within our Party, and their influence will only increase over the coming decades."

Diversifying spending with Black vendors, Black media and African Americans who offer professional services does not detract from the Party's overall goal.

"...The ultimate goal of these efforts is to win," the report observed. "And winning among today's multiracial and ever evolving electorate requires cultural competence at its finest."

This report should be followed up with others, including an examination of spending by Republicans.

As the report noted, "It is deeply disappointing that we are even having this conversation in 2014... If People of Color are smart and talented enough that one of them can serve as leader of the free world, then they are certainly smart and talented enough to run political campaigns for Congress, Senate, and the White House."

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine, is editor-in-chief of the National Newspaper Publishers Association News Service (NNPA.)

Letter to the Editor

Commentary, Continued from previous page.

lion Latino Americans hunger for consistent and trustworthy news, relevant information, business development opportunities, career options, youth business and vocational apprenticeships. We must articulate a strategic plan for advancing the socioeconomic, political, cultural and spiritual interests of our respective communities.

Corporate America should understand that with rapidly changing demographics, it is its best interest to support the economic development of our businesses and communities.

The truth is that every inch of socioeconomic or political progress that we have made in America has only come as a consequence of a long protracted struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

“The Voice of Black America” is, therefore, the resolute voice of empowerment. The Black Press is the voice that articulates the clear interests of Black America without apology or cowering to the forces of oppression and division. The Black Press has a proud and valiant history of being the standard bearer of news and information distribution that advances the causes for freedom, inclusiveness, democracy and prosperity.

Even in this growing digital age there is a vital role that the Black Press of America must continue to play. Digital media should complement – not replace – print media. Social media should also complement the printed press and give extended distribution outlets to our news-

papers on mobile devices around the world. The “Voice of Black America” will not be silenced nor erased. We will continue to stand. We will continue to print and be active on our digital platforms. We will continue to distribute the news and information yearned for by millions of people every day. The future of the Black Press of America is bright and there are many new opportunities on the horizon.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the Interim President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbfcc>

Dear Editor:

As a Republican, I'm an unlikely Obama supporter (being Black, aside) but Mayor Mitch Landrieu's recent comments about an alleged lack of federal involvement in stopping local street crime struck a nerve. His police superintendent, not the U.S. alphabet soup of law enforcement agencies, drives NOPD's morale and manpower crisis.

The US Marshals Service alone performs yeoman work in capturing local, state and federal fugitives, Trung T. Le, of recent Bourbon St shooting infamy, included.

Felons on the loose power violent crime and thankfully the marshals and partner

agencies help stem the tide.

New Orleans mayor can't blame the President and US Attorney-General Holder for local executive errors. NOPD's tragic role in staffing every other agency but itself is due to his choice of police superintendent, not distant federal decision makers.

I'd assume the mayor was more respectful when he asked for President Obama's endorsement during his successful re-election effort.

**NADRA ENZI
AKA CAP BLACK
Anti Crime Activist,
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Against Crime**

Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring for two positions in our New Orleans Office.

Editor/Reporters

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Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under ladatanews.com is the most read Black website in the region.

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Our company provides a competitive salary, and an environment that encourages personal and professional growth. We are an equal opportunity employer.

If you are interested in a rewarding career, email a cover letter and resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net or mail to: Data News Weekly, c/o Terry Jones, Publisher, 3501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans LA 70125

Concussions a Greater Problem for Black Youth

By Jazelle Hunt

Despite the flurry of news about NFL lawsuits over concussions, the problem affects far more athletes at the high school and junior high school level, according to the federal government statistics.

In 2009 alone, nearly 250,000 youth age 19 or younger were treated in emergency rooms for sports and recreation-related injuries that included concussions, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Between 2001 and 2009, the rate of such visits rose 57 percent.

Concussions occur when the brain is shaken violently against the skull. Although concussions are the most common brain injury, widespread awareness and concern about this issue in the world of student athletics is fairly recent.

But it is especially relevant for Black communities, particularly young men most likely to die from traumatic brain injuries, according to the CDC. And according to data from research nonprofit, Child Trends, 50 to 60 percent of Black American high schoolers were on a sports team in 2011.

In severe or untreated cases, they can cause brain damage, seizures, emotional distress, and death—in fact the CDC estimates that 5.3 million U.S. citizens are living with disability as a result of a traumatic brain injury (or TBI, an umbrella term that includes concussions).



“From an athletic trainer perspective concussions have always been a big concern. Coaches seemed to think that injuries increased because [athletic trainers] were there, but really it’s that awareness is increased,” says Jennifer Rheeling, a veteran athletic trainer in D.C. Public Schools and chair of the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee for the D.C. State Athletic Association.

“In the last five years particularly with the NFL starting to talk about it, and the lawsuits, has helped immensely now that people get it on a mainstream level. What they thought was just getting their bell

rung was really a concussion.”

On the most diligent and well-resourced student teams, players take baseline tests—a battery of motor skill drills and survey questions to record their individual peak cognitive health—and have athletic trainers who check for signs of decline. If a concussion is suspected, a player does another test to compare those results to his or her baseline. The ImPACT Concussion Management program is currently the program of record for these tests among school athletic programs.

But according to Dr. Vernon Williams, neurologist and medical director of the Sports Concussion Institute, a lack of access to care compounds the (now fading) problem of awareness. ImPACT, for example, costs a minimum of \$400 per year for 100 baseline tests and 15 post-injury tests for one school. Meanwhile, many schools and school districts, largely populated by Black and brown children, routinely have to make cuts to balance their budget.

“We have coaches who understand the need, but they have different resources. For example, we know baseline testing for people in contact collision sports can help evaluate when people get injured,” Dr. Williams explains. “But it’s uncommon for people to have access to state-of-the-art baseline testing. Players, school systems, and parents don’t have access to those funds. But we can still implement treat-

ment using creative measures.”

Currently, Dr. Gary Harris, who specializes in computer engineering and serves as associate provost for Research and Graduate Studies at Howard University, is working with engineering students and the Bison football team to devise an inexpensive concussion monitoring system, using an open source platform.

“Open source” is a tech industry term that means the equipment and information to create this system is public as opposed to proprietary, so as to encourage others to innovate and improve on the idea).

The project uses a computer chip attached inside the helmet that measures impact up to 100 gs of force. For reference: a sneeze is about 2 or 3 gs of force on the human body; an F-16 fighter jet barrel roll exerts 7 to 9 gs; a car crash at 45 mph is about 60 gs. Concussions usually happen with collisions between 80 and 120 gs.

The chip records the force of impact for every collision—it can be programed to transmit this information wirelessly, say, to a cell phone app. Or, it can be downloaded from the helmet using a USB cable. It can also be programed to send an alert when a hit exceeds a certain threshold.

“You can have an entire team’s list where you know all their shock, trauma, and incidents on file,” says Dr. Harris. “We still don’t know the threshold of force for brain damage, we don’t know how many hits

it takes, but the first thing we have to do is collect the data.”

Each of these chips costs approximately \$30.

Technology is also being used to improve care and outcomes the aftermath of serious concussion cases. Interactive Metronome, a health tech company that creates neurological research-based brain training programs and activities, is one example. The activities are designed around “brain timing”—the ability to clap to a beat, for example. As users play games and do activities that test their reaction time, those brain cell connections are repaired and strengthened. Originally (and primarily) used to improve motor skills and cognitive function in children with ADD/ADHD, the program is beginning to see success with TBI rehabilitation.

“We fit into concussions in a new way, which is helping out when those [post-concussion] symptoms don’t dissipate,” says Nick Etten, vice president of Strategy and Business Development at Interactive Metronome. “There’s a lot of emphasis on technology these days—it’s really important in the world of concussions and cognitive rehab. We’re starting to understand that there was a big void in information.”

Technology has helped improve identifying and treating concussions; on the prevention front, sports health care professionals now have the backing of the law. In all 50 states, a student athlete must be immediately removed from play if a concussion is suspected, and cannot return to practice or play without medical clearance. Some states also mandate that a student must remain free of symptoms or remain on the injured list for a set period of time, even if they gain medical clearance immediately.

But there are still holes in preventing these injuries.

“There’s clearly benefits to legislation in terms of drawing attention to the issue of concussions and having some foundation across the board with how they should be managed,” says Dr. Williams. “I think there are some variables... related to who should be allowed to clear players.”

He and Rheeling have both seen athletes on under-resourced teams get clearance from an emergency room resident, for example, in con-

Concussion, Continued on page 11.

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Blacks Unemployment Best in 6 Years



By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

The Black unemployment rate hit a six-year low in June, dipping below 11 percent for the first time since August 2008.

Last week, the Labor Department reported that the Black jobless rate was 10.7 percent in June, compared to the White unemployment rate, which was 5.3 percent. The unemployment rate for Black men over 20 years-old fell from 11.5 percent in May to 10.9 percent in June, compared to White men who saw their jobless rate decrease from 5 percent to 4.9 percent over the same period.

The jobless rate for Black women over 20 years-old continued to improve, dropping one percentage point, from 10 percent in May to 9 percent in June. The unemployment rate for White women ticked down one-tenth of a percentage point from 4.9 percent in May to 4.8 percent in June.

The fall in the Black unemployment rate was accompanied by an increase in the groups labor force participation rate, which measures the share of Black workers holding jobs or looking for jobs. When the labor force rate rises, researchers have found that workers generally have a more positive outlook on the economy. In June, the Black labor force rate rose to 61 percent from 60.8 percent the previous month.

In a blog post on the jobs report, Valerie Wilson, the director of the Program on Race, Ethnicity, and the Economy at the Economic Policy Institute, said that the increase in the labor force rates for Blacks and Latinos was another indicator that June jobs report was a strong one.

"The share of working age African Americans with a job has increased 1.3 percentage points since January 2014 and the increase for Latinos has been six-tenths of a percent, compared to an increase of one-tenth of a percent for Whites," wrote Wilson. "The June employment growth ac-

counts for over half of this increase for African Americans and all of the gains for Latinos and Whites. These gains also bring the Black-White unemployment gap to the lowest level this year at a ratio of 2-to-1."

Wilson added: "The fact that employment is now growing more strongly for African Americans and Latinos demonstrates how critical continued strong job growth will be to further reducing unemployment for people of color and narrowing racial unemployment gaps."

The national unemployment rate was 6.1 percent and employers added 288,000 jobs in June. The jobs numbers for April and May were revised upwards, combining for an additional 29,000 jobs over the two-month period.

Speaking in Washington, D.C. about the latest jobs report, President Barack Obama said that the United States has seen "the fastest job growth in the United States in the first half of the year since 1999" and "the quickest drop in unemployment in 30 years."

Obama continued: "So it gives you a sense that the economy has built momentum, that we are making progress. We've now seen almost 10 million jobs created over the course of the last 52 months. And it should be a useful reminder to people all across the country that given where we started back in 2008, we have made enormous strides, thanks to the incredible hard work of the American people and American businesses that have been out there competing, getting smarter, getting more effective."

In a statement on June's jobs report, Chad Stone, the chief economist at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, wrote that even though the report showed "encouraging signs that the labor market is healing," millions of workers continue to struggle through periods of long-term unemployment.

Washington lawmakers cut a crucial lifeline when they failed to extend emergency unemployment insurance (UI) at the end of last year. Millions of out-of-work Americans will lose their UI benefits by the end of 2014, if Congress doesn't act.

Earlier this year, the Obama administration encouraged companies to sign a pledge to improve opportunities for workers who have been unemployed for 27 weeks or longer, a condition that Blacks suffer at disproportionate rates compared to Whites.

Companies that signed the pledge agreed to review current recruitment and hiring practices said that they would make sure employment listings didn't discriminate against the long-term unemployed or discourage them from applying.

"It's a sort of economic patriotism where you say to yourself, how is it that we can start rebuilding this country to make sure that all of the young people who are here but their kids and their grandkids are going to be able to enjoy the same incredible opportunities that this country offers as we have," said Obama. "That's our job. That's what we should be focused on."

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Concussion, Continued from page 10.

trast with athletes who take a concussion test against their baseline with their team's athletic trainer. They've also seen instances of students underreporting their symptoms, coaches resisting care recommendations, and parents being lax in monitoring their child's rest after a concussion.

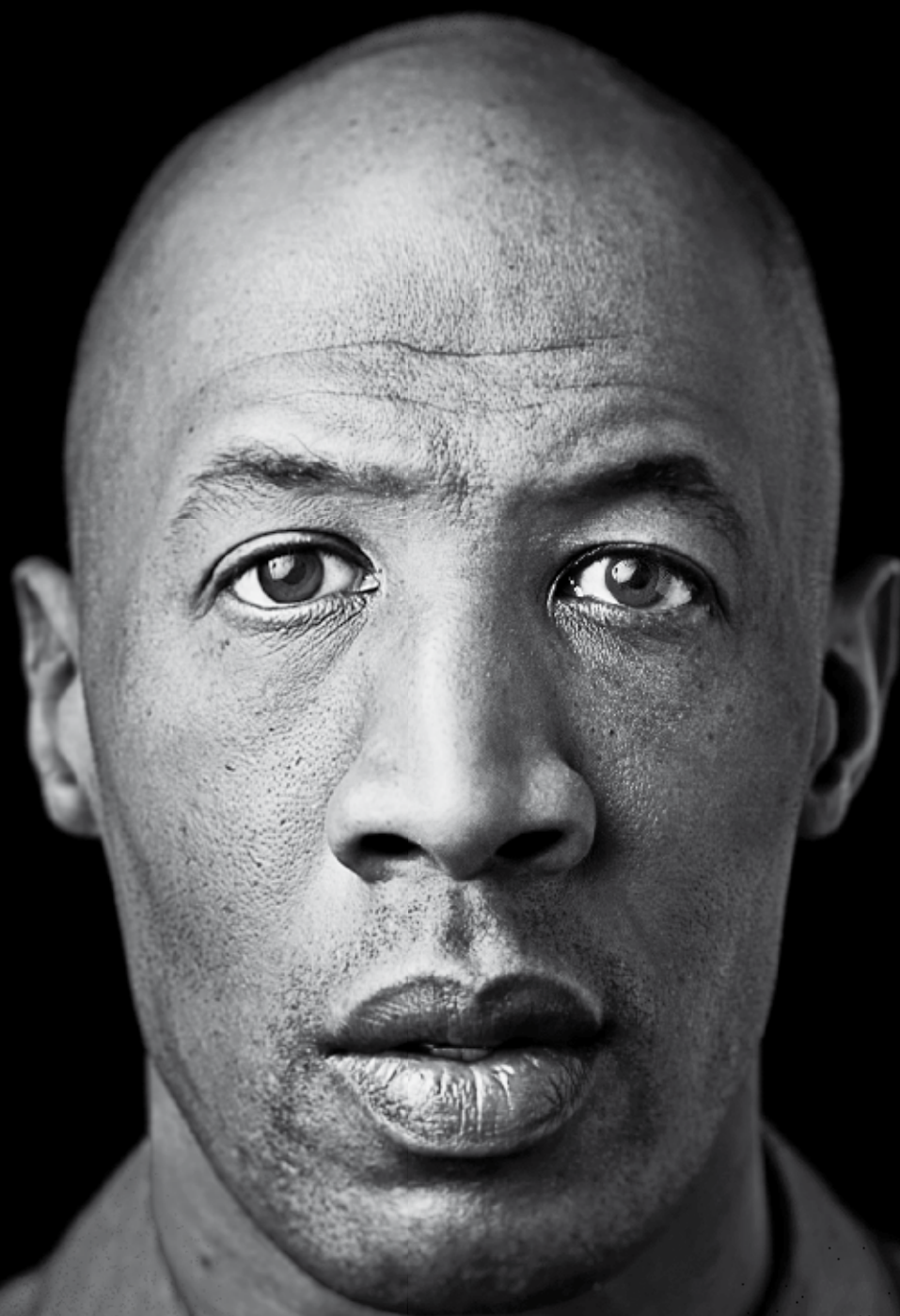
Emerging laws are attempting to add another layer of protection by regulating the number of weekly practices involving rough contact drills, thus reducing exposure to collisions and risk of concussion. Trainers, coaches, parents, and athletes can also receive guidance through re-

sources such as the American Academy of Neurology online Sports Concussion Toolkit, and organizations such as the Sports Legacy Network.

"We're at the end of the beginning as relates to concussion management. We're learning more every day and the pro-

cess will continue to evolve," says Dr. Williams. "We're out of the phase of explaining what a concussion is, identifying symptoms.... It's no longer an unrecognized epidemic, we're aware of the issues and that [a concussion] has to be managed effectively."

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