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Tremé Festival Highlights

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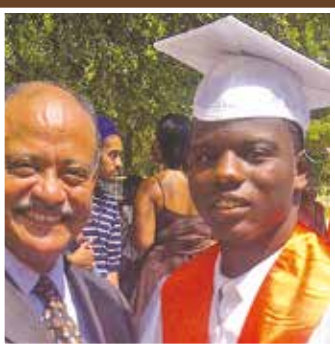
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Justice Or Else Rally This Weekend



The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan (above) addresses the masses of Black men at the Million Man March, held on October 16, 1995 in Washington, DC.

By Marion Hercyl
Data Staff Writer

Are You Getting Back on the Bus?

Christians and Muslims packed National Mall on October 16, 1995 as the Nation of Islam leader

the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and other Black leaders joined together to lead the Million Man March. This Saturday, October 10, 2015, Minister Farrakhan and organizers of the Million Man March have organized the Justice or Else rally will take place on the same Mall, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the event.

With a backdrop of intense protests against repeated police shootings of unarmed Black people, poverty, economic inequality and other injustices, this Saturday's 20th Anniversary of the 1995 Million Man March is expected to draw thousands of men and women to the National Mall in Washington D.C. for a gathering, 'Justice or Else'.

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According to spokesmen for the Nation of Islam, the gathering will start at the steps of the U. S. Capitol and people will assemble down the National Mall. There will be a sunrise prayer service beginning at 7a.m. The program will start at 10 a.m. (EST). Minister Louis Farrakhan will give the keynote address at 1 p.m. (EST).

The following is an open letter to America from the chief organizer and visionary, Nation of Islam leader, Minister Louis Farrakhan. In it, he outlines the meaning of the demand - 'Justice or Else'. For more details on the Oct 10 gathering, please visit JusticeorElse.com.

The following are the words of Minister Louis Farrakhan:

This October will mark the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March, which was the largest public gathering in the history of America and the largest gathering of Black men in world history.

We set an example before the world on October 16, 1995 as Black

men stood in ranks and a spirit of love, peace and unity was pervasive. We stood at that time for the necessity of Atonement, Reconciliation and Responsibility and in particular the need for Black men to appeal for God's pardon for our failures to be the men that we hoped to be and ought to be. That was a magnificent and important day and appeal to the divine Supreme Being, who brought us through a time of great trouble.

Twenty-years later, however, conditions we face and rising levels of tyranny and oppression have brought us to another point in our sojourn in America. Today we suffer from an unbearable level of violence as law enforcement and Whites are able to abuse and murder us but the federal Department of Justice does little and state governments do virtually nothing. Death stalks the Black man, woman and child in America and few seem to care.

Our Native American brothers

and sisters often live in abject poverty and are fighting to keep the little land that they have from the hands of a duplicitous U.S. government and corporate liars and thieves.

The Latino community is subjected to scrutiny, mistreatment and disrespect. Women struggle for full recognition of their value and their worth. Soldiers who have served their country in ill-conceived wars and conflicts based on lies, return home to be ignored and their broken bodies and minds left untended. Even the poor Whites of this nation have no voice as a cruel oligarchy rules on behalf of a small group of individuals.

How much more of this can we stand and how much more oppression must we suffer?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the great preacher and fighter for the poor, spoke of justice. He noted that the moral arc of the universe is long but it bends toward justice. What is justice? The Most Honorable Elijah

Muhammad taught several important truths about justice: Justice is the greatest principle of fair dealing. Justice is the law that distinguishes between right and wrong. If there were justice, there would be no need for a Judgment. Justice is the weapon that God will use in the Day of Judgment.

We are living in that Day of Judgment at this present moment. And if we are denied what rightfully belongs to us then there has to be unified action that we take that will force the justice that we seek.

It is time that we say enough is enough. Scripture teaches us that inequity and injustice would call God Himself out of his hiding place to address the cries of those who yearn to breathe free. We are at that time. The time requires that we step forward and demand that the U.S. government address the failures of American society and the systemic deprivation of freedom, justice and equality from the masses of the American people.

The time requires that a demand be made on the U.S. government and we must deliver a fearless cry of "Justice Or Else!" We have tried praying in, singing in, lying in and young activists have even employed dying-in to dramatize and appeal for a proper government response to our suffering.

I am convening "Justice Or Else!" the 20th Anniversary gathering of the Million Man March on October 10, 2015 in Washington, D.C. By Allah's (God's) grace I plan to deliver an uncompromising message and call for the government of the United States to respond to our legitimate grievances.

If you agree with me, I am inviting you to join me and those from diverse faith traditions, races, political beliefs, spiritual schools of thought, different geographic regions, income levels and a fearless cadre of young leaders, backed by their fearless elders in this demand for "Justice Or Else!" in Washington, D.C.

Cover Story, Continued on page 5.

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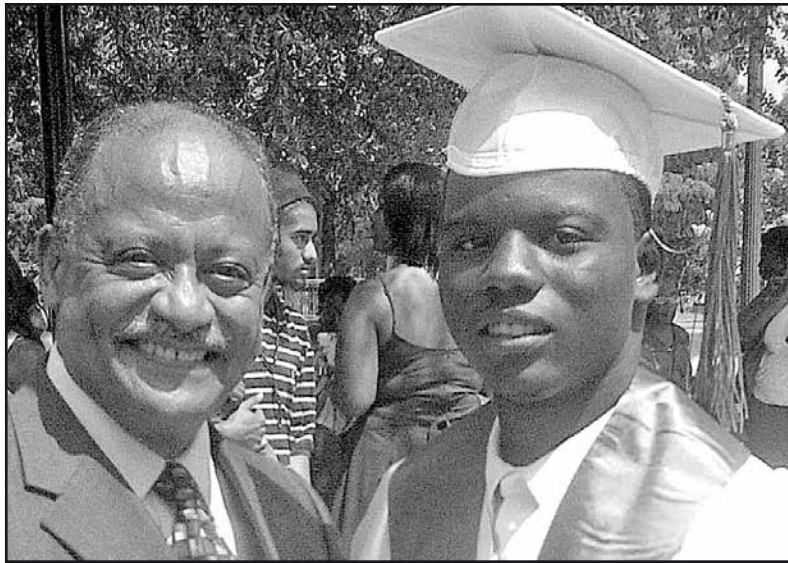
SUNO and General Honoré Honor the Life of a Fallen Student with the Davon Leggett Memorial Fund

Data Staff Report

On August 29, 2015, Davon Leggett a rising senior at SUNO was tragically shot outside of a friend's apartment in Terrytown.

On the surface, this could have been one of the countless accounts of another Black young man, whose life was cut short by senseless street violence, but this story was different. Davon Leggett was a rising star. Not a star athlete, but a determined student, who against the odds, had a shot at making it past his circumstances which for so many serve as a road block to success in education or otherwise. Davon Leggett was a young man who took the opportunity offered to him through a special program which led him to college, to SUNO, and Davon was a rising Senior, meaning, he was almost at the finish line when he was killed.

While the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office still searches for clues in his killing, retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré is donating seed money to establish an



Provided by the Honoree Center at SUNO.-- Davon Leggett Graduating from Carver High School in 2012, pictured with Honoree Center Director Warren Bell.

undergraduate memorial fund in Leggett's name.

"We wanted to honor him," Honoré said, "to remind people what he had done throughout his life, and also as a reminder of what we have to deal with out here in this world that we live in. Honoré and the center named after him are trying to honor Leggett's memory with the

memorial fund in his name.

The fund, supported initially by Honoré's check but open to donations from the public, as well, will cover essentials as basic as soap and underwear for young men from backgrounds like Leggett's.

"The only way we will break this cycle of poverty in Louisiana is through education," Honoré said.

Neo Jazz School of Music Youth Conference



Pictured above is a performance by Yisrael Trio at the Annual Youth Conference Photo By Kaelin Maloid.

By Kaelin Maloid
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Neo Jazz School of Music and the Nation of YHWH—a predominantly African-American church group founded in Miami in 1979—held their Fourth Annual Youth Conference on Saturday, Oct. 3 in New Orleans. The conference attracted numerous students and community members from across the City to promote the talents of the school and to also expose young people to music, particularly jazz.

"We started this conference as a way to connect youth with community leaders and to empower the youth to become better leaders themselves," said Tamah Yisreal, the event organizer.

The Neo Jazz School of Music's mission is to provide education and training in the music and fine arts. Started in 2004, the School of Music has made it its work to provide their programs and services in low-income communities with "limited access to arts education." The school allows young musicians and artists to use a positive environment to express their talents, Yisrael said.

The youth conference took place at the school's "new space" at 1638 N. Claiborne St. and was their first

event to be held at this location. However, the renovations for the space aren't quite done, but that did not stop the school from pulling off the event, organizers said.

"We wanted to introduce the space to the community," said Yisrael. "We wanted them to know what things we are offering."

Not only is the school offering music and fine arts education and training to the youth, but they are also trying to "bridge the gap between the youth and elders," according to Yisrael.

"The elders can provide the youth with necessary information about who we are, along with telling us about our culture," said Yisreal. She added that the elders could help the youth understand the need for our history.

This year's youth conference featured performances from musicians such as Lawvawn the Saxman Extraordinaire and performances from bands such as The Yisrael Trio and Metaquick. The Israel Trio are a group comprised of Yirmeyahu, Yah'El and Yehosheba, a family that has emerged as one of the best jazz bands in the country after acquiring adoring fans in Birmingham, Ala. During the conference, the Yisreal Trio performed some hit songs off their album, Genesis, along with some new, unreleased songs.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

The other side of this “war on two fronts” is effective organizing of our community to end fratricidal violence fostered by social conditions that breed lesser crimes, while the creator of the social conditions engages in killing, theft, kidnapping and extortion on a global scale. We, however, are clear that it is our responsibility to halt the killings among ourselves and our disrespect of Black life.

“Justice Or Else!” is not a march, but a gathering of those who are sober minded and serious about placing a demand on the United States government and putting power behind that demand to force the government to give us what we deserve.

This is not a march, but a gathering of those who understand that freedom has never been obtained without the loss of life and who step forward willing to give whatever sacrifice that the time and the God of this time demands.

We are certain that God would not bring us out to slaughter but He does require that we take the ultimate stand in order that He may show his power. We recognize that there comes a time in the life of all suffering people where there must be a willingness to lay down their lives for the cause of freedom and a future.



An estimated crowd of over 1 million Black men, young and old, Christian and Muslim alike, gathered for the first Million Man March in 1995. The 20th Anniversary Justice or Else Rally will take place on Saturday, October 10, 2015 in the same location.

The most powerful weapon in our arsenal is our unity backed by the might of God Himself as this is the time foretold of in scripture as a Day of Judgment, a harvest time for all who have sown evil and who have sown good. We recognize that

the Supreme Being is on the scene today and executing his power to punish and destroy the wicked. Our hope is not in carnal weapons of this world but in the power of the Master of this Day of Judgment in which we now live.

We recognize that the work of Dr. King, Jr., and all who came before him, remains unfinished. In his last public message, the civil rights stalwart talked of spreading the pain by engaging in economic withdrawal with strategic pooling

and use of over \$1 trillion in Black spending to put power behind our demands. We will engage in economic withdrawal in 2016 with a boycott of Xmas Holiday Spending, with its manipulation and exploitation of the emotions of children, parents, families and those we love, with its root in crass commercialism and its perpetuation of pagan practices and base desires when the focus is supposed to be on a righteous man and divine servant.

When our lives are taken unjustly it is the responsibility of government to act to prosecute and punish the killers. The federal government, in particular, has the responsibility to end assaults and killings under the color of law and mob attacks. We cannot continue to suffer like this and not organize and demand that government respond to our needs—or admit that we are still not true citizens.

Justice and equity cannot wait any longer and in October we will remember those killed in Charleston, S.C., those killed before Charleston, and those killed in fratricidal violence in the Black community. We will speak directly to government and to the challenges this country faces if it wishes to have any perpetuity and as the divine hand is ever moving toward justice.

State & Local News

Saints Rookie Delivers Robots to KIPP

By Kaelin Maloid
Data News Weekly
Contributor

When Kipp Leadership Academy fourth-to-sixth grade teacher Kirk Thomas told his students someone famous was coming to visit them, the answers ranged from August Alsina to the president of the United States. However, the person who walked through the door was New Orleans Saints rookie corner back, Delvin Breaux.

Breaux showed up to Kipp Academy to deliver a prize Thomas had won to build an iPad-controlled robot through the Chevron Fuel Your School program. The partnership funds local schools and teachers across the world. Chevron Fuel Your School partnered with Donors Choose, and online charity matching teachers to donors, to help fund Thomas's project.

“I didn't tell them what happened, just that we had a big surprise coming up. So they were very surprised at what happened this



morning, especially with the Saints player coming,” said Thomas.

The teacher put in a request for funding for his robot around September and said he was “very excited” to find out Chevron Corporation wanted to fund his project. This is not Thomas's first go-round applying for funding. Thomas has received funding from Donors Choose before, however, this was the first time he had received funding through Chev-

ron. Usually when he lobbies for funding for his projects, Thomas said, in the past, it takes a little while because donors would often chip in a “few dollars here” and a “few dollars there,” he said.

“But Chevron just stepped up the plate, and they foot the whole bill, and I was very excited about that,” said Thomas. “That means we could build our robot sooner rather than later, and I was very excited about that.”

Teachers go online to DonorsChoose.com and apply for grants in the month of September, and Chevron goes and chooses funds in early October. Being that they have a short window, they select a few programs they would like to highlight. This is the third year Chevron has done Fuel Your School in this area.

“This particular project is about robotics. The teacher requested a Lego Mindstorms Robot, and, I mean, what's cooler than a robot? So when we saw it was about robots, we thought, okay, that would be a really good program to highlight,” said Chevron spokesperson, Leah Brown.

Before Breaux walked in, however, the students had to wait for their surprise guest and listen to Brown, Thomas, and principal, Herneshia Dukes, speak.

“KIPP Leadership Academy is about building and empowering our students to be great academic leaders. With that comes tremendous focus on STEM. We are grateful of the mark Mr. Thomas has had in

that field. This is going to have tremendous impact on the Kippsters we have,” said Dukes, the principal.

After Breaux came in, much to the delight of the students, Thomas and Breaux opened the boxes and unpacked a robot already completed. After showing them how it worked and going over the parts of the robot, Thomas gathered the children together and let them use the iPad to control the robot.

The children had fun, driving the robot into Brown and Breaux, claiming that it was going to “eat” them, much to the humor of the Saints player and the Chevron representative. Breaux then joined in on the student's excitement, asking one student, “Why you running?” as she moved out of the way of a robot machine that Breaux drove towards her during a demonstration of how the robot worked. The Saints player said he was inspired to see the student's curiosity. Next up on Thomas's list, the teacher said, was to build a robot that controlled by the student's movements.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Nickle-A-Dance

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

The 21st Annual Nickel-A-Dance promoting Jazz/Big Band music, and supported by private donations, community businesses and Arts Foundations. Nickle-A-Dance is a free series of afternoon jazz concerts every Sunday in October. The event is a hit with children, families, seniors, and the general dancing public that don't tend to go to night clubs. It attracts a diverse group of fans that meet on Frenchmen Street to celebrate jazz as America's original dance music while listening to the best of today's classic jazz bands. This was the first in the Fall series which showcased Shannon Powell's Traditional All-Stars.



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

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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

1st Annual Tremé Fest in Support of St Augustine Church

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

On the first weekend of October, the famous Tremé neighborhood hosted its first annual Tremé Festival. Those attending enjoyed the local music and food of this cherished New Orleans neighborhood that people come from all over the world to see.

Tremé Fest is a donation-based event, created to raise money for the beloved St. Augustine Catholic Church. The festival was held on the streets bordering the church, located at the corner Henriette Delille and Gov. Nicholls Streets. It was FREE and open to the public.



Stilt Walkers



John Boutte



Treme Brass Band



Stilt Walkers n Drummers



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Young Stilt Walker



Youngest Stilt Walker



Leroy Jones



Chuck Perkins

To be Equal Stand Your Ground Laws: A License to Kill



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

“Racial stereotypes are still part of American culture, and, by default, part of the American criminal justice system. Instead of being color-blind, an impossible exercise, the impact of race must be addressed head-on and become openly part of the legal critique. It must be discussed where necessary to amend laws that enable race, or the

fear of race, to be a guise to harm the disfavored race. This is our task if we choose to accept it.” – Professor Tamara Lawson, “A Fresh Cut in an Old Wound—A Critical Analysis of the Trayvon Martin Killing,” August 2012

Trayvon Martin’s unjust death at the hands of a trigger-happy, self-described neighborhood watchman continues to shock and live on in our nation’s collective consciousness. And with the release of a recent study commissioned by the American Bar Association, it may also become the impetus behind the movement to abolish or scale back Stand Your Ground protections—protections that influenced the ultimate acquittal of Trayvon’s murderer and focused our attention on the dangerous confluence of

race and criminal justice in America.

On the evening of February 26, 2012, Trayvon became a tragic illustration of the glaring defects in Florida’s Stand Your Ground law. The 17-year-old, with no criminal record, was walking home from a store armed only with a bag of candy and a can of iced tea when he was confronted and then shot to death by George Zimmerman. Because of Florida’s Stand Your Ground law, Zimmerman was taken in for questioning but was later released on the grounds of self-defense. He would not be charged with murder by the police—that night.

According to the law, which Florida became the first state to adopt in 2005, people are authorized to use deadly force in cases of self-defense

without the duty to retreat in the face of any perceived threat to their life or property. As long as you can claim that you are in fear for your life at any given point, the law hands you a license to kill at will. Rather than lower homicide or crime rates, this essentially free pass to criminal behavior has only served to further endanger public safety—particularly the lives of people of color—and exploit the mistrust, animosity and racial injustice that color our daily interactions and justice at every level.

Trayvon’s murder served as the genesis of the ABA’s National Task Force on Stand Your Ground Laws. The task force has researched the impact of Stand Your Ground laws in the 33 states that carry some variation of the law, and their discoveries should give pause to all

Americans committed to fair and balanced treatment within our criminal justice system. In a previous study by the Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition in collaboration with the National Urban League and VoteVets, our data showed that in the 22 states that had enacted Stand Your Ground Laws between 2005 and 2007, the justifiable homicide rate by private citizens was 53 percent higher after the passage of the law. The study also found that in Florida alone, justifiable homicides jumped to 200 percent. A 2012 ABA report cited statistics compiled by researchers at Texas A&M that found that states with Stand Your Ground laws have more homicides than states without the

Commentary,
Continued on page 10.

Black and Latinos Working Together



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

If there was ever a propitious time for African Americans and Latino Americans to unite to advance the cause of freedom, justice, equality and economic empowerment, it is now. Today, more than ever, the rapidly changing national demographics and the potential political and economic power as a direct result of Latino and Black unity in America cannot be overstated.

We are now in the middle of Hispanic Heritage Month, September 15 to October 15, across the United States. It is important to note that during this year’s observance of Hispanic heritage, Latino leaders

are also articulating the strategic value and need for more unity between Blacks and Latinos.

In a recent column to the New York Amsterdam News, Bronx Borough President Rueben Diaz Jr. stated, “As we face heated, dangerous rhetoric on the issues that concern us the most, the Hispanic community must not only stand together but to also unite with our allies of different backgrounds, such as the African-American community, to fight for the betterment of our communities.”

I know Borough President Diaz and I believe that one day he may become the first Latino mayor of New York City. Fighting to improve the quality of life in our communities is exactly what our long mutual struggles for justice and empowerment continues to be about. The two largest people of color groups in America are Latinos and Blacks. And if Blacks and Latinos unite in New York and elsewhere, it will achieve more effective political and economic results.

President Barack H. Obama issued a proclamation in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month stating, “America’s Hispanic community has woven unique threads into the diverse fabric of our country and played an important role in shaping our national character as a people of limitless possibility.”

We are witnessing a political challenge to the nation’s diversity with the exponential increase in residents of people of color in every region of the country. Some studies show that the racial-disparity divide in America is becoming more and more pronounced in housing, education, business, immigration, and mass incarceration.

Going forward will require a serious effort to ensure a massive voter turnout of Latinos and Blacks in the 2016 elections. Neither the Black nor Latino vote can be taken for granted. The political future of the U.S. will swing in the balance and scale of how Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) efforts will be financed, advertised, staffed and mobilized.

Neither elected officials nor Corporate America can effectively reach the Black and Brown communities by ignoring their media outlets. And a promising sign of increased unity between the two powerhouse groups is that the National Association of Hispanic Publishers (NAHP) and the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) have announced the establishment of a NNPA-NAHP National Advertising Task Force. The purpose of the coalition is to educate marketers on the benefits and importance of the African American and Hispanic newspaper markets.

“With close to 97 million African Americans and Hispanics in the U.S. today, representing 33 percent of the total population, this consumer segment demands attention,” said Martha Montoya, VP of the NAHP. “The buying power of the African American and Hispanic communities, currently at over \$2.3 trillion combined, continues to outpace the national average.”

NNPA Chair Denise Rolark

Barnes emphasized, “This task force also marks a historic partnership between the NNPA and NAHP, the nation’s most influential publishing organizations that are currently led by women. Martha and I have a shared vision and commitment to empower our communities by strengthening the voices of the media we serve.”

The potential force of African Americans and Latinos working together in business, politics, education, housing, family and community development are enormous. The challenge will be to achieve and maintain this unity not just for one year or two, but for a lifetime of solidarity and action to represent and defend the interests of our communities respectively.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the 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/drbbfc>

Praising Jesus Through New Orleans Gospel Rap



By Alexia Pierre
Data News Weekly Columnist

This column is a weekly feature taking Data News Weekly readers behind the scenes of the New Orleans gospel scene. We launch this column with a series on New Orleans gospel rap and rappers.

When most people think of gos-

pel music, artists like Kirk Franklin, Hezekiah Walker, Marvin Sapp, and Mary Mary come to mind; not Lecrae, Andy Mineo, Dee-1 or Var-G. These unfamiliar names, to some, are a new generation of gospel rappers. Gospel rap has re-emerged onto the musical scene in the United States beginning around 2000, and particularly here in the city of New Orleans within the last decade.

Today's gospel rappers have been so successful that in 2014 Lecrae beat out Hezekiah Walker and Tamela Mann by being the No. 1 gospel artist for the year on Billboard. In addition, in the same year,

Christian rapper Andy Mineo came behind secular rapper Macklemore for having the number 2 rap album in the country, according to Billboard. His album, *Never Land EP*, which was only released digitally, sold 26,000 copies in the first week.

Fans say the upbeat tempo but wholesome lyrics of gospel rap is what attracts them. "You can listen to the songs in the same room with your mother and family and won't have to worry about cursing or vulgarity of the lyrics," said Christan Smith, a sophomore at the University of New Orleans whose favorite rappers are Lecrae, Andy Mineo, Trip Lee, and Swoope.

"They talk about real situations that they go through that I can relate to, and they relate what they're going through back to Christ, which I really appreciate as a Christ follower," said Smith, who attends Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

New Orleans rappers such as The Oracle, Dee-1, and iROCC have attracted listeners because they mix the authentic New Orleans rap sound with lyrics that address how they have overcome their battles before giving their life to Christ. Gospel rap "redeems what the world has taken for evil [rap] to use for God's glory," said Chip Luter, Campus Pastor at Idlewild Sulphur

Springs and a former youth and young-adult Pastor at Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. According to Luter, people relate to artists based on their story, deliverance, and the image in which they build. In addition, young people relate to rappers like Dee-1 because he is a "regular guy," Luter said, with a positive mission. Fans are usually drawn in by the familiar beat, Luter said, but then take in the lyrics and realize that Christian rap speaks to the struggles of their lives and how to overcome it with faith.

Read next week's article as we profile the journey of some of New Orleans rising gospel rappers.

Health News

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month



Eric Griggs, MD
Data News Columnist

Can You Dig it?

"Who's the Cat that won't cop out when there's danger all about?..."

He's a complicated man, but no one understands him but his woman...."

(Isaac Hayes, 1971)

That's right, John Shaft. The iconic 70's private detective known for his courageous exploits through Harlem that always had a way with the ladies. In many ways Shaft symbolized the epitome of tough, cool, and smooth. John Shaft is the perfect character to represent the month of October, the heart of football season, but probably not for the reason you think.

John Shaft was first portrayed by Richard Roundtree in the movie "Shaft" in 1971. Roundtree, in 1993,

became one of a minority of men diagnosed with breast cancer. Yes, the symbol of masculinity for an entire generation was diagnosed and treated for what has become the most common cause of cancer in women, excluding skin cancer. It is estimated that the chance of a woman being diagnosed with breast cancer is 1 in 8. For men, that risk is 1 in 1000. Roundtree has become not only a spokesman for male breast cancer survivors, but for breast cancer survivors worldwide. He has also helped to heighten awareness for this disease.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month was founded in 1985 by the American Cancer Society and Imperial Chemical Industries in an effort to promote mammography as an effective tool in the fight against breast cancer. Since that time, the month of October has been designated an international month of increased awareness and fund raising towards research into the causes, prevention and treatment of the disease. Though the pink ribbons representing breast cancer can be seen everywhere you turn, the real life reminders of this potentially deadly, yet treatable disease can be

OCTOBER IS
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS MONTH



seen every day.

The key to breast cancer survival is early detection, which starts at home. Regular breast self-exams should be performed at least once a month, at the same time each month. Any changes in shape, size feel, or nipple discharges should be reported to a doctor immediately. According to the American Cancer Society, women in their 20's and 30's should have a clinical breast exam by a health expert at least every three years. Then, after age 40, women should receive clinical breast exams yearly. (American Cancer Society: Breast Cancer Overview. 2012) Routine mammograms should begin at age 40 as well and continued annually.

Routine screening increases the chances of detection at an early stage which leads to earlier treatment and increased survival.

Men should be aware that breast cancer is not limited to women. The signs and symptoms are the same in both men and women. Signs to be aware of on self-exam include: skin dimpling or puckering, abnormal lumps or swelling (usually painless), nipple retraction (turning inward), redness or scaling of the nipple or breast skin, and/or discharge from the nipple. Nipples can also sometimes become itchy, scaly, sore or have a rash, all of which should be reported to a health expert.

The misconception about risk factors is that the presence of certain risk factors does not mean you will definitely get the disease, but that you are more predisposed to the disease than those without those risk factors. Conversely, the absence of risk factors is no guarantee that you will not get a disease. Roughly 5% to 10% of breast cancers are due to inherited genetic mutations. Other risk factors include: family history, first period before age 12, menopause after age 55,

excess weight after menopause, first child after age 30, taking birth control pills for 5 years or longer, drinking more than one alcoholic beverage a day, current or recent use of combined HRT (hormone replacement therapy i.e. - estrogen/progesterone), high breast density, exposure to large amounts of radiation, and history of breast or ovarian cancer. (Lifescript.com "10 Life-Saving Breast Cancer Facts." Edward Geehr. October 17, 2008)

African American women have the highest mortality rate from breast cancer. Asian-American and Pacific Island women have the lowest mortality. Caucasian women have the highest incidence, while Native American women have the lowest incidence.

Breast Cancer is a formidable disease that can successfully be treated as we continue to increase our awareness.

Prescription for the Month: October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Examine yourself carefully today. If something "doesn't feel right," go to the doctor. If Shaft did it, so can you. Can you dig it? (For more information go to: www.cancer.org)

Blacks Still Shortchanged in Mortgage Market

By Charlene Crowell
NNPA Columnist

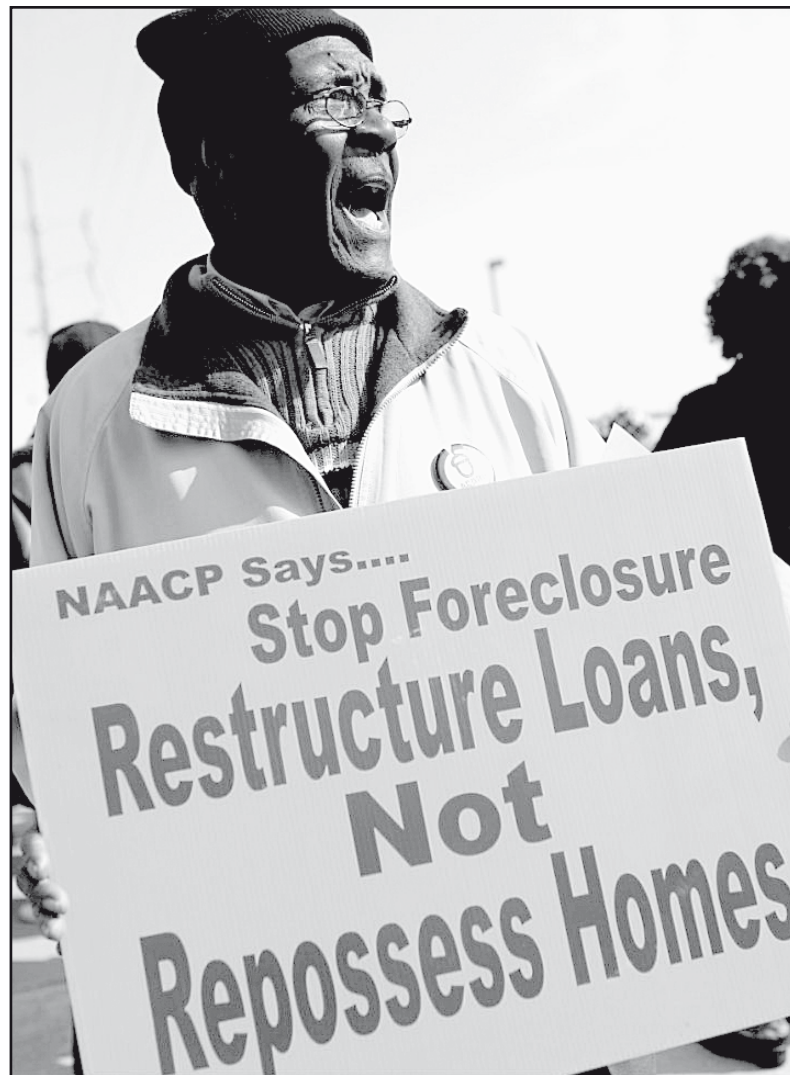
Financial security can often feel like a tug of war with earnings and income on one side and the cost of living and debt on the other. Which side wins can determine whether a household is mired in insurmountable debt or gains the financial ability for a better life.

For many families, the path to that better life is through homeownership. If you're Black or Latino, however, wanting and getting are often two different things.

In 2014, borrowers of color and families with low-to-moderate incomes continue to be shortchanged in the mortgage market, according to the newly-released Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) report. One of the few reports that tracks data by race and income, the HMDA report tallies how many mortgage loans were approved and by type.

To put it another way, the HMDA numbers reveal whether Black America is getting its fair share of mortgages. In 2014, the numbers show that communities of color got a lot less:

Out of 1,736,000 conventional mortgage loans for purchases last year, Black borrowers received only 45,544; Latino borrowers fared better, receiving 87,570. Only 2.6 percent of these loans, typically the most affordable and widely available, were made to Blacks and just



5 percent for Latinos.

The more costly government-backed loan programs such as FHA, VA and USDA were the primary mortgage vehicles for consumers of color. For Blacks, 96,780

home loans (9.7 percent of all government-sponsored loans) were made, and again Latinos received slightly more with 128,653 (12.9 percent) of these loans.

"These stark disparities in mort-

gage lending to borrowers of color and low-wealth families occur to the very people hardest hit by abusive lending and the foreclosure crisis. These disparities also come at a time when our nation's demographics are changing," said Nikitra Bailey, executive vice president with the Center for Responsible Lending. "The future health of our mortgage market, a major driver of the economy, relies on closing these gaps."

Bailey continued, "By 2025, the population will be even more diverse with households of color representing nearly half of all first-time homebuyers. Lenders and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have a duty to serve more than just consumers with pristine credit and high levels of wealth. Homeownership must be available to all credit-worthy consumers so they can pursue their own American Dream."

An in-depth analysis of 2014 HMDA data is available on CRL's web.

Among mortgage professionals, it is widely held that owning a home is how many Americans build wealth. Because the private mortgage market has failed to make loans available to Black homebuyers, our community suffers from a limited ability to create wealth through this reliable and proven method.

Demos, a public policy organization, published a report that demonstrated if the rate of homeownership

by people of color would increase, the racial wealth gap would substantially reduce the racial wealth gap. "Black and Latino homeowners saw less return in wealth on their investment in homeownership: for every \$1 in wealth that accrues to median Black households as a result of homeownership, median white households accrue \$1.34," states the report.

Housing is critical to the health of our national economy. Excluding credit-worthy families from fully participating fully in the entire housing marketplace hinders the market's ability to continue its steady improvement. This exclusion also systematically limits the total number of potential homebuyers. As America's retirees grow older, many will seek to downsize. Expanding the pool of homebuyers looking for their first home can help first-time buyers access a greater number of options.

Between historically and broadly available low mortgage interest rates, coupled with strengthened consumer protections, today's lending climate is better able to create safe and successful lending for consumers and lenders alike.

It's also an opportunity to close the racial wealth gap in the name of economic fairness.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

statute. When you take into consideration the history of race in this country, the disproportionate impact of the law on African Americans should come as no surprise. The task force's research has also found that a white shooter who uses deadly force against a Black victim is 350 percent more likely to be found justified than a Black shooter who kills a white victim.

Because of the racial bias inherent in Stand Your Ground laws, and the danger to the general public caused by this "shoot first, ask later" mentality, we need to do more than review the laws, we need to repeal them. Stand Your Ground has not proven itself to be a common sense law that keeps our

communities—and our neighbors—safe. According to one of the task force's researchers, "if we are to use science and data and logic and analysis to drive sensible public policy, then there is no reliable and credible evidence to support laws that encourage stand your ground and shoot your neighbor."

No matter who you are, or what ethnic community you claim as your own, we all want the same thing: to be safe. Stand Your Ground laws have proven that rather than curb violence, the laws increase violence. The explosive combination of Stand Your Ground laws and pre-existing racial stereotypes and tensions have worked disproportionately against com-

munities of color, making them victims in far larger numbers and depriving them of justice in our criminal justice system. Repealing Stand Your Ground laws would seem like common sense, but unfortunately, common sense is not so common. Just weeks ago a bill was introduced by a Florida legislator that would effectively provide more protection for people who claim self-defense, placing the burden on prosecutors to prove that the defendant was wrong to use deadly force. Stand Your Ground laws do not protect us—they hurt, divide and kill—and we must work together to enact public policy and gun laws that will ensure the safety of the American public.

CHOOSE CAR SEAT: BY AGE & SIZE

THE ONES WHO ACTUALLY DO.

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY HAVE THEIR CHILD IN THE RIGHT SEAT.

KNOW FOR SURE
IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT.

Ad Council VISIT SAFERCAR.GOV/THERIGHTSEAT NHTSA Child Car Safety

NNPA Black Press Honors Black Leaders

By Jazelle Hunt
NNPA National
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – At a reception during the 45th Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF) Annual Legislative Conference, the National Newspaper Publishers Association honored five Black luminaries with its Leadership Awards.

The awards are given to those who have demonstrated leadership in the Black community and support of the Black Press. Held at the Washington Marriott Marquis, which is partially Black-owned, the reception drew a large crowd of conference attendees and Black Press supporters.

Misty Copland, Roland Martin, Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards (D-Md.), Rahiel Tesfamariam, and A. Shuanise Washington were the awardees for 2015, the NNPA's 75th anniversary year. Denise Rolark Barnes, chair of the NNPA and publisher of The Washington Informer, along with Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA, emceed the event.

Roland Martin was recognized for his work in broadcast media and dedication to Black news, and was the first honoree of the night to address the audience.

"For folks who don't know, I've actually run three Black papers. I've always made it clear that the first dollar I earned in media was from a Black newspaper. My first television dollar was from a company that was Black-owned," he said. "When I'm sitting in the White House with the president, I'm sitting representing Black media, not mainstream media. I have never allowed White media to validate my skill set."

Each of the honorees thanked the NNPA for its support and its



NNPA president and CEO, Benjamin F. Chavis (left) and NNPA chair Denise Rolark Barnes (right) present Roland Martin with a 2015 NNPA Leadership Award. (Roy Lewis/Washington Informer)



At the 2015 NNPA Leadership Awards reception, Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake thanks the Black Press for its fair coverage of the Baltimore protests. (Roy Lewis/The Washington Informer)

dedication to keeping Black communities empowered and informed.

"When I came into Congress, I said we were going to do something different. I said that we were going to make our paper of record our Black newspapers," said Congresswoman Edwards. "When we reach out in my office...we reach

out to our papers of record. When I decided I was going to embark on this journey to the U.S. Senate, our paper of record on that decision was The Afro and The Washington Informer."

Rahiel Tesfamariam, writer, activist, speaker, and founder of digital media platform, Urban Cusp,

spoke on the Black press' role in social justice movements.

"The Black Press is a tool of liberation, is it not?" she asked the audience after accepting her award. "Before I sit down, I want to ensure that we understand the power that we hold as Black press. Because at the end of the day, the power of words is the power of life and death, and that is the power of the Black Press."

A. Shuanise Washington, president and CEO of the CBCF Inc., and Misty Copland were unable to attend the reception. CBCF vice president of communications and marketing, Shrita Sterlin-Hernandez accepted the award on Washington's behalf, and Copland sent her gratitude via video.

Several notables were also in attendance, including Congressmen Al Green (D-Texas) and Bobby Scott (D-Va.), Newport News, Va. Mayor McKinley Price, Sir Hillary McDonald Beckles, vice-chancellor of the University of the West Indies in Jamaica; Diane Watson former U.S. ambassador and former Congressional representative, and many more. Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, and Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake were also present and took a few moments to address and thank the crowd.

"I am here really to echo the comments that Roland [Martin] made, and to thank Black media for how you treated Baltimore during the unrest," Rawlings-Blake said. "I can say that Black media was particularly supportive in so many ways to make sure that...the riots wasn't the whole story of Baltimore. Thank you for making sure the whole story continues to be told in our communities."

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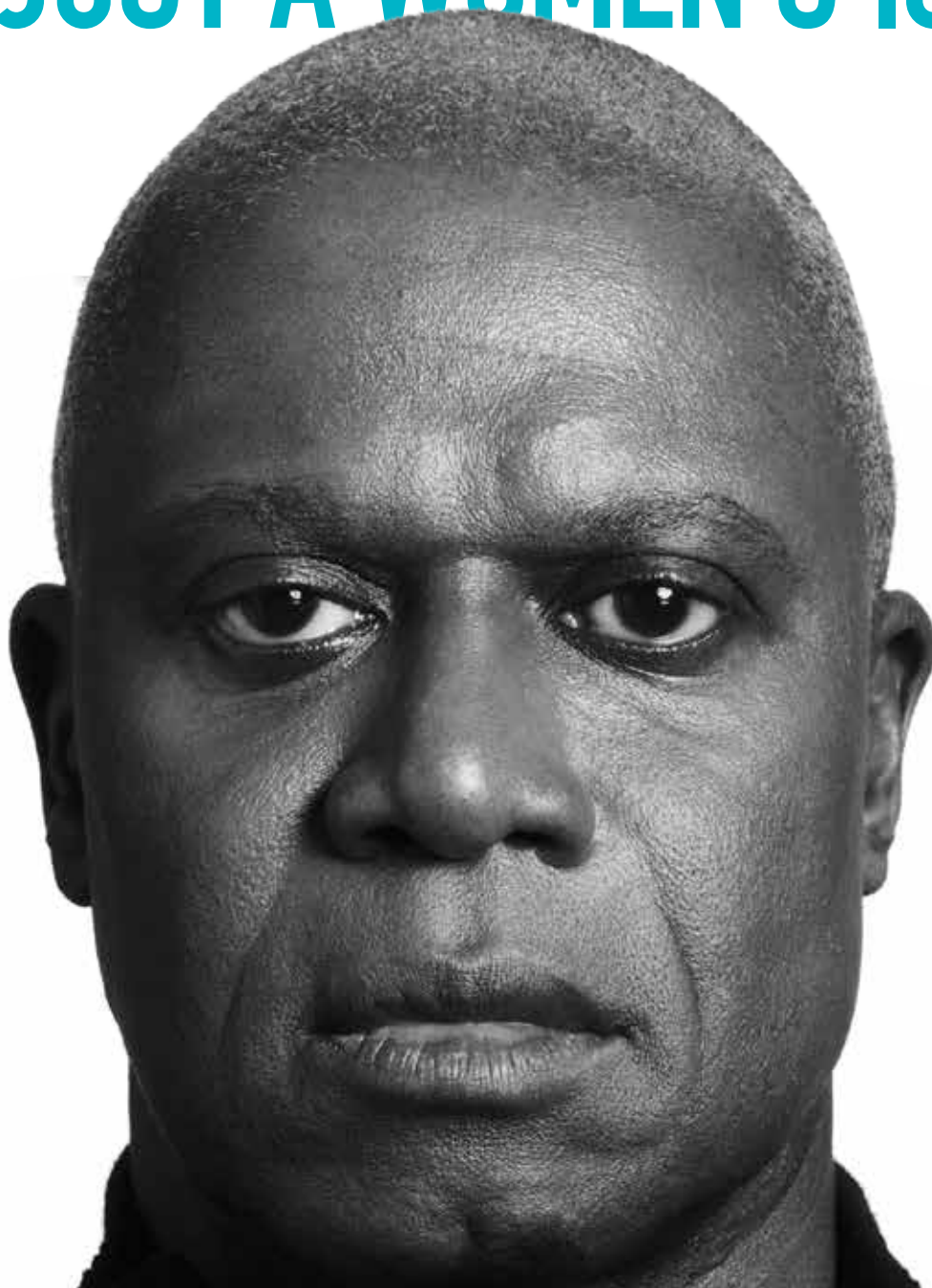
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