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New Orleanians Speak

How King’s Message is Perceived Today

From Young People, an Academic and an Activist



Aja McCoy, Junior Political Science Major at Xavier University.



Andre Perry, PhD, Host of Free College on WBOK

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

At the turn of the New Year, resolutions are made, and moments are reflected on to make better decisions and choices for the future. At least that’s the plan in the beginning for many people.

January tends to be a monumental time to reflect on the past during the Martin Luther King, Jr’s Holiday. Many people may consider race relations, political progression, service and the leadership of the country, which are problems the nation will face throughout 2017.

During the holiday, King often serves as the ultimate exemplar for service, progression and leadership. As his ideals continue to serve as a model of change for the modern world, Data New Weekly asked several New Orleanians how King, his actions and his speeches have influenced their lives and communities.

How King’s Ideals are Perceived Today

Without a doubt, King has been recorded in history as one of the greatest leaders of all time, moving forward with Christian principles of non-violence and forgiveness, and composing speeches that have changed

mindsets. However, others believe that his speeches and actions were overrated.

“I think the concept of the speech was great but it’s not realistic. It’s kind of a dream. It’s nothing like reality,” said Aja McCoy, a Junior Political Science Major at Xavier University.

“There is still segregation: Schools are still segregated; Neighborhoods are still segregated. People still chose to do it. Nothing has really changed except the mindset of those people. But I don’t think it has change for the better,” she added.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

King's 'I Have a Dream' Speech was an initial call to action to encourage the nation to envision a perfectly integrated world, where race would not be the only deciding factor between minorities and Whites.

Dillard University Student Government Association President Tevon Blair believes that concept has influenced many people today.

"I believe in some areas the 'I have a dream' Speech has respectfully allowed the co-existence of all people and understanding of different cultures," Blair said.

"In particular, to HBCUs, many people may say that we segregate ourselves from society or the real world but through our internship programs, daily interactions or the network we have built at our institutions we are equally prepared to contribute to the new reality post the 'I Had a Dream' Speech," he added.

While some people remember King for his integrative ideas, others remember him for his more conscious efforts. New Orleans Activist, Malcolm Suber, believes that King's early speeches do not paint some of his final concepts that go beyond race.

"During the period of the 'I Had a

Dream,' it was a time of maximums optimism. When people felt, this country could embrace African-American, and that racism was important," Suber said.

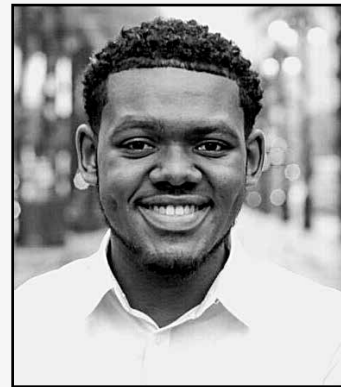
"It wasn't until the Poor People's Campaign when King advocated for the poor Blacks, poor Whites and poor Mexicans that have been shut out," he added.

Suber appreciated King's remarks that focused less on race and integration, and more on the existing system that promote inherent inequalities in the American lower and middle-classes.

"I think King would have stood with people, recognize the type of society we live in with a billionaire ruling class. He would be in favor of creating a worker's party that would contest billionaire's power and collecting our forces to challenge ruler," he added.

Dillard University's Student Government Association Vice-President Joseph Caldwell said that King's example needs to move us forward.

"The 'I have a dream' speech taught me look at people in an equal way. No matter what people do to you.... we have to continue to work hard and strive to make sacrifices



Clockwise from top: Malcolm Suber, New Orleans Activist; Dillard SGA President, Tevon Blair; Dillard SGA Vice-President, Joseph Caldwell

SCHEDULE

31st Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Sunday, January 15, 2017

R.E.A.L. March

10 a.m.

Location:

Begins at A. L. Davis Park and ends at Martin Luther King Monument

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service

3 p.m.

Location:

Historic St. James AME Church
222 N Roman St
New Orleans, LA 70112

Monday, January 16, 2017,

New Orleans MLK Commemoration

9 a.m. at City Hall

31st Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial March

9:45 a.m. at City Hall

1st Annual Dream Big Open Mic Experience

12 p.m.

New Orleans Jazz Market,
1436 Oretha Castle
Haley Blvd.

to make sure that the generations under us are taken care of," he said.

How King Influenced Service

While King may initially be remembered for his ideas of non-violent protest, forgiveness and peace between races, Andre Perry, PhD, the host of Free College on WBOK, believes King exemplifies individual service through his 'I've Been on the Mountain Top' Speech.

"In the midst of a cheated labor strike, he was willing to let everything go. Some would say he predicted his own death, but he knew he has to let his ego go, his sense of worldliness go, in order to really push for change," Perry said.

"A lot of people, including me, don't risk a lot in their pursuit for social justice. I always go to that speech to keep me honest. When he says, longevity has its place. There is no poignant line in all of his speeches for me. Whenever I hear it, I ask myself to what extent am I really working for the people," he added.

How to Move Forward In 2017

The year 2017 poses as a fresh slate for race relations, leadership and the respect of lives. However, reflecting on King, many people believe his ideals will help the nation

move forward.

McCoy, however, believes in order to move forward we must forget the past, and start fresh again.

"We have to ignore the dream. We must stop mentioning the history of the previous solutions. We must stop forcing it, and we must allow it to happen on its own. That change has to come from the self. Afterwards we'll be good.

On the other hand, Perry believes that King ideals and concepts are necessary to remember why people have the duty to help others.

"I think we have to go back to the ways to touch members of our community that have been forsaken. Finding ways to get close and to nurture and heal them. We have people who lack help, Perry said.

Perry says that communities can do more to make equality in school possible. That is, Perry said, one area that has not met King's achievement of a more equal nation.

"We have 7 universities in New Orleans and they are all distant in serving the needs of low-income people," Perry said.

"The four and six-year college graduation rates for Black men are less than 10 percent in New Orleans. That's horrific. There is lack of institutional and individual connectedness. People literally don't care," he added.

The State of Louisiana Ranks No. 10 in Racial Progress

Harvey Brown
Staff Writer

As the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday approaches, there is time to set aside how far we have come in Civil Rights as a nation. After the election of Donald Trump, and with the constant uphill battle with the Black Lives Matter Campaign, the nation has questioned its ability to maintain peace in its "post-racial" society.

According to a recent Pew Research Poll, Black voters felt as if race relations will fall after Trump's election.

While some people may be split, on how much better the United States is for minorities, this study attempts to quantify those positions.

WalletHub evaluated all 50 states in the union in the amount of inte-



Racial integration in Louisiana has improved over the last 54 years.

gration seen in their various cities and neighborhoods.

The study evaluated Employment and Wealth, Education and Civic Engagement and Health of Minorities vs Whites. The study subtracts how we Whites are doing to minorities to determine a state's level of integration. To determine how much progress a state has made, WalletHub looks at Data Spanning over 50 years, analyzing if minority integration has increased over time.

According to a WalletHub Study, the State of Louisiana Ranks No. 10 in racial integration progress. Over the past few decades, the disparity between minorities and White in areas of employment, education and health have shrunk.

States such as Georgia (1) New

**Newsmaker, Continued
on page 11.**

Our lives begin to end

**THE DAY WE
BECOME SILENT**

about things that matter.

Martin Luther King Jr. | Paraphrased from a sermon, March 8, 1965

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Top 5 Most Iconic Fur Coat Ensembles



Delaney George
Columnist

Fur is loved by many for its soft texture, high fashion reputation, and association with high status. Fur has been a trend for as long as cavemen were able to hunt and wore on any part of the body such as bathing suits, hats, scarves, and most commonly coats.

Many public figures have introduced fur in music, fashion, and lifestyle. Below are my top six most iconic fur moments in fashion history.



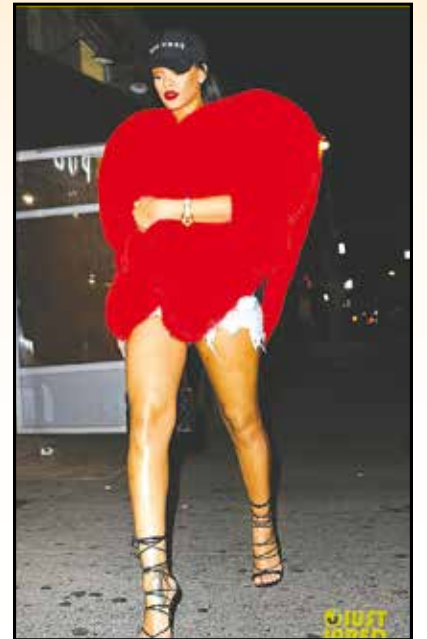
Migos:

Fur is not just for the ladies. Migos, a celebrity rap trio, recently involved fur in their latest music video. This shoot displayed their interest in the fashion scene while still keeping their focus on music. Migos kept it warm and stylish for their fans covered in multiple multicolored fur garments.



Naomi Campbell:

The legendary Super Model Naomi Campbell is no stranger to the fashion scene. Ms. Campbell made her own debut on the runway decked in an all green fur ensemble. Although they're no animals with green fur, Ms. Campbell made it known that no matter the color fur is accepted in any way shape or form.



Rihanna:

Rihanna is well-known for her outlandish outfits and peculiar choice of wardrobe. The celebrity singer made sure she turned heads when she stepped out in her famous heart shaped fur jacket. The coat was made of fur and in the shape of a heart. It's safe to say, Rihanna set the bar high showing that fur can not only be worn anywhere but morphed into any shape your heart desires.

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The Curly Corner

Why Your Grandma Doesn't Like Your Natural Hair and Why That's Okay



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

"When you gonna press your hair?", my Grandmother would inquire after touching my tightly wound coils. I always smile respectfully but usually give no answer. We had been down this road before and I knew my grandmother wanted my hair to be sleek and straight as I had always worn it since I was 7. Around 22 years old, I began transitioning from heat damaged hair to healthy natural hair. I finally saw how much damage my hair developed after passing the flat iron through it one too many times in one sitting.

Every two weeks, I would sit on a pillow



on the floor of my grandma's kitchen next to the stove. Despite the accidental burns and the melting Blue Magic grease on my forehead, I was always pleased with the look. I loved that my hair was long and that it was easy to comb through to style. I had been getting my hair pressed so long, that I was no longer aware of what my true curl pattern looked like.

During my transitioning period, my grandmother frequently expressed to me that she liked my straight hair more and

Style, Continued on page 10.

Disney's The Lion King

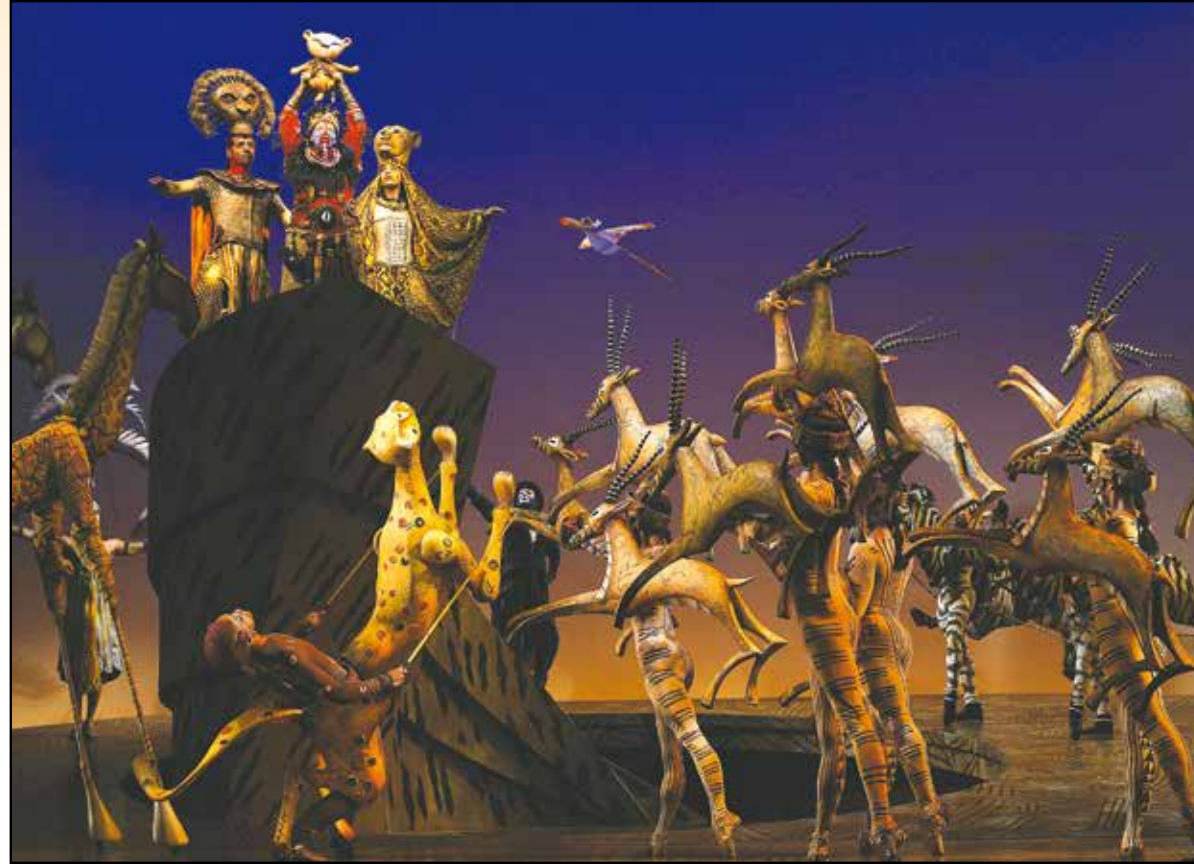
A Review

Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly
Contributor

On January 5, 2017, the Saenger Theatre hosted "Media Night" for the Tony Award-Winning Broadway sensation and stage production of Disney's The Lion King. We were seated in the center row with aisles on both sides. We were six rows from the stage, perfect seating. Flanked on either side of the stage were sets of tribal percussion drums just waiting to send out their pulsating primal rhythms. The performance took place before a packed house, every age and race were represented.

The Lion King movie is my favorite animated movie, I am sure that I have seen it over 12 times. The live stage presentation followed the storyline completely and it was phenomenal to see that animated movie come alive before our very eyes.

Just as in the opening scene in the movie, the live stage show starts on stage with that iconic call that you have seen in every commercial. But then we



heard a response from the back of the Saenger Theatre. When we turned to follow the sound, we saw, in the corner of the upper left balcony, a whimsical animal-like creature with a bare chest and gleaming muscles. And while drinking in that sight, we heard yet another sound and it was coming from the right corner of the upper bal-

cony. There crouching on the balcony railing was yet another of those fabulous whimsical creatures responding.

As we turned back to the stage we could see more animal-like creatures slowly making their way into sight from stage left and stage right. The costume designs are remarkable, from the ze-

bras, the giraffes, antelopes, the flying creatures, and on and on; the stage was overflowing with mystical creatures. I did not have enough eyes to see everything that was transpiring before me.

And then, just at that very moment as I thought it was too much to see, a huge rhino-looking creature lumbered pass me

coming down the aisle to my right heading up to the stage followed by a herd of other animals. Then coming down the aisle, to the left of me, were more animal-like creatures making their way up to the stage, among them was a massive pachyderm.

As there were creatures on both sides of us and behind us moving for-

ward, it was as if we were drawn into that incredible precession.

All of those incredible animal-like creatures converged on the Pride Rock Mountain scene to witness the presentation of Simba, the young lion cub and heir-apparent to his father Mufasa's kingdom. The young Simba and young Nala were played by young kids, maybe eight or nine years old.

The wildebeest stampede scene, the lioness hunting party scenes, and the hyenas were awesome. And as a Master Garden I was also intrigued with the clever costuming used to portray the thick flora and fauna of the jungle, from large trays of grass carried on the heads of dancers mimicking jungle thicket, to the portrayal of large jungle flowers in human form.

In a word the show is amazing. Mere words cannot effectively relate this extravaganza, it must be experienced firsthand. A rousing standing ovation thanked the incredible performers at the end of the show. I want to see it again!

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

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Stride Toward Freedom

The Legacy of M.L.K. and Barack Obama and Keeping our Eyes on the Prize



By Edwin Buggage
Editor, Data News Weekly

One Nation Indivisible

As I look back on that windy and frigid day on January 20, 2009, it was a day our nation celebrated both the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Weekend and the Inauguration of the Nation's first African-American President, Barack Obama. As Americans

from all stripes and walks of life convened on the National Mall, it was a time filled with us saying we have reached the promise land in a nation where the content of one's character trumped the color of a person's skin when choosing the leader of our country. It seemed during this time that we'd come a long way on our journey in our "Stride Toward Freedom" the title of a book by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that chronicles the Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1955-1956. It seemed over a half-century later post racial America was possible and that a new day of racial reconciliation was on the horizon as the world celebrated the victory of not only Barack Obama, but of the American people and democracy.

Obama's Legacy

I can say that as I look back after these eight-years the nation is headed in the right direction. While President Obama has had to fight against obstructionist in Congress, even Stevie Wonder can see his many accomplishments as the Commander-in-Chief. First, he led the charge of bringing America back from a potential financial collapse, he also found and eliminated the leader responsible for 9/11 attacks, Osama Bin Laden. On the international front, he helped broker the Iran Nuclear Deal, in addition to negotiating the groundbreaking Paris Climate Agreement. On the domestic front on his watch we have seen the reduction of the unemployment rate cut in half, the beginning stages of reforming our

broken Criminal Justice System, Marriage Equality becoming the law of the land and most importantly the Affordable Care Act, that's given millions of people access to Healthcare.

Keeping Our Eyes on The Prize

In these times, we can proudly say that we have witnessed the widening of the lanes of democracy and freedom of an emerging and more diverse America. But as we celebrate us moving forward conversely, there are those who are not happy with this direction and have chosen Donald Trump in the 2016 Presidential Election, who will be sworn into office on January 20, 2017 as our 45th President of the United States. While I would agree

with many in saying this is distressing many of us who are involved in the struggle for equal rights and justice; it is in this time that the clarion call must be made to all as we must not sit idly by and allow turning back the hands of time on the progress many have fought and died for. It is time for us to re-engage and keep our eyes on the prize.

Passing the Baton: A New Breed of Leaders Must Emerge

We must realize that yes these are trying times, but we are talking about a people who have survived slavery, Jim Crow and the 21st Century Racism that continues to

Commentary, Continued
on page 9.

This Is Why I Finally Supported the Women's March on Washington



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

"Ain't I A Woman," railed Sojourner Truth, "I have ploughed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman! I could work as much and eat as much as a man – when I could get it – and bear the lash as well. And ain't I a woman? I've borne thirteen children and seen most all sold off and when I cried out with my mother's grief, none but Jesus heard me! And ain't I a woman."

The similarities and differences between Black and White women are captured in Sojourner Truth's famous December 1851 speech. She movingly talks about the men who

say women should be "helped into carriages, and moved over ditches, and have the best place everywhere," while "nobody ever helps me into carriages or over mud puddles, or gives me any best place." Both Black and White women cry a mother's grief for the loss of a child, and both endure labor pains. Black women's lives, while similar, are different and often disadvantaged, because they lack the privilege that White women so easily take for granted and often fail to notice or remedy.

Thus, it did not surprise me that a White woman in Hawaii called for a "Million Women's March" on Washington, D.C. on the day after the Presidential inauguration. And it did not surprise me, when White women took up the call. Too bad these same White women did not advocate more forcefully against the man who won the Electoral College vote for the Presidency.

My first inclination was to ignore this women's march. The organizers have repeatedly struck me as tone-deaf and indifferent to

the diverse needs of women. But when I talked to Tamika Mallory, the dynamic young woman activist who was once Executive Director of Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, I shifted my perspective. Tamika shared that, just a few days after the initial call to march was issued, organizers reached out to her asking for help. She said they said they "needed to ensure that women of color were involved."

Now, there are four co-chairs of the Women's March on Washington, including African American leader Tamika Mallory, Latina activist and part of Harry Belafonte's Gathering for Justice, Carmen Perez, a White woman entrepreneur whose t-shirts have been galvanizing, Bob Bland, and Palestinian activist Linda Sarsour. I applaud the diversity in leadership, but wonder how many women of color will turn out on January 21. Tens of thousands of women from all over the country are expected, with more than 100,000 saying they plan to be there. But many African American women have looked askance, perhaps

with distaste from the cultural appropriation of the initial organizing descriptive, "Million Women's March", perhaps because we recoil from the strong support White women gave the President-elect, choosing race loyalty over gender, class, or personal interest.

I applaud Tamika Mallory. She told me "I was not willing to let this convening come together without having Black women involved." In other words, White women cannot speak for all women. If White women had their way, the march and rally would probably focus only on equal pay and reproductive rights. Thanks to Tamika and her colleagues, a statement of principles, to be issued next week, will also address racial justice, police brutality, criminal justice reform and mass incarceration.

Absent the involvement of young Black women like Tamika, it would be extremely easy for me to ignore this march. But because some women have drawn a line in the sand and insisted on space for Black women in this march, they deserve support. They remind me of the women

of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., who in 1913 elbowed their way into the Women's Suffrage March when their involvement was unwelcome. They reminded the Women's Suffrage Association that Black women were also women, and we would not be excluded.

Now, White Women are at it again, but strong, brave, Black women, the descendants of Ida B. Wells, aren't willing to sit on the sidelines. The march is to remind all watching that "women's rights are human rights." Black women's rights will be considered in this gathering because some Black women dared place themselves in an uncomfortable space (working with privileged, White women is never easy) in order to make a difference.

Information on the women's march is available at <https://www.womensmarch.com/>.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com or booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com.

Gov. Edwards' Administration Sends Final Plan for \$438 Million Appropriation

Plans for Additional \$1.2 Billion Would Send Most Funds to Homeowners, Renters, Business Owners

Data News Staff Edited Report

Gov. John Bel Edwards says the Office of Community Development submitted its final plan for an initial \$438 million Flood-Relief Appropriation on Jan. 6th to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – more than a month ahead of the federal deadline. Edwards said the state could be cleared to begin spending the money as soon as March.

Meanwhile, the Office of Community Development is working on an action plan for an additional \$1.2 billion Flood-Relief Appropriation that Congress approved in December. The Restore Louisiana Task Force had been scheduled to vote on an overall budget structure for that plan at its Jan. 6th meeting. However, the meeting was cancelled due to severe weather.

The cancellation will not result in any delays in the recovery process. The task force will review the proposed final plan for the \$1.2 billion at its next meeting, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 20th at the Livingston Parish Governmental Building at 20355 Gov-

ernment Blvd. in Livingston.

The Governor's Office of Community Development would direct most of the \$1.2 billion toward homeowners, renters and small business owners:

- \$935.4 million for homeowners
- \$80 million for renters
- \$50 million for business owners

The action plan would also set aside \$105 million in matching funds for public assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This would help local governments meet their cost-share match needed for public infrastructure improvements? 25 percent for the March flood and 10 percent for the August flood.

Edwards says the Office of Community Development is also working on more recommendations for the specific eligibility requirements for families and business owners. He said the goal is to expand the number of flood survivors, especially homeowners, who receive assistance.

"We'll write the plan for spending the \$1.2 billion so we can expand the Homeowner Assistance Program and offer at least some measure of help to everyone who



Leon Clippis stands in front of his home, ruined by the 2016 Louisiana Flood, with one of his grandchildren.

had major or severe damage and did not have flood insurance," Edwards said.

"This is a critical step as we strive to help as many flood-

impacted homeowners, businesses and communities with unmet needs as we possibly can."

Details on all flood-related programs are available on the Task Force website, restore.la.gov.

About the Restore Louisiana Task Force

The Restore Louisiana Task Force comprises 21 individuals from throughout the state who were appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to oversee the rebuilding process after historic flooding in March and August 2016 impacted 51 parishes. The Task Force's mission is divided into six categories: community planning, economic, health and social services, housing, infrastructure and natural and cultural resources. For more information, visit restore.la.gov.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

exist in America. It is time for us to re-engage and join with decent like-minded people who I still feel are most Americans and continue to make our collective stride toward freedom. I feel it is in the best interest of our nation to do so. Most importantly, this fight must be led by our young people. It is in these times that they take the mantle of leadership that previous generations of young people like John Lewis, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Andrew Young did during the struggle for Civil Rights. This list also includes our own local Civil Rights icons such as the Rev. Avery Alexander, Jerome Smith, Julia Aaron Humble, Don Hubbard, Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Dorothy Mae Taylor, Oretha Castle Haley and many others who had the courage to take a stand in the fight for freedom, justice and equality.

Liberty and Justice for All: The Struggle Continues

As I sit and await Inauguration Day, unlike after the 2008 and 2012

election's I will not be on the National Mall when President Barack Obama will hand the keys of leadership of our nation to Donald Trump. And while I am disappointed at the outcome of the election, I am still hopeful and optimistic about the direction of our nation. Although, I realize we must fight harder to stay the course and be the great nation we are becoming. It is our time to re-commit and say that we can never go to sleep at the wheel ever again. Furthermore, we must stay committed to making the dream of M.L.K. a reality and one where decency, love, understanding and respect for difference can trump closed minded and short-sighted bigotry and hate. That we must continue to move towards the theme of President Obama's 2009 address on that day; "A New Birth of Freedom," we must in these tough days ahead move towards the renewal of a sense of community and national unity and realize that the bridges that connect us are greater than the walls that divide us. It is then and only then can we make our great country even greater.

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Dillard University Announces Annual Billy Ray Hobley Scholarship Gala Award Recipient

Data News Staff Edited Report

The Dillard University Department of Athletics has announced the winners of its 9th Annual Billy Ray Hobley Scholarship Gala. The Gala will take place on Friday, February 17, 2017 in the Atrium of the Dillard Professional Schools and Sciences Building. Each year, Dillard Athletics in conjunction with the ASK Billy Ray Hobley Foundation recognizes individuals that have demonstrated a commitment to service to their community and representing the ideals that Billy Ray Hobley lived by.

Each year the event raises thousands of dollars for scholarships and serves as the kick-off for the Allstate Sugar Bowl Bleu Devil Classic Weekend, featuring men's and women's basketball matchups against Dillard's longtime crosstown rival, Xavier University.

"The Gala is an important fundraiser for student scholarships as well as a great celebration of the legacy of one of our most notable former athletes," stated Athletic Director Kiki Baker Barnes. "We are so proud to shine a light on these outstanding individuals who contribute so much to society and to reward some exceptional students who have shown exactly what a student-athlete should be."

Dillard is proud to congratulate the following award recipients:



Dillard University will Host its 9th Annual Billy Ray Hobley Scholarship Gala Award

Legacy Award

The Legacy Award was created to honor former Dillard University athletes or administrators who have demonstrated excellence in their career and community. This award has been presented annually since 2011.

Ronald Henderson, '63, was a Member of the Dillard Bleu Devils Men's Track Team from 1959 to 1963, and is a Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He captured Gulf Coast Athletic Conference (GCAC) Track and Field Championships in four events, including the 100, 220, 440 and 880 yard dashes, and earned a third-place finish at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Championships in the 440-yard dash, making him an NAIA All-American.

Walter Tillman, '67, competed

in both track and basketball as a player and went on to coach for his Alma Mater. During his career, he played for three GCAC Championship Basketball Teams and set the school record in the 440-yard Intermediate Hurdles during his senior year. Directly following his playing career, he spent nearly two-decades on the bench as an Assistant Coach at Dillard, Coaching Basketball Legends George Johnson and Billy Ray Hobley among many others.

Blue Flame of Excellence Award

The Blue Flame of Excellence Award was created to honor local and national figures that have demonstrated excellence in the areas of community service and athletics. This is the second-year this award is being presented.

Alvin Gentry has served as Head Coach for the New Orleans Pelicans since the start of the 2015-16 season. He has coached for several years in the NBA including stints with the San Antonio Spurs, Los Angeles Clippers, Miami Heat, Detroit Pistons, Phoenix Suns, and Golden State Warriors. As an Associate Head Coach, he helped guide the Golden State Warriors to a championship in 2015. As an assistant coach, he was part of the staff on the University of Kansas' 1988 (NCAA) Championship Team under the direction of Coach Larry Brown.

Billy Ray Hobley Endowed Scholarship Recipients

The Billy Ray Hobley Endowed scholarship is awarded to a Dillard University student-athlete or ath-

letes each year that have at least a 2.5 GPA and embody the spirit of Billy Ray Hobley.

This year's first recipient is Keona Favis, a Senior Basketball Player from Shreveport, LA., and a Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete. After completing her Degree in Public Health, Favis, '17, plans to attend graduate school at Life University to get her Doctorate Degree in Sports Chiropractic. Sports have always played an intricate role in her life. She said: "I want to pursue my career in Sport Chiropractic because I feel that it is essential to help others physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. From experience with my own injuries, I want to give back to the community by starting a Showcase Program for Recovered Athletes and try to help them achieve their dream of being a college athlete."

This year's second recipient is Patrick Thompson, a Junior Basketball Player from Geismar, LA., and former GCAC Men's Basketball Freshman of the Year. After completing his Degree in Engineering Physics, Thompson, '18, knows that he has a bright future ahead of him. He said: "I want to eventually own my own petroleum business and be able to live comfortably while providing for my family."

To purchase tickets or to make a contribution to the Billy Ray Hobley Scholarship Fund, visit www.dillardbleudevils.com. For more information please call 504-816-4953.

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that my natural hair looked "nappy". Although frustrated and upset at first, I had to realize where she was coming from. When she was young it was imperative that Black women wear their hair straight and curled to emulate the White beauty standard. At that time, natural African hair was still considered somewhat shameful and extreme. To be a beautiful wife and obtain a job, Black women like my grandmother straightened their hair for acceptance. My grandmother was probably just worried that the rest of society would respond to me negatively with all my natural kinks and curls.

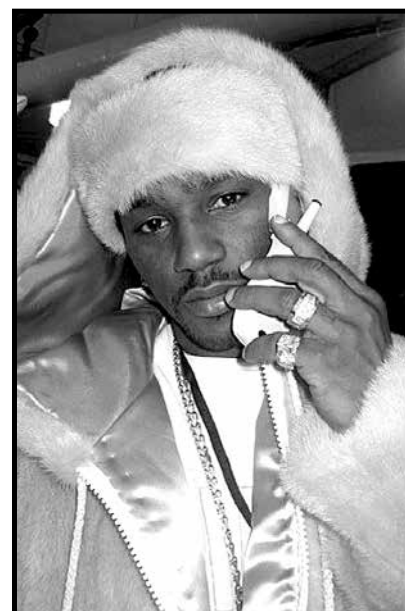
Your Grandmother may never fully accept the natural kinks and coils that you're characterize for but that doesn't mean you should be discouraged. Your hair will grow, your curls will bounce and Grandma will be happy that you're happy.

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Khloe Kardashian:

Well-known reality TV Star and PETA Supporter Star Khloe Kardashian is all about the fashion scene but does not condone wearing real fur. To express this belief, Kardashian made a loud but fashionable statement in her "F yo Fur" ensemble. Kardashian walked the New York Streets flashing her fashion sense with faux fur as well as her concern for animals.



Camron:

Former Dipset Member Camron is known for his loud personality and louder antics. In his prime he was one of the only males to wear fur, and pink fur at that. This iconic shot of Camron is still talked about till this day. Wearing an all pink fur coat, paired with an all pink hat and phone to match, this ensemble will definitely be a hard one to ever forget.

NAACP Leads Full Court Press Against Donald Trump's Attorney General Pick

Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The NAACP called a full court press opposing Senator Jeff Sessions' nomination to replace Loretta Lynch as the next Attorney General of the United States.

"Senator Sessions stands against everything that you and I fight for: He's spoken out against the Voting Rights Act, and has described the work that the NAACP and ACLU do to protect civil rights as 'un-American,' a December 30 fundraising email read.

The email continued: "We must do all we can to prevent him from rolling back the rights and protections our parents and grandparents worked so hard to gain."

Additionally, the Alabama chapter of the NAACP is planning a series of press conferences at Sessions' Senate offices around Alabama in the cities of Huntsville, Birmingham, Dothan and Montgomery. Earlier this week, the Senate Judiciary Committee held confirmation hearings for Sessions on Capitol Hill in Washington.

On December 29, national NAACP President Cornell Brooks called for Sessions' nomination to be blocked. The opposition against Sessions led by the oldest civil rights organization in the U.S. will be test of the strength of Black advocacy as President Trump arrives in the White House on January 20, as America's first Black President departs at noon the same day.

"As a matter of conscience and conviction, we can neither be mute nor mumble our opposition



Several civil rights groups, including the NAACP, oppose U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions' Attorney General nomination. This photo was taken during an immigration policy speech hosted by Donald Trump at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz. (Gage Skidmore/Wikimedia Commons)

to Senator Jefferson Beauregard Sessions becoming Attorney General of the United States. Senator Sessions has callously ignored the reality of voter suppression but zealously prosecuted innocent civil rights leaders on trumped-up charges of voter fraud. As an opponent of the vote, he can't be trusted to be the chief law enforcement officer for voting rights," said NAACP President and CEO Cornell William Brooks.

Brooks will join with local Alabama chapters of the NAACP for a statewide protest against Sessions becoming Attorney General.

"Despite 30 years of our nation moving forward on inclusion and against hate, Jeff Sessions has failed to change his ways," said NAACP Alabama State Conference President Benard Simelton

in a statement. "He's been a threat to desegregation and the Voting Rights Act and remains a threat to all of our civil rights, including the right to live without the fear of police brutality."

In addition to the NAACP, three groups have demanded the Sessions' confirmation hearing be delayed. They are: the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, People For the American Way and Alliance for Justice.

The groups are asserting that Senator Sessions hasn't made available the text to his speeches, media interviews and other papers as Alabama Attorney General and as a member of the Senate from 1997 through 2002.

But much of Sessions' views are well-known and have been for years.

"Some of us in Alabama recall, Senator Sessions saying he liked the Klan," said Mobile, Ala., NAACP Branch President Lizetta McConnell. "He said it was a joke, but saying something like that while discussing a case where the Klan murdered a young, black man says a lot about a person."

McConnell continued: "We need someone who realizes that attorney general has got to actually care about the people's rights he's protecting and not just doing it, because it's his job."

Lauren Victoria Burke is a political analyst who speaks on politics and African American leadership. Lauren is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

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Jersey (2) and Maryland (3) ranked the highest for the most progress made in racial integration. Maine (51), South Dakota (50) and Vermont (49) were among the states with the worse progress made in racial integration.

Analyzing the 2016 Stats, Louisiana ranks No. 37 in overall racial integration. Hawaii, Idaho and Kentucky were among the states with the highest integration. Washington D.C., Wisconsin and Minnesota were among the lowest.

While racial progress has improved, Jasmine L. Harris, PhD, ex-

plains why racial integration is at its current state.

"Most Black people (as slaves) were legally prevented from owning property or earning income for the first 250 years of this country's existence, the likelihood of general death accumulation necessary for one's own upward mobility.... was simply not available to any Blacks in the U.S until the early 1900s," Harris told WalletHub.

"In 2016, Black people only earn 65 percent of what White income earners make, thus limiting their ability to translate income into wealth (via the purchase of property, stocks, real estate etc.).

MCDONOGH 35

The National McDonogh 35 High School Alumni Association is reaching out to all graduates as it begins the celebration of the school's Centennial Celebration (1917 to 2017).

If you are a graduate or if you know of someone who graduated from the school, contact the alumni association at mcdonogh35alumni-association@yahoo.com, mcdonogh35alumniassociation.org, or write to McDonogh 35 Alumni Association, P.O. Box 50306, New Orleans, LA 70122, ATT: Alumni Association.

Submit New Orleans school items to Orleans@nola.com. Include contact information.

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