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Zulu Ball Highlights

**Data
Zone
Page 7**

February 13 - February 19, 2016 50th Year Volume 42 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Know Your Heritage?

8 Little Known Black History Facts

Page 2



Newsmaker
100 Black Men of
NOLA Launch New
Education Initiative

Page 5

In the Spirit
Our Shining Star is
Dimmed



Page 9

8 Little Known Black History Month Facts

Data News Staff Edited Report

History is often reduced to a handful of memorable moments and events. In Black history, those events often include courageous stories like those of The Underground Railroad and historic moments like the famous "I Have a Dream" speech by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. But these are only a few of the significant and important events to know and remember.

In an effort to honor this expansive and growing history, Black History Month was established by way of a weekly celebration in February known as "Negro History Week" by historian Carter G. Woodson. But just as Black history is more than a month, so too are the numerous events and figures that are often overlooked during it. What follows is a list of some of those "lesser known" moments and facts in Black history.



1 Before there was Rosa Parks, there was Claudette Colvin.

Most people think of Rosa Parks as the first person to refuse to give up their

seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. There were actually several women who came before her; one of whom was Claudette Colvin.

It was March 2, 1955, when the fifteen-year-old schoolgirl refused to move to the back of the bus, nine months before Rosa Parks' stand that launched the Montgomery bus boycott. Claudette had been studying Black leaders like Harriet Tubman in her segregated school, those conversations had led to discussions around the current day Jim Crow laws they were all experiencing. When the bus driver ordered Claudette to get up, she refused, "It felt like Sojourner Truth was on one side pushing me down, and Harriet Tubman was on the other side of me pushing me down. I couldn't get up."

Claudette Colvin's stand didn't stop there. Arrested and thrown in jail, she was one of four women who challenged the segregation law in court. If *Browder v. Gayle* became the court case that successfully overturned bus segregation laws in both Montgomery and Alabama, why has Claudette's story been largely forgotten? At the time, the NAACP and other Black organizations felt Rosa Parks made a better icon for the movement than a teenager. As an adult with the right look, Rosa Parks was also the secretary of the NAACP, and was both well-known and respected – people would associate her with the middle class and that would attract support for the cause.

But the struggle to end segregation was often fought by young people, more than half of which were women.



2. Martin Luther King Jr. improvised the most iconic part of his "I Have a Dream Speech."

On Wednesday, August 28, 1963, 250,000 Americans united at the Lincoln Memorial for the final speech of the March on Washington. As Martin Luther King Jr. stood at the podium, he eventually pushed his notes aside.

The night before the march, Dr. King began working on his speech with a small group of advisers in the lobby of the Willard Hotel. The original speech was more political and less historic, according to Clarence B. Jones, and it did not include any reference to dreams. After delivering the now famous line, "we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream," Dr. King transformed his speech into a sermon.

Onstage near Dr. King, singer Mahalia Jackson reportedly kept saying, "Tell 'em about the dream, Martin," and while no one will know if he heard her, it could likely have been the inspiration he

needed. Dr. King then continued, "Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream...." And then the famous Baptist preacher preached on, adding repetition and outlining the specifics of his dream. And while this improvised speech given on that hot August day in 1963 was not considered a universal success immediately, it is now recognized as one of the greatest speeches in American history.



3. Inoculation was introduced to America by a slave.

Few details are known about the birth of Onesimus, but it is assumed he was born in Africa in the late seventeenth century before eventually landing in Boston. One of a thousand people of African descent living in the Massachusetts colony, Onesimus was a gift to the Puritan church minister Cotton Mather from his congregation in 1706.

Onesimus told Mather about the centuries old tradition of inoculation practiced in Africa. By extracting the material from an infected person and scratching it into the skin of an uninfected person, you could deliberately introduce smallpox to the healthy in-

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary.	8
Newsmaker	5	In The Spirit	9
Data Zone	6	State & Local News .	10

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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PRESIDENTS' DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 2/10-2/15/2016, EXCEPT AS NOTED. "Biggest denim event of the season" refers to our Spring season from February 1, 2016 through April 30, 2016.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

dividual making them immune. Considered extremely dangerous at the time, Cotton Mather convinced Dr. Zabdiel Boylston to experiment with the procedure when a smallpox epidemic hit Boston in 1721 and over 240 people were inoculated. Opposed politically, religiously and medically in the United States and abroad, public reaction to the experiment put Mather and Boylston's lives in danger despite records indicating that only 2% of patients requesting inoculation died compared to the 15% of people not inoculated who contracted smallpox.

Onesimus' traditional African practice was used to inoculate American soldiers during the Revolutionary War and introduced the concept of inoculation to the United States.



4. The diverse history of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

While Jewish and African American communities have a tumultuous shared history when it comes to the pursuit of civil rights, there is a chapter that is often overlooked. In the 1930s when Jewish academics from Germany and Austria were dismissed from their teaching positions, many came to the United States looking for jobs. Due to the Depression, xenophobia and rising anti-Semitism, many found it difficult to find work, but more than 50 found positions at HBCUs in the segregated South.

Originally established to educate freed slaves to read and write, the first of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities was Cheyney University in Pennsylvania, established in 1837. By the time Jewish professors arrived, the number of HBCUs had grown to 78. At a time when both Jews and African Americans were persecuted, Jewish professors in the Black colleges found the environment comfortable and accepting, often creating special programs to provide opportuni-

ties to engage Blacks and whites in meaningful conversation, often for the first time.

In the years that followed, the interests of Jewish and African American communities increasingly diverged, but this once-shared experience of discrimination and interracial cooperation remains a key part of the Civil Rights Movement.

5. One in four cowboys was Black, despite the stories told in popular books and movies.

In fact, it's believed that the real "Lone Ranger" was inspired by an African American man named Bass Reeves. Reeves had been born a slave but escaped West during the Civil War where he lived in what was then known as Indian Territory. He eventually became a Deputy U.S. Marshal, was a master of disguise, an expert marksman, had a Native American companion, and rode a silver horse. His story was not unique however.

In the 19th century, the Wild West drew enslaved Blacks with the hope of freedom and wages. When the Civil War ended, freedmen came West with the hope of a better life where the demand for skilled labor was high. These African Americans made up at least a quarter of the legendary cowboys who lived dangerous lives facing weather, rattlesnakes, and outlaws



while they slept under the stars driving cattle herds to market.

While there was little formal segregation in frontier towns and a great deal of personal freedom,

Black cowboys were often expected to do more of the work and the roughest jobs compared to their white counterparts. Loyalty did develop between the cowboys on a drive, but the Black cowboys were typically responsible for breaking the horses and being the first ones to cross flooded streams during cattle drives. In fact, it is believed that the term "cowboy" originated as a derogatory term used to describe Black "cowhands."

6. Esther Jones was the real Betty Boop!

The iconic cartoon character Betty Boop was inspired by a Black jazz singer in Harlem. Introduced by cartoonist Max Fleischer in 1930, the caricature of the jazz age flapper was the first and most famous sex symbol in animation. Betty Boop is best known for her revealing dress, curvaceous figure, and signature vocals "Boop Oop A Doop!" While there has been controversy over the years, the inspiration has been traced back to Esther



Jones who was known as "Baby Esther" and performed regularly in the Cotton Club during the 1920s.

Baby Esther's trademark vocal style of using "boops" and other childlike scat sounds attracted the attention of actress Helen Kane during a performance in the late 1920s. After seeing Baby Esther, Helen Kane adopted her style and began using "boops" in her songs as well. Finding fame early on, Helen Kane often included this "baby style" into her music. When Betty Boop was introduced, Kane promptly sued Fleischer and Paramount Publix Corporation stating they were using her image and style. However video evidence came to light of Baby Esther performing in a nightclub and the courts ruled against Helen Kane stating she did not have exclusive rights to the "booping" style or image, and that the style, in fact, pre-dated her.

Baby Esther's "baby style" did little to bring her mainstream fame

and she died in relative obscurity but a piece of her lives on in the iconic character Betty Boop.



7. The first licensed African American Female pilot was named Bessie Coleman.

Born in Atlanta, Texas in 1892, Bessie Coleman grew up in a world of harsh poverty, discrimination and segregation. She moved to Chicago at 23 to seek her fortune, but found little opportunity there as well. Wild tales of flying exploits from returning WWI soldiers first inspired her to explore aviation, but she faced a double stigma in that dream being both African American and a woman.

She set her sights on France in order to reach her dreams and began studying French. In 1920, Coleman crossed the ocean with all of her savings and the financial support of Robert Abbott, one of the first African American millionaires. Over the next seven months, she learned to fly and in June of 1921, the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale awarded her an international pilot's license. Wildly celebrated upon her return to the United States, reporters turned out in droves to greet her.

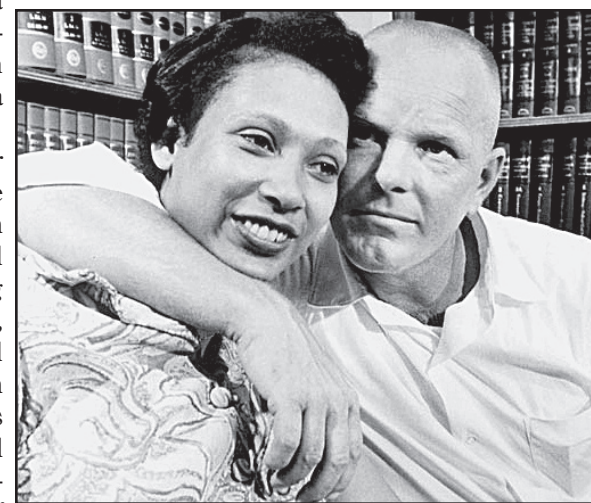
Coleman performed at numerous airshows over the next five years, performing heart thrilling stunts, encouraging other African Americans to pursue flying, and refusing to perform where Blacks were not admitted. When she tragically died in a plane accident in 1926, famous writer and equal rights advocate Ida B. Wells presid-

ed over her funeral. An editorial in the "Dallas Express" stated, "There is reason to believe that the general public did not completely sense the size of her contribution to the achievements of the race as such."

8. Interracial marriage in the United States was banned in 1664 and not overturned until 1967.

During the seventeenth and early eighteenth century, the growing number of interracial marriages (also known as miscegenation) between Blacks and whites led to the passage of this new law. The first anti-miscegenation law enacted was in the colony of Maryland in 1664 and additional colonies quickly followed suit. These marriages were prohibited and penalties included the enslavement, exile or imprisonment of the white perpetrators. These laws grew and evolved over the years and attempts were even made to modify the Constitution to ban interracial marriage in all states.

It would take three hundred years for this law to be overturned. In 1967, Richard Loving, a white man, and Mildred Jeter, a Black woman, were married in the District of Columbia. When they returned home to Virginia, they were arrested and convicted of violating the state's anti-miscegenation law.



They each faced a year in jail and their case went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court found in favor of the Lovings in the famous trial Loving v. Virginia. They ruled that prohibiting interracial marriage on state and local levels was unconstitutional; this meant that marriages between the races were legal in the country for the first time since 1664.

In 2000, Alabama became the last state to officially legalize interracial marriage by removing the unenforceable ban that was still contained in their state constitution. Read more famous cases about interracial relationships that changed history.

100 BLACK MEN / Launch “The Time Is Now!” – Public Education Initiative”

Data News Staff Edited Report

Encouraged by the large community turnout and positive response to the public education the group held in December, the 100 Black Men organization is looking to engage the local community in conversation on governance and a possible return of schools to local control.

100 Black Men president, Jonathan Wilson, said “The question is not if public schools should be returned to local control. There is a general sentiment that schools should be under the governance of the Orleans Parish School Board. If the schools are to be returned, the community must be more engaged in the future of public education. A true story of resilience for public education in New Orleans would conclude with a single high performing school district governed by members of the community by the city’s 300th anniversary. The time to celebrate this return and work to build a delivery system of education our children deserve is NOW! What we need to discuss is the local structure (governance model) to which they should be returned, accountability system for charter schools and how we hold our school board and other local elected officials accountable for the education of our children”.

The group coordinated a public forum on December 9th to begin the engagement process.

More than 150 public school stakeholders participated. Since then, the group has been conducting a series of meetings with elected officials, mentoring organizations, business leaders, parents and student advocates. Based on the broad based consensus gained through those interactions, 100 Black Men



Jonathan Wilson, President, 100 Black Men of New Orleans

is taking the initiative to broaden the community dialogue around the return of schools and the make-up of the local governing body that will be responsible for setting public school policy.

Wilson pointed out that several stakeholder groups have been meeting in private about the return of schools. Additionally, several charter organizations have been in serious discussions with both the Recovery School District (RSD) and the Orleans Parish School

Board (OPSB) about the possibility of returning to the local governing body. Under the direction of OPSB Superintendent, Henderson Lewis, the OPSB has adopted several policy initiatives designed to make the return of schools more palatable for existing charter management organizations.

Additionally, several legislators have been developing bills for the upcoming legislative session that speak to the return of schools to the OPSB. And, it is no secret that the new Governor, John Bel Edwards, favors the return of school to Or-



Members of 100 Black Men of New Orleans

leans Parish control.

With these circumstance in place, president Wilson says, “The

time is now for us to bring the conversation to the public and seek unified action by our school board

and other local elected officials to bring the schools back to our community’s control. This dialogue must include the contribution made by the existence of charter schools and insure they are given the opportunity and autonomy to innovate and implement best educational practices to serve all students. It is also important to include clear and consistent accountability policies, transparent charter board practices, and rigorous oversight of charter schools to insure equity for all students. Our organization will work in concert with a broad based coalition of groups to get the public engaged in a concerted effort to provide high quality education for all children.”

For more information on the local chapter of 100 Black Men, please call (504) 208-9337 or send an e-mail to info@100blackmennola.org

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Spreading the Roots of Music

Photos by Glenn Summers

And Preserving the Cultural Heritage and the Historical Traditions of New Orleans

The Roots of Music fills a void in music education programs in New Orleans schools. Marching bands were once an integral part of New Orleans middle schools, but many schools discontinued their music programs for this age group after Katrina. Today, The Roots of Music serves over 100 students, making up a full marching band that has successfully paraded the city since Mardi Gras 2009.

The program provides music history and theory as well as instrumental instruction and ensemble performance preparation. They also provide academic tutoring, mentoring and homework assistance. They serve kids ages 9-14 from low-income households — and to reduce common barriers to participation for this population, They also provide students with round-trip transportation and a hot meal 5 days a week, 12 months a year.

Their philosophy is that music has the power to transform lives. The Roots of Music empowers the youth of New Orleans through music education, academic support, and mentorship while preserving and promoting the unique musical and cultural heritage of our city. Their goal is to provide our kids with the resources they need to lead positive, productive, self-reliant lives.

Here are highlights of the Roots of Music as they paraded for this year's Mardi Gras celebration.



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

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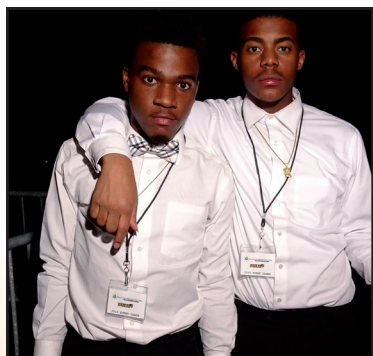
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2016 Zulu Coronation Ball

Photos by Glenn Summers

The 2016 Zulu Ball was held on Friday February 5, 2016 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The featured entertainment included the Grammy Award Winning R&B icon Charlie Wilson and the dynamic singer Deniece Williams. The evening also featured, DJ Captain Charles and returning by popular demand was the the "Original Hot Boy" New Orleans' own Juvenile.

The event was to capacity and New Orleans' most anticipated event did not disappoint! Of course, Data was there!



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

In It to Win It – My Head Says Hillary, My Heart Says Bernie



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

I am looking forward to November 8, 2016, and to voting for Hillary Rodham Clinton to lead these United States. I am so extremely

excited that a woman of character, experience, and discernment can lead our nation. Even as I look forward to the November vote, I am fully enjoying the path to November. Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders has provided tone and texture to this race. He has forced Senator Clinton to hone her positions on health care, Wall Street and income inequality. He came so amazingly close to toppling her in Iowa that it gave me Post Dramatic Stress Syndrome. She didn't make my drama hers, though. She has man-

aged, with stoic dignity, to stake her claim for this presidency.

My head is with Secretary Hilary Clinton, but my heart is with Senator Bernie Sanders. I realize that he has promised everything and hasn't shared how he might pay for much of it — free tuition, universal health care, or Wall Street reform. Still, his energetic bluster has been a galvanizing factor in a race that might otherwise have been seen as a cakewalk or a coronation. Hilary needs to be pushed as hard as Senator Sanders can push her. And even though Sanders says he does not

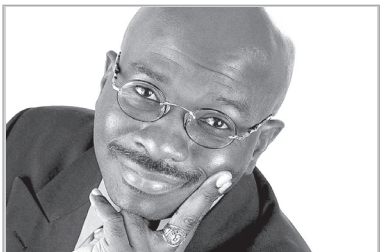
care about her "damn e-mails," the e-mail conversation has to remind Senator Clinton that she has to figure out ways to restore trust among those who support her positions but look askance at the ways she has been too frequently presented.

There is an element of sexism in this. Hillary Clinton has been on the national stage for several decades, from the time when her husband, was elected governor of Arkansas in the 1980s. As First Lady, she had to juggle her smarts and her secondary role, blundering as she tried to offer clarity around

health care, soaring as she provided rhetorical leadership on women and children's issues. And since the Clintons left the White House, she has been nimble and focused as a Senator, managing to make friends in both political parties, and managing to provide solid international leadership as Secretary of State. Were she a man, would she be judged as harshly because some find her "unlikeable"? Would her every facial expression be parsed? Would opponents feel free to com-

Commentary,
Continued on page 9.

The Water Crisis in Flint is a Man-made Disaster



Armstrong Williams
NNPA Columnist

Something is definitely rotten in the state of Michigan. And it's not just the lead-poisoned water coming from the corroded pipes undergirding Flint's public water system. The rottenness goes to the very core of an attitude of managerial expediency unfettered by moral leadership.

Contrary to widespread belief, Flint Michigan's water woes are not the result of decades' long neglect of critical infrastructure investments — although that is certainly a contributing factor. The blame for Flint's water problems lay squarely with a legacy policy choices dating back decades. The fact that towns like Flint, Michigan are currently facing critical fiscal crises is the result of successive generations of corrupt and incompetent local elected leadership. But the immediate cause of the water crisis in particular stems from current Michigan Governor's attempt to rectify fiscal mismanagement through authoritarian, anti-democratic governance policies.

Snyder's policy of usurping local governmental authorities and plac-

ing economically depressed towns like Flint under the sole control unelected 'emergency managers' is the proximate cause of the Flint crisis. The philosophy behind Snyder's policy choices seems to be that governments should be 'run more like a business.'

Under Snyder's dubious management-oriented philosophy, principle-centered leadership often takes a backseat to expedient tactics. In Flint this policy regime has tragically backfired. The absence of moral discernment has caused a crisis from which the citizens of Flint as well as for Michigan taxpayers are unlikely to escape any time soon.

Let's be clear. The situation in Flint was not an act of nature, or an accident, or a mistake. It is a man-made environmental disaster. It was entirely foreseeable and entirely preventable. Potentially thousands of children may have suffered permanent neurological injuries due to elevated levels of lead in their blood — elevated levels caused by drinking and bathing in contaminated water that was falsely declared safe by officials who were appointed by and report directly to the Governor — a two-term Governor at the end of a term-limited run who may feel he no longer has to be accountable to the Michigan voters.

But what has elevated this crisis from mere tragedy to the heights of diabolical absurdity was the Snyder administration's year-long denial

— despite an abundance of objective evidence to the contrary — that there was even a problem to begin with. When Marc Edwards, a Virginia Tech professor, MacArthur Genius grant-recipient, and world-renowned expert on water quality declared the brown sludge coming from faucets in Flint to be toxic waste, the Snyder administration dismissed him as a quack. When local pediatrician Dr. Mona Hannah-Attisha, alarmed that children were showing up at her practice with skin rashes and thinning hair, alerted political leaders that blood lead concentrations in children were 2 to 3 times normal levels, Snyder called her findings inconclusive, and vigorously denied that the elevated lead levels were caused by the city's drinking water. When an EPA memo describing dangerously high levels of lead in Flint's drinking water was leaked to the media, the Snyder administration lambasted the memo's author as a 'rogue employee.'

The level of official misconduct here is beyond ludicrous. In fact, if it weren't staring us right in the face, we would have difficulty conceiving of such ribald villainy on the part of our elected officials. The situation in Flint is a humanitarian debacle of world-class dimensions. If Al Qaeda or ISIS had intentionally poisoned the drinking water of over 100,000 Americans, it would be considered a national security crisis. We would immediately mobilize the military

and hunt down the culprits without prejudice. The crisis in Flint cannot be characterized as anything else but an intentional act of sabotage.

Flint is not the only city in which Snyder's autocratic, myopic and niggardly policies have wrought havoc. Snyder's regime has gone about systemically disenfranchising largely Democratic, majority Black towns under the guise of 'emergency management.' Flint, with a population that is 57 percent African-American, joins Pontiac, Detroit, Highland Park, Benton Harbor and several other localities targeted politically by the Snyder administration. This seems to be part of a deliberate policy to isolate and quell his political adversaries under the dubious pretense of imposing 'fiscal discipline.' It is unavoidably apparent that the Snyder administration's policies have had profligate social and financial costs. The Flint catastrophe could likely have been prevented by treating the water for a mere \$100 per day (a small price to pay for precaution), but some estimates now place the long term cost of remediation at \$1.5 billion or more, as pipes corroded by river water continue to leach lead into the Flint water supply. In the full light of day, Snyder's policies seem to be motivated more by a desire to usurp the political power of the electorate, than by a genuine desire to help economically depressed localities manage their finances.

The toxic ideology that governments should be run like businesses needs to be challenged vigorously and soon, because the policy regime that led to the crisis in Michigan is far from an isolated case. Governors in Wisconsin, Kansas, Maine and Florida are implementing similar neo-liberal policies in efforts to enforce fiscal discipline on localities within their states. Many more environmental and infrastructural disasters of the sort we are witnessing in Flint are sure to follow if the dogma of market fundamentalism continues to infect the policy realm.

In the case of Flint, Michigan, the villains are easy to spot. They are the politicians who caused the fiscal crisis in the first place, and the politicians who caused a humanitarian crisis in a badly-conceived attempt to alleviate the fiscal challenge. The major lesson here is that suspending the democratic process in the interests of managerial expediency usually turns out badly. The fanciful notion that a strong dictator is more effective at governing than a 'weak' democratic process is a theory that was considered and discarded at the founding of our nation.

Armstrong Williams is the manager/sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American CurrentSee online Magazine. Watch our Right Side Forum every Saturday Live News-channel 8 TV 28 in DC, 10:30 am – 11:00 am and repeats 6:30 pm EST. Follow Armstrong Williams on Twitter @arightside.

Maurice White

American Music's Shining Star is Dimmed



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

In an era of pop music defined by rock star excess, one group was "into healthy food, meditation, taking vitamins, reading philosophical books, being students of life."

Maurice White, who died last week at 74, was only 30 when Earth Wind & Fire released its first album in 1971 - young, but a decade older than his bandmates and his brother and co-founder, Verdine.

"We really looked up to Maurice," Verdine White said. "He had done a lot more things than we had. Maurice was interested in establishing a credibility of a different morality about musicians and their lifestyles."

By 1971, Maurice White was an experienced studio drummer, having played throughout the 1960s on

"Every man has a place
In his heart there's a space.

And the world can't
erase his fantasies.

Take a ride in the sky.

On our ship, fantasize.

All your dreams will
come true right away.

And we will live together
until the twelfth of never.

Our voices will ring
forever, as one."

- *Fantasy*, Earth,
Wind & Fire

the records of Etta James, Muddy Waters, the Dells, the Impressions and other artists signed to Chess Records. At the Afro-Arts Theater, a cultural hub for the late-1960s black consciousness movement in Chicago, former Sun Ra Arkestra former trumpeter Phil Cohran introduced White to the kalimba - an African thumb piano that would feature prominently in Earth Wind



and Fire's signature sound.

Trained as jazz musicians, the band fused soul, funk, gospel, blues, and rock in a style both unique and uplifting.

"We were coming out of a decade of experimentation, mind expansion and cosmic awareness," Maurice White said "I wanted our music to convey messages of universal love and harmony without force-feeding

listeners' spiritual content."

"Being joyful and positive was

the whole objective of our group."

Parkinson's disease forced White to stop touring with Earth, Wind & Fire in 1995 but he remained a major force as a producer and composer for pop, jazz and dance artists, film and the stage.

White's influence on American music is so pervasive, hardly an artist in the last five decades has not been touched in some way by his genius. Innovators like White not only break down barriers and open new doors, they create entirely new structures and invite the rest of the world in.

"The light is he, shining on you and me," White's brothers wrote. His work was infused with light - "shining bright to see what you can truly be" in "Shining Star," or "chasin' the clouds away" in "September." Illuminating, life-giving, guiding the way - just like White himself.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

ment on her marital business? Thrice-married Donald Trump has spoken of Bill Clinton's fidelity, but it is documented that he was a big time philanderer. Carly Fiorina says she would have left her husband if he'd cheated like Bill, but we don't know that, do we? What we know is that Hillary's gender is a double-edged sword. I cringe whenever she says, "I am woman," or "the only woman," or some reference to her clear self-evident gender. But I also cringe when the gender-bashers seem incapable of interpreting her words and her work fairly.

That's not why I'll vote for Hilary, though. I'll vote for her because she is a center-left moderate (Bernie Sanders is not in charge of who gets to be a progressive, and I really don't care as much about labels as about outcomes) who will pragmatically work toward social and economic justice. She isn't perfect and may, indeed, be fundamentally flawed (as most politicians are), but she has been a consistent advocate for the least and the left out - for children and for elders. Is she weak on Wall Street reform? Absolutely.

But as Bernie Sanders pushes her, she gets stronger.

A year ago, many predicted this race as a dynastic smack down, with Jeb Bush and Hilary Clinton winning primaries toe-to-toe. Who would have thought that an unhinged demagogue, Donald Trump, would suck much of the air out of the Republican space, leaving babbling bumbler to confuse ad hominem ignorance with issues? The collective performance of the Republican team could not equal that of either Sanders or Clinton, but those R's keep slogging on. To what end? Do we really want a President who will trash talk Putin, Mexico and the United Nations? Do we want sons of immigrants who so vilely disrespect their ancestors that they'd offer punitive possibilities for citizenship?

I'm not really torn between my head and my heart. I'm simply enjoying the excitement of Bernie Sanders, and the way he has galvanized young people, especially, to become politically engaged. I am hoping that his commitment to the process is such that he will

encourage his supporters to remain involved, even after Hilary wins the Democratic nomination. And I'm sad that a woman who might knock it out of the park can also be kicked to the curb if this campaign becomes corrosive.

Congressman Stephanie Tubbs Jones was a sorority sister (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, of course), and a fierce legislator. She stuck by Hilary Clinton in 2008 even after then-Senator Barack Obama entered the Presidential race and earned the endorsement and support of many "mainstream" African Americans. Stephanie and Hilary had "heart" with each other. As a woman, Hilary can't out shout Bernie without appearing shrill. She can't out-snide him without appearing b*tchy. But she can out heart him if she channels Stephanie's energy. Stephanie Tubbs Jones was in it to win it.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available for pre-order at www.julianmalveaux.com.

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Inspiring the Next Generation of African-American Doctors

Tour Scheduled to Stop in New Orleans on February 12th and 13th at Xavier University.

Data Staff Report

The numbers of underrepresented minorities in medical schools are alarming. Although African-Americans comprise more than 13 percent of the U.S. population, they account for only 4 percent of practicing physicians, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC). The lack of African-American's pursuing careers in medicine creates many problems for a nation in need of doctors to work in medically underserved areas.



Since its inception 4 years ago, members of Tour for Diversity in Medicine (pictured above) have traveled over 5,000 miles and reached more than 2,000 students in 19 states and Washington, D.C., providing students positive mentoring from doctors who come from similar backgrounds.

This trend could worsen access to care in low-income communities,

because African-American medical students are likelier than any other group to have a firm commitment to practicing in underserved areas. Unless the current trend is reversed, our country will see a growing ethnic and racial disconnect between those who receive care and those who provide that care.

Tour for Diversity in Medicine is a unique and rather innovative non-profit organization that is addressing this issue head on. Tour for Diversity in Medicine's goal is to inspire and cultivate the next generation of African-American doctors.

How the tour works

Twice a year, Tour for Diversity in Medicine recruits a team of top minority doctors to travel by bus across the nation, touring schools to mentor minority students headed to medical school. Each bus tour covers thousands of miles visiting high schools, colleges and universities. The tour targets specific geographic areas with students from

disadvantaged backgrounds, lower-income families and those who are underrepresented in medicine, offering them mentoring and support.

Since its inception 4 years ago, Tour for Diversity in Medicine has traveled over 5,000 miles and reached more than 2,000 students in 19 states and Washington, D.C., providing students positive mentoring from doctors who come from similar backgrounds.

Each stop consists of a full day of workshops on various topics, including medical school application process, admission tests, financial aid, interviewing skills, and an overview of health disparities. The sessions aim to prepare students for the many challenges they might face on their journey to medical school.

Tour for Diversity in Medicine was co-founded by two phenomenally accomplished young doctors, Dr. Alden M. Landry, an emergen-

cy medicine physician from New York, and Dr. Kameron Matthews, a Chief Medical Officer from Chicago, and grew out of the need to erase uneven health outcomes for racial and ethnic minorities.

"To be recognized as role models and mentors for thousands of students is something we're proud of and don't take lightly. For a student to actually meet in person someone who has achieved the dream they aspire to reach, that becomes a life changing moment," says Dr. Matthews.

"At every stop we meet students who believed they couldn't overcome perceived barriers of entering the healthcare profession, only to meet with one of the doctors who empower them with knowledge, resources and support to succeed. These same students will make a tangible difference for themselves and their communities by pursuing a career in medicine," says Dr. Landry.

Mr. Jones:

I'm writing to inform you of an organization that would be a great subject for a story in the Data News Weekly. The inspirational cross country journey of two young African-American doctors, who impelled by the growing shortage of African-American doctors and its direct correlation to health disparities in underserved and low income communities, created an organization that has encouraged thousands of students to pursue a career in medicine, empowering them to become agents of change and the next generation of doctors who serve their own communities, including those in New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

Their organization, Tour for Diversity in Medicine, is a grass roots organization comprised of a team of top minority doctors who voluntarily travel to high schools and colleges throughout the nation inspiring, educating, and cultivating future minority physicians and dentists. The pursuit of their goal has seen the organization travel by bus over 5,000 miles and engage thousands of students, as a means of combating health disparities in underserved communities.

Tour for Diversity in Medicine is set to embark on the next leg of its tour, with stops in New Orleans on February 12th and 13th at Xavier University. To learn more visit www.tour4diversity.org.



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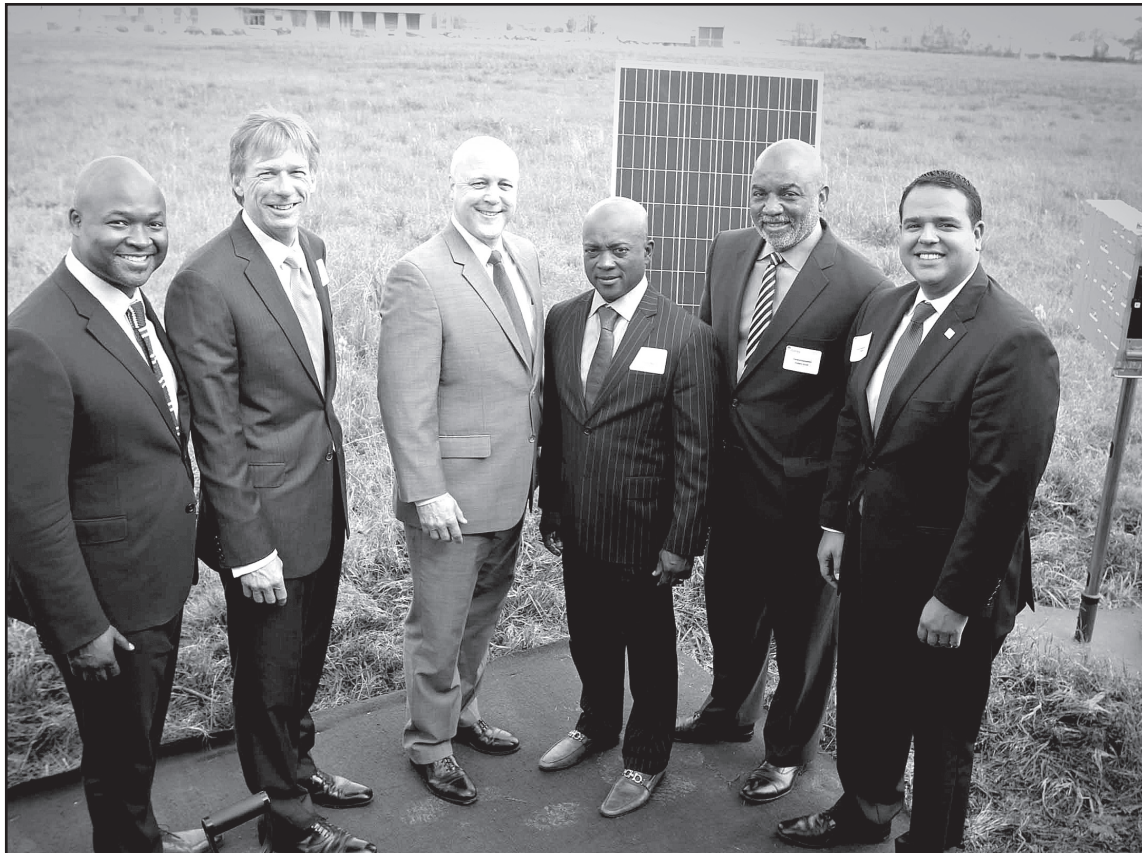
Entergy New Orleans Breaks Ground on First Utility-Scale Solar Project

Data News Staff Edited Report

Entergy leadership hosted elected officials, community leader, and other dignitaries today at the company's existing property in New Orleans East to break ground on the city's first utility-scale solar property.

The 1 megawatt pilot project, which is expected to be in service by mid-2016, will be the only utility-scale solar installation in the Entergy system – and one of only a few in the country – to integrate state-of-the-art battery-storage technology.

"This pilot project is of great value to our customers," said Charles Rice, president and CEO of Entergy New Orleans. "One of the issues with solar panels is availability on cloudy days, at night or generating enough electricity at the right time of day when energy usage peaks. Our pilot project will evaluate the ability to store and deliver solar energy to the electricity grid when customers need it – not just when the sun is shining."



Jason Rogers Williams, Councilmember-at-Large; Leo Denault, Entergy Corporation Chairman and CEO; New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu; Charles Rice, Entergy New Orleans President and CEO; James Gray II, Councilmember District E.; and Jared Brossett, Councilmember, District D.

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Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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