

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

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News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Entertainment
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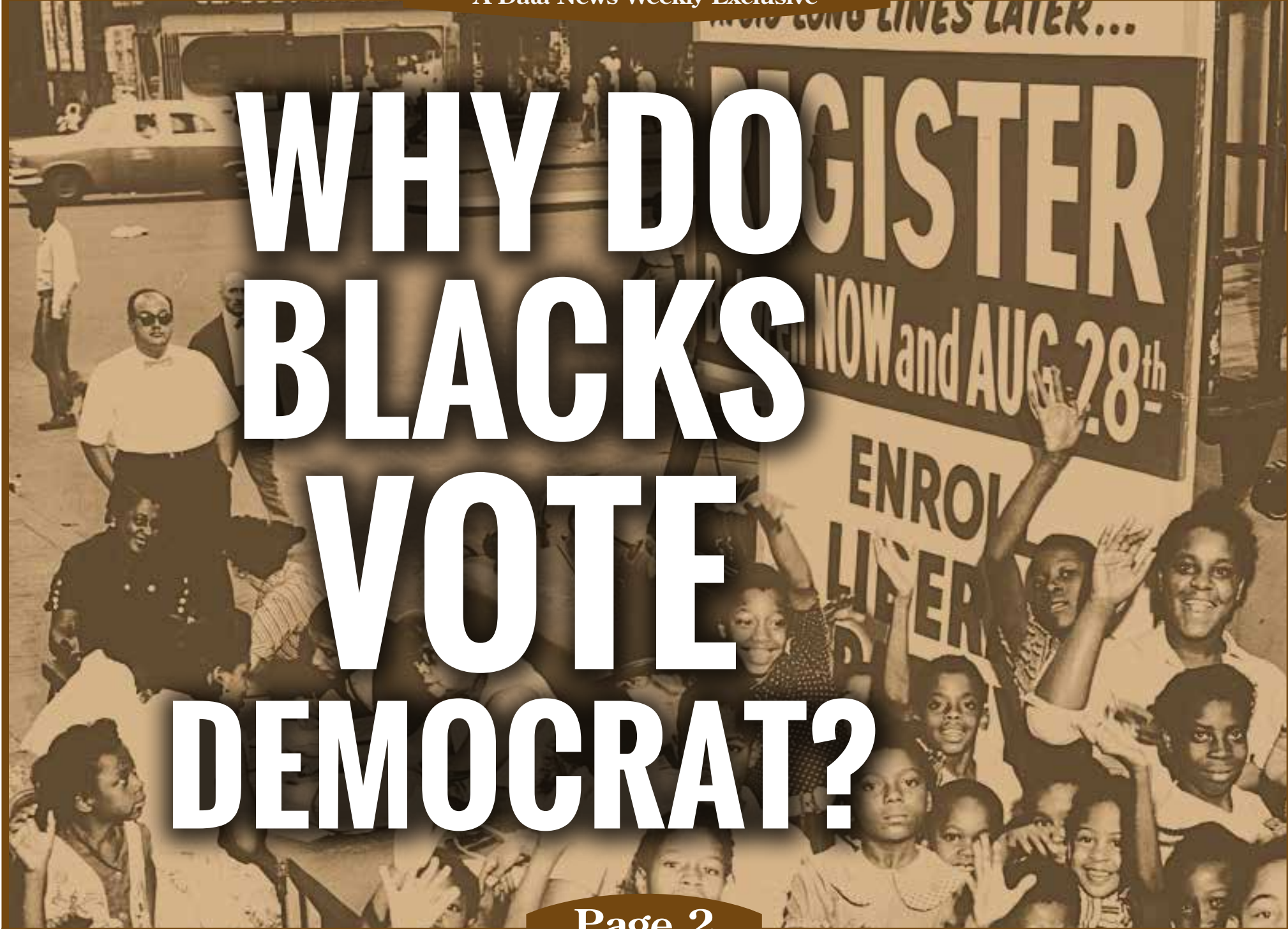
Exclusive interview
with 106.7's Papa Smurf

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

WHY DO BLACKS VOTE DEMOCRAT?



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Their Fashion



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Why Do Black People Vote Democrat?



Blacks have fought for the right to vote for years in the United State. It has recently been secured after the Civil Rights Act of 1964, passed under a Democratic President. Photo by Marion S. Trikosko.

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

Odds are if you're Black you vote Democrat. In the 2016 Presidential Election, roughly 88 percent of Black

voters voted Democrat. In the 2008 Presidential Election, 93 percent of Black voters voted Democrat. But have Black people always voted Democrat?

Well, no. Not necessarily, and especially not in the south.

The History

In 1863, roughly 154 years ago, African-Americans people were freed from slavery via the Emancipation Proclamation. Two years later, the 13th

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

On the Cover: Photo by Kheel Center, Cornell University, via Wikimedia Commons

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WE POWER LIFESM

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

Amendment, which essentially freed Black slaves, and solidified the end of slavery in the United States. In 1868, after the ratification of the 14th Amendment, all people born in the United States

voting patterns - really two big reasons - one, race and, two, economics. And so, for the first time, African-Americans are really included under the header of the New Deal within these policies and programs

economic advantages to even working Blacks. So, the Democratic Party began to look a lot more attractive to many Blacks.

However, much of the voting population of Blacks, according to

entity or place, or any workplace based on race, gender and religion. That policy was pushed by the Democratic Party's leader, then-President Lyndon B. Johnson.

After that legislation, many Black

poll tax was outlawed in 1964 by the nation's 24th Amendment. Literacy test were officially outlawed in 1975 in new revisions of the Voting Rights Act.

In 1896, Louisiana was the first



Lyndon B Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act on July 2, 1964, which served as the turning point for when Blacks began to vote predominantly with the Democratic Party.

were considered citizens, thus had the right to vote.

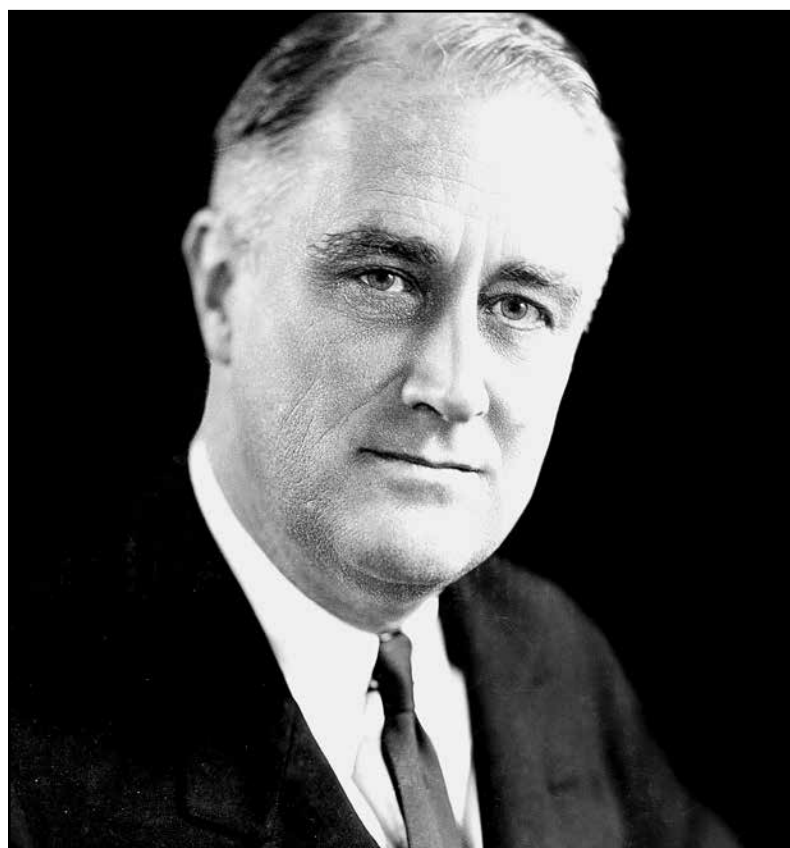
So, in 1868, Black men had the theoretical right to vote. Many who could vote did so along the lines of the Republican Party. This was done, many historians point out, out of the respect of anti-slavery policies supported by the party in the past. Many Blacks steered away from the Democratic Party because it, for the most part, supported pro-segregation policies. And, until the mid-1920s, the Democratic Party did not allow non-Whites to vote in their primaries.

Though, it's worth noting that the Democrats and Republicans are not the same parties of the past. While Democrats tend to be more liberal present day, they were largely conservative until the 1930s, when Franklin D. Roosevelt began to push his New Deal Legislation. Republicans, at least those who were abolitionist, were seen as more liberal. However, over time, both parties realigned their platforms after the nation's priorities changed, and especially after Civil Rights for African-Americans seemed more inevitable.

The Shift

In an NPR Interview, Historian Leah Whit Rigueur, who has studied Black identification with the Republican Party over time, pinpoints the move of Black voters from the Republican Party to the Democrats.

"Right around 1936, African-Americans wildly changed their



President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Policies was the first time the Democratic Party aligned with Black interest, according to Historian Leah Whit Rigueur.

that affect their day to day lives,' Rigueur said in the NPR Interview.

The historian mentioned that despite FDR being a part of a party that supported pro-segregation policies, his wife, Eleanor Roosevelt, spoke publicly about Civil Rights for all of the nation's citizens. Additionally, FDR pushed heavily on New Deal policies that trickled eco-

Rigueur, were located in the North. Many southerners continued to vote Republican, even after the New Deal, because the Democratic Party was not welcoming of Blacks, and, in many case, barred them from voting.

Later, the U.S enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prevented discrimination in any government

people saw more support from the Democratic Party.

The last big push of Blacks out of the Republican Party to the Democrats happened in November of 1964, according to Rigueur. Democratic Incumbent Lyndon B. Johnson was challenged by Republican Nominee Barry Goldwater in the 1964 Presidential Election. Goldwater was a Republican Senator who was openly against the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In 1964, over 88 percent of Black voters identified with the Democratic Party during the presidential election. The number of Black Democrats reached a record high of 93 percent when Barack Obama was elected as the nation's 44th President in 2008.

Quick and Dirty: African-American Voting Rights from 1776 to Present Day

In 1776, the Founding Fathers of the United States signed the Declaration of Independence, that stipulated the right of its citizens, which included the right to vote. However, according to Massvote.org, those privileges were "almost exclusively available to White, property-owning Protestant Men." It would be over 140 years before women received the right to vote, and over 180 years before voting rights of Black people were protected by the government.

In the 1890s, the government created poll taxes and literacy test geared to prevent African-Americans in the South from voting. The

state to implement the grandfather clause, which states that in order to vote, the voters grandfather had to have been able to vote. However, the U.S. Supreme Court found that election clause unconstitutional in 1915.

The Civil Rights Act of 1957 authorized the U.S. Attorney General to file lawsuits on behalf of African-Americans who were denied the right to vote. The Civil Rights Act of 1960 was passed to allow the Justice Department to investigate voter data and history to uphold the right to vote. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandated that discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, gender, or religion in voting, public areas, the workplace, and school illegal.

The Voting Rights Act was signed into law in 1965, which prevents election practices that does not allow a person to vote based on race. Additionally, states with a background of voter discrimination were required to send any changes to its election laws to the Federal Government to be approved.

Provisions of the Voting Rights Act have been renewed throughout history. First in 1970, again in 1975, then in 1982, then again in 1992, and for another 25 years in 2006.

In 2012, over 131 million people voted in the Presidential Election in the United States, according to Pew Research. Roughly 12 percent of those votes were casted by African-Americans.

National Civil Rights Activists to Give Public Lectures at Xavier for Black History Month

Kynedi Grier
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Civil Rights Activist Shaun King will speak as part of Xavier University's Black History Month Speaker Series on Feb. 16, 2017. This event will be held in the University Center's Ballroom at 6 p.m. and is available to the public.

King first became involved with the Black Lives Matter movement following the shootings of Michael Brown and Tamir Rice. King, who contributes to the New York Daily News, The Young Turks, and the Tom Joyner Morning Show uses his social media presence to bring awareness to racial injustices across the country, particularly police brutality in



Miss Xavier Jasmine Merlette marches in the 2015 Million Man March in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of Jasmine Merlette.

the African-American community. This modern Civil Rights Leader had his own experience with racial violence. He was assaulted in 1995 by White classmates that left him with serious injuries.

"I wanted to bring someone to Xavier that students would like, one that was engaging and one that could connect history to what's happening now in a realistic way," said Amber Davis-Prince, the Director of Campus Activities, on how she chose the speakers for the month-long event.

Along with King, the university will bring Marc Lamont Hill, an Activist and Television Host on February 2nd, and Stevona Elm Rogers, an Author and a Visionary on February 22nd. "With all that's going on nationally in politics and the Black Lives Mat-

ter Movement, Xavier students deserve this type of conversation and dialogue," Davis-Prince said.

Social media is a big part of King's activism and a main source on how he gets his messages out. "In many ways, social media is the great equalizer. Social media allows everyone to have a seat at the table," said Sheryl Kennedy Haydel, an Assistant Professor of Mass Communication at Xavier who teaches on social media. King is well-known for his successful use of social media. He has a large presence on today's social media platforms, with over 500,000 followers on Twitter and thousands of other followers on other social media accounts. King constantly tweets or posts updates that go viral, bringing attention to various protests and racially violent acts across the country.

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BECOME SILENT

about things that matter.

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

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Dillard and Xavier Take a Win Each in Tense but Friendly Crosstown Classic

Jeffery Ugwuanyi
Data News Weekly
Contributor

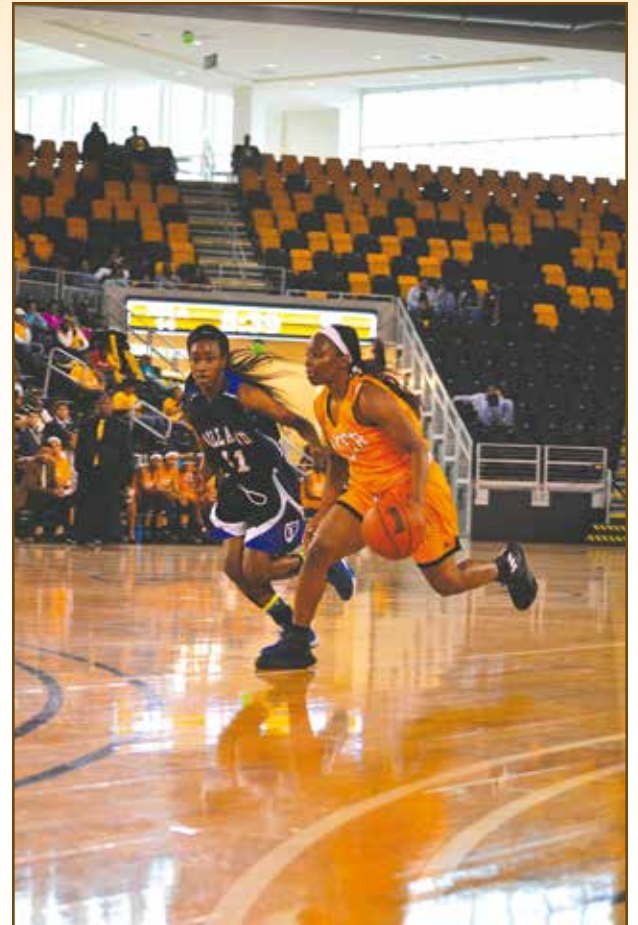
It was cold on Saturday. The temperature was in the mid 50's, but that did not stop the Convocation Center at Xavier University of Louisiana's campus from heating up for the Annual Crosstown Classic held on Saturday Jan. 28, 2017.

A sea of gold and black, mixed with some hints of blue, filled the arena. Fans participated in signature university crowd chants punched the air with excitement and anticipation. The time had come for the Classic Rivalry between Xavier and Dillard University, where the Xavier's Women's Basketball Team came out as victors, and Dillard's Men's Team also took a win back to the Gentilly campus.

For Xavier to lose it all on home turf, Senior, New Orleans native, Kelsee Singleton's nail biting finish was a highlight of the night for the home crowd.

"I was happy to see Kelsee knock down that shot," said Bo Browder, the Head Coach for Xavier's Women's Basketball Team. However, the same cannot be said for the Xavier Men's Basketball Team, who suffered a devastating loss to the Dillard Bleu Devils for a home game.

"Unfortunately, we didn't pay attention to details and we got beat up tonight," said Alfred Williams, Xavier's Men's Team Head Coach. Williams said the men's team missed a lot of opportunities but he commended Freshman Donovan Armstrong of Round Rock, Texas, for fighting throughout the game despite being ejected.



King Cake Festival Raises Funds while Celebrating Mardi Gras Pastime.



Dimond Hall Data News Weekly Contributor

Foodies near and far traveled to New Orleans' Champions Square for a sweet tooth start to the Mardi Gras season. It was the Fourth Annual King Cake Festival put on by Ochsner Hospital for Children on

Sunday, Jan. 29th downtown on La-Salle Street. And king cake lovers throughout the country traveled to dig their teeth into the sweet and popular tradition. A group of Ochsner interns wanted to raise funds for the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Program and launched the festival.

"And so, there was a natural fit

for the babies and Ochsner Hospital for Children," said Kathleen McCulla, the Director of Special Events at Ochsner Hospital for Children. "Very quickly we reached out to some bakery partners of ours who had been very generous at Ochsner Hospital for Children...and they all kind of circled the troops," she said.

Some 26 bakeries have since par-

ticipated to help raise funds for the NICU Program, up from 17 and McCulla said crowds have grown each year for the event.

"It's been quite large from the inception," McCulla said. "We have gone from 12,000 people to, it looks like today we broke some records so that would be well over 15,000 people for sure," McCulla said.

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

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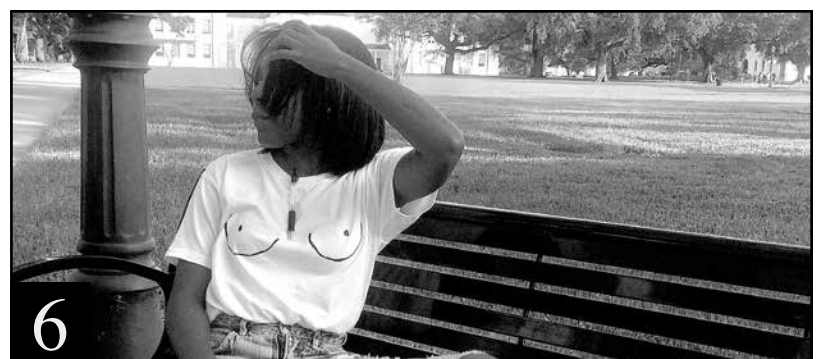
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Fashion Through Feeling



1. Local Rapper VSGualti shows his sense of contrast wearing a lime yellow winter coat paired with white shades & a red cap. 2. Dillard University student and Black Ivy Vice-President wears her controversial "boob shirt" on campus with her winter weather ensemble. 3. Local Stylist JuWan Torregano, shows her sense of rebellion through fashion wearing a risky all-white ensemble paired with a multi-colored fur coat. 4. Local Rapper VSGualti, rocks his controversial "F off" vest paired with all black articles to send off his message to society. 5. JuWan Torregano, Local Stylist, wears a sheer top paired with a school girl skirt and keen high boots, and varsity jacket to give off her preppy school girl vibes. 6. Ivy Couture Vice-President Janae Hurst, strikes again with her eye-catching boob shirt, turning the heads of all who view it.



Delaney George
Columnist

When you go to your closet in the morning to find the outfit of the day, what do you base that decision off? Weather? Occasion? Contrast of what you wore the day before? Believe it or not, some individuals dress themselves based on how

they would portray their own feelings and emotions.

Recently, I had the pleasure of speaking to several millennials who say they dress "how they feel", or by their mood or vibe. These individuals do not conform themselves to the standards society sets on things like what is considered business casual or after-five attire for example: they feel, visualize, and execute. No matter the style, if you see it, you're viewing their take on emotions through fashion.

Janae Hurst, Blogger, Visual Artist, and Vice President of Ivy Couture, a Dillard University Fashion Council, dresses according to not only the mood of the day, but

also when she feels the need to express a concern on something.

"I always dress how I feel, which is why I could never put an outfit together ahead of time. Society plants so many rules in our heads causing many people to conform, but breaking those rules through clothing is my favorite part" said Hurst.

Hurst recalled a time when she wore an all-white tee shirt, knee high boots, and high waist shorts paired with a cardigan. "Typical college student outfit" one would say, but, the tee shirt contained a realistic drawing of female breast on the front, which then stirred lots of conversation on Dillard's campus.

"It was super controversial! While the women and feminist who saw loved it, the men were just distracted. Regardless, it catches the eye of all, showing the power that clothing holds" said Hurst.

Tyrian Reed, a Creative Director and Marketer for several local collectives carries out many projects to express how she feels through fashion.

"I love to pull the beauty out of every concept I do because there is always more than one perspective" said Reed.

Reed's approach on fashion and emotion involves combining couture and high fashion with the urban culture of today. After examin-

ing others feelings and emotions, Reed directs each of her shoots and projects as a portrait of human expression.

"Whatever emotion our environment brings, that is how I dress my clients or myself, my emotions guide my wardrobe. You can always tell what vibe I'm trying to communicate based on my clothing alone" said Reed.

Fashion has the power to tell a story or communicate a statement if worn correctly. A mere tee shirt can hold the power to evoke emotion on anyone who views it. So, the next time you visit your closet, feel, visualize, and execute, to tell your story to the world through fashion.

The Year of the Afro

The Natural Hair Movement of the 1970s



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

Following the riotous 1960s where lasting political and cultural changes defined the decade, Black Americans, formerly known as “Negroes”, were redefining their identity. This sudden surge of pride for being a Black American was especially visible in the new natural styles such as Afros and cornrows. Prior to natural hairstyles spilling into the new Black American aesthetic, Black men and women went to great lengths to straighten and style their hair to assimilate into the Eurocentric beauty standard. Using perms and heat straightening techniques, their natural tight curls and kinks were temporarily hidden to make way for longer, straighter, manageable hair.

Following the Civil Rights Legislation of the 1960s, Black people began to take more pride in both their communities and appearance. Praising the natural texture of African-American hair was more socially acceptable. Men and women wore “Afros” or “Naturals” to visually represent their connection to their ancestral roots in West Africa.

Natural hair was now a political statement by revealing your allegiance to Black culture and people. Natural hair was also an act of rebellion against Western beauty standards that required women to have long, straight hair. Men and women who wore their hair natural were now more concerned with having healthy, voluminous tight curls that characterized African-American hair. In addition to Afros, braids, puffs and other styles that avoided heat and chemicals were also trendy.

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Find out about it all in Clairol's new booklet *Many Moods of the Afro-American Woman*. (It's free—with 25¢ for handling and mailing.) Example: the freed-up 'fro. With a Kindness Instant Hairsetter and Kindness Heat-Activated Conditioner, you can do in 15 minutes what used to take an hour. Without burning yourself. Without damaging your hair. Without spending a fortune. And without sleeping in rollers. It's the faster, easier, nicer new way to go natural. The first 'fro that's fully flattering. Because your hair is completely manageable.

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In the 1970s, Black was definitely beautiful and the Black community's acceptance of natural hair became one of the most defining moments of the decade.

Many Black leaders, politicians and celebrities at the time wore their hair natural as well. The famous Jackson 5, a legendary boy-band, sported thick Afros that helped to define their look during the early part of their career. The Black Panthers and even politicians such as Jesse Jackson, wore Afros to further reveal their alignment with Black Civil Rights and culture.

In the 1970s, Black was definitely beautiful and the Black community's acceptance of natural hair became one of the most defining moments of the decade. Although the larger American society did not yet acknowledge Afrocentric beauty as the standard, Black men and women were now more confident than ever in their appearance.

For the first time in centuries, natural African hair was not considered ugly, dirty or unkempt. African hair was appealing all by itself without manipulation.

The natural hair movement of the late 2000s and 2010s was also a response to the return of Eurocentric beauty ideals seeping into the Black Beauty Standard. Black women were once again tired of manipulating their hair, often with damaging results, to emulate a hair type that they did not naturally have. The natural hair movement of today is certainly more inclusive, since now women with curly or wavy hair also want to wear their hair how it grows naturally without



Bill Preston wore an iconic afro that solidified his love for Black culture and hair.

heat straightening or the use of chemicals.

The natural hair movement of the 1970s set the tone for decades to come. Black beauty is now more diverse than it had ever been. Having natural hair is now essential to highlighting your pride in your West African roots. In accordance, natural hair may have begun as a trend almost 45 years ago, but now it is a lifestyle meant to revitalize the love Black people must have for our hair, our communities and ourselves.

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It's Time for the Democratic Party to Wake Up

Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Everyone appears to have figured out that a dangerous, stupid fascist with no knowledge of how the federal government works is now the President of the United States. Everyone, that is, accept members of the Democratic Party, now serving in the 115th Congress.

You have to wonder how many dangerously incompetent, racist and blindly ideological decisions the executive branch has to make before Democratic in the United States Congress, who are supposedly in the opposition party, wake up. What is the strategy? What is the plan? Trump's careless staff couldn't even spell the name of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom correctly on a press release.



Senator Chuck Schumer

What makes anyone think they'll be more detailed on other initiatives they plan such as an "investigation of voting fraud" and selected members of the U.S. Supreme Court?

Be certain to take note of the Democrats who vote in favor of Trump's cabinet nominees for Treasury, Education, Labor and Health and Human Services. If Democrats support Steve Mnuchin, Betsy DeVos, Andrew Puzder and Rep. Tom Price, there is no resistance movement in the Democratic Party in Congress.

Senate Democrats have unified against exactly zero of Trump's cabinet nominees. Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) who is allegedly a progressive leader, voted in favor of Dr. Ben Carson to lead a department he has no qualifications to run. Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.), who has great Instagram posts of food, voted with Republicans to raise prescription drug prices.

Senators who have no re-election fears whatsoever in 2018 are lying down and showing no signs of resisting Trump when the easiest show of resistance is a simple "thumbs down" on the Senate floor.

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), who took over as Democratic Leader from retired Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), so far has decided to vote in favor of almost all of Trump's nominees. What makes this even more confusing is that the messaging of Democratic leaders is the opposite of the action. The Democratic Party is at its lowest point in four decades in terms of seats held in the U.S. House of Representatives, governors' houses and seats in state legislatures. With Trump's arrival and no strategy to be seen, there has never been a better argument for younger and newer leadership. The decision between Rep. Keith Ellison (D-Minn.) and former Labor Secretary Tom Perez for Democratic National Committee Chair will be a crucial benchmark for the party.

Over a million people took to the streets to participate in marches around the world, the day after Trump's Inauguration, which drew far lower numbers than President Obama's historic inauguration in 2009, with the Trump that needed to see resistance. There were protests in the streets of Washington on inauguration day. Thousands figured out there needed to be resistance to Trump before he took

office, but Democrats standing on the floor of the U.S. Senate and House remain asleep.

Last weekend, Trump signed an executive order that blocked entry of all refugees to the U.S. for 120 days and barred Syrian refugees for the foreseeable future. The order also blocked entry to anyone from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen — all Muslim majority countries. After confusion and protest at several major airports across the U.S., federal Judge Ann Donnelly granted a temporary stay so those in transit taken into custody could continue their travels.

On the evening on January 28, after a day of learning how airheaded and careless the Trump administration conducts itself, it was learned that Trump had installed his racist, anti-Semitic political advisor Steve Bannon as a member of the National Security Council. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, four-star Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford was removed from the NSC.

This happened a day after the Trump White House released a Holocaust Remembrance Day statement that omitted the words "Jewish" or "Jews" from it and avoided mention of one of the worst mass murders in history because of their faith. They then doubled down on January 28 saying that not mentioning Jewish people was intentional because "others were killed too."

On the day of Barack Obama's first inauguration on January 20, 2009, top Republicans met for dinner to discuss strategy against his agenda. That strategy was eight years of obstruction against Obama's agenda and it worked. Whether Democrats in the Senate and House like it or not, they are the first line of defense against the Trump Administration.

The careless refugee executive order was issued on Holocaust Remembrance Day. Trump will select a Supreme Court nominee this week. He will go after voting rights. Have Democrats seen enough yet? If so, need to stop crying over their election loss and start playing better defense.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a political analyst who speaks on politics and African American leadership. She is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Connect with Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at [@LVBurke](https://twitter.com/LVBurke).

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Love Is the Answer... Who Cares What the Question Is

Data News Weekly Exclusive Interview with Gregory Vigne, A-K-A Papa Smurf



Gregory Vigne has been a Radio DJ/Personality for four decades.

Edwin Buggage
Editor

The Origins of the Man and His Love of Music

His velvety voice is recognized all over New Orleans, accompanying the sounds of smooth soul. Born Gregory Vigne, but known to his dedicated listeners as "Papa Smurf," Vigne has been a radio DJ/Personality for four decades. For many, he has curated the soundtrack of many special moments. His signature sign off, "Love is the answer, who cares what the question is," has become a phrase generations of people have come to call their own.

So, the question is, who is the man behind this smooth voice?

"I was a courier for a local bank and I would hear all these local DJ's doing their thing on the radio and I said you know what that is something I'd like to do. I started out at WYLD Radio doing gospel music then moved to the FM side and the rest is history," Vigne said.

Vigne, is a Crescent City Native, and his voice evokes the unmistakable New Orleans accent.

When asked how did he transform from being called Greg Vigne to Papa Smurf, he recalled the moment with a smile.

"I didn't come up with the name, it was given to me by a friend of

mine who would always come by the house and my sons were both very young and he would call them the 'Little Smurfs' and he would call me "Papa Smurf." And, one day I'd gotten to the radio station and I had gone from Greg Vigne to Papa Smurf and it's been that way for the last 40 years."

"I doubt if anyone knows my real name unless they went to school with me," he added.

Reflections of a Career in Radio and a Changing Music Industry

As a Radio Industry Veteran, Vigne takes a walk down memory lane, reminiscing his career and thinking how the medium has changed over the past 40 years.

"Music has really changed since the 70's. When I started, we were using wax, then there were carts, to CD's and now it's the computer. But I have found a way to stay relevant and adjust to the changes in technology and how people are getting music."

While music and trends change, somethings stay the same.

"It's just being out there with folks in the community. DJ Captain Charles and I have been doing this over the past seven years at Caesar's and it's just getting familiar with the new music. Artist's like Tucka, Nelly Travis

and new to the music, the key is to have an open mind to what people are listening to."

He is not just a DJ/Radio Personality, but a lover of music.

"I am told that I am responsible for half of the population of New Orleans," Vigne said jokingly, talking about music he enjoys off air.

"The stuff I like is Smooth Jazz: Spryo Gyra, Jeff Lorber, Phyllis Hyman and the list goes on and on. I also like R&B with Luther Vandross, Jeffrey Osborne, LTD, the Bar-Kays, I am into old school, that's what I love," Vigne said.

On a Serious Note: Papa Smurf on Stopping Crime and Violence in New Orleans, KMEZ-FM 106.7 and its Connection to Improving the Community

Vigne has been at KMEZ-FM 106.7 Old School, a Cumulus owned radio station, for eight years. Overall, Vigne says he has a great relationship with the company and he loves that it is committed to working on initiatives to improve the community.

"Out in the community we are doing what we can as a radio station to bring the community back together as much as we can and right now it is such a troubling time with all the crime. Sometimes I get on the air and I just rant about the

killings and its everyday someone is being killed in the Crescent City," Vigne said.

His tone became more serious and somber as he recounted the death of his late son, Ron Anthony Vigne, in 2002.

"It is so much killing that some become immune and it really doesn't affect you until it hits your home, I lost a kid at 22. My youngest son was killed on the streets of New Orleans and it's been a hard thing to deal with ever since."

Continuing, he has made a plea to the community.

"Put the guns down and start being part of the solutions to crime and violence in our City."

Inside the Life of a Man behind who coined the phrase "Love is the Answer, who Cares what the Question is"

Everybody knows Papa Smurf as the radio guy, but what does he do on his spare time when he's off air?

"Watching TV, listening to music and chilling with family and friends," he said.

When asked how those who know and love him would describe him, his face lit up as he said,

"They would say nice, kind, and generous always looking out for someone else."

"My wife Elaine calls me Jesus sometimes, because if I have something extra I am always trying to find someone to share it with," Vigne joked.

He said his life's meaning is purpose it's ensuring people are happy, and that everybody is getting along.

In closing, I asked him where the phrase 'Love is the answer, who cares what the question is,' developed.

"It was something I came up with one day because everyone had a signature they signed off with and as I was riding around one day and I came up with this and it's been with me the last 40 something years," Vigne said.

Greg "Papa Smurf" Vigne has continued to be a leading voice in a community with many problems and questions about its future. And he, as a pied piper armed with the universal language of music, is bringing people together, spreading the gift of love as the answer. His life is an example of the best of who we are as a people and template for a life well-lived.

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