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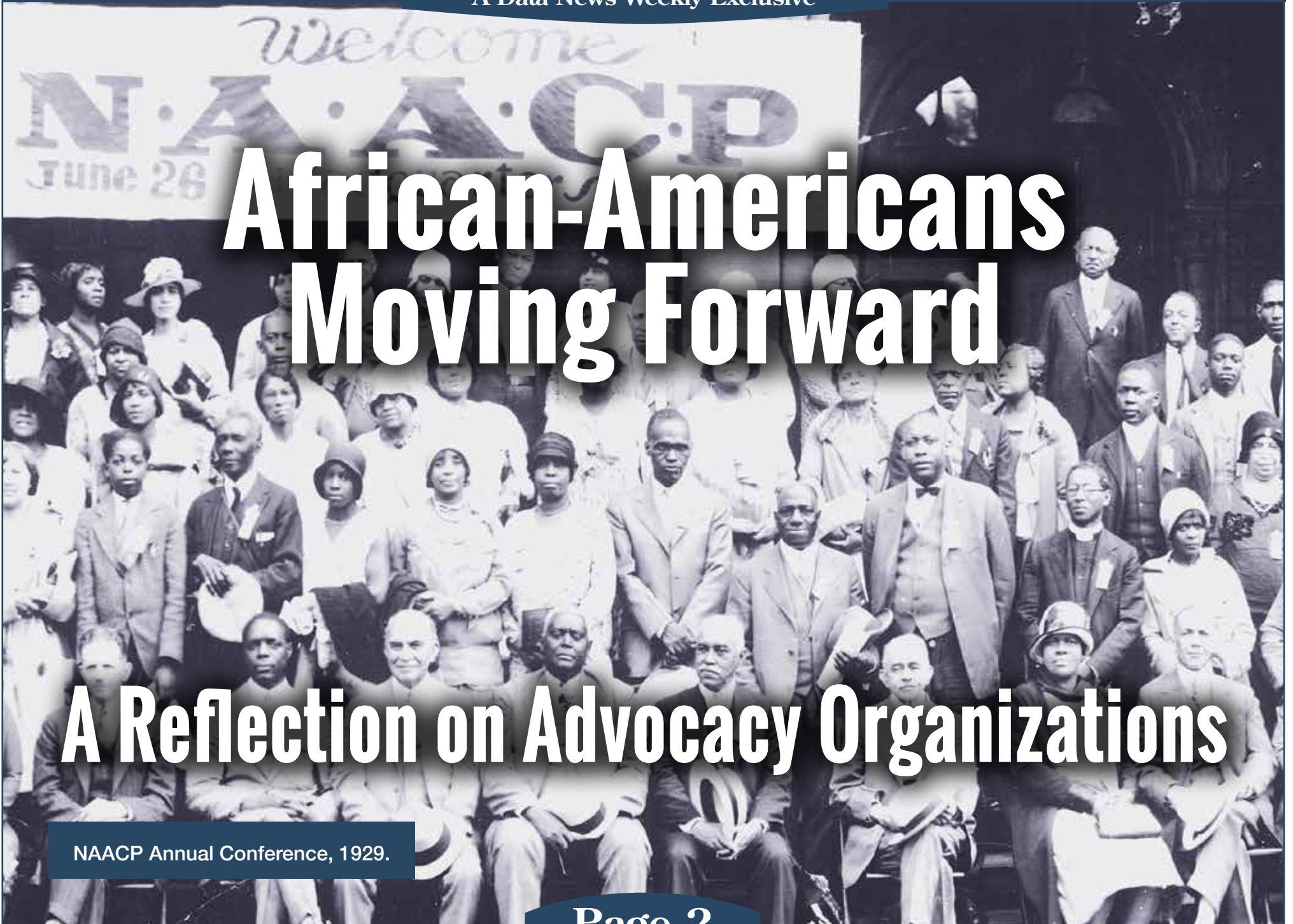
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Girl Trek
Walking for Health

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



African-Americans Moving Forward

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Moving Forward

A Reflection on the African American Support System



NAACP New Orleans' Branch President Gloria Johnson, Center, with (L-R) New Orleans NAACP Executive Board Members Ronald Coleman, 1st Vice-President; Katrena Ndong, Treasurer; Mary Lodge Evans, 2nd Vice-President; Elder Ernest Marcell, Chaplin; and (standing) Larene McMillian, Secretary.

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

This year, the month of February is the celebration of Mardi Gras parades and, the Annual Celebration of Black History Month. While krewes fill the streets of

New Orleans, the time can also be used to commemorate the achievements and strides Black people have made in the United States.

However, the month can also be used as a month of reflection in African-American history. Throughout American history, there have been many institutions

that prohibited the progress and advancement of African-Americans. However, there have been several organizations designed to aid the progress of African-Americans.

Two examples of these supportive organizations are the NAACP and the National Urban League.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

The National Urban League

One of the nation's oldest Civil Rights Organizations is the National Urban League.

The National Urban League was originally founded as the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes which was a Civil Rights Organization based in New York to support the opposition of racial discrimination in the United States.

The League was initially founded in 1905, and was officially recognized as the National Urban League in 1920.

Currently the National Urban League has over 93 affiliates in over 300 communities, supporting the advancement of minorities across the United States. The National Urban League serves over 2 million people throughout the nation.

The National Urban League has partnered with several coalitions, such as the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, which is an advocate of Gun Violence.

The current president is former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial. Morial has served as the President of the National Urban

League since 2003.

In evaluating the current state of African-Americans and minorities in the country, Former New Orleans Mayor told Data News Weekly that the organization is continuing to fight for racial equality.

"With a new administration in the White House, Black Americans are concerned about protecting the progress that has been made over the last decade with regard to job growth, reductions in the African-American poverty rate, protections of civil rights and fighting back attempts to suppress the vote," Morial said.

"We have been keeping a close watch on the new Cabinet appointments and we have grave concerns about whether protecting our progress is a top priority," he added.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded in 1909 as an organization to preserve and advocate the political, educational, social and



Marc Morial, former Mayor of New Orleans and President and CEO of The National Urban League.

economic rights of all people. The organization has also taken a stance against racial hatred and discrimination.

Throughout its existence, the NAACP has been known for lobbying, and challenging racially charged actions and law through litigation.

Throughout the 1950's and 60s, the NAACP established its role in society as a defender of desegregation and applicable voting rights out.

The NAACP is currently operating from Baltimore, Maryland, led by President Cornell William Brooks. The local New Orleans Chapter was founded in New Orleans in 1915.

Recently, in New Orleans, the NAACP New Orleans Branch elected a new president of

Cover Story, Continued on page 10.

Cricket is proud to support Black History Month

From our leadership to our employees, we're proud to champion diversity. We're committed to supporting people, programs and organizations that contribute to the growth of African American entrepreneurship and develop future tech leaders in our Atlanta community and beyond.

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City of New Orleans to Receive FEMA Assistance

Data News Staff Edited Report

On Saturday, February 11th, in response to Tuesday's tornadoes, President Trump declared a major disaster declaration for the State of Louisiana. This means, impacted individuals in Orleans Parish are now eligible for assistance from the Federal Government and allows for the release of federal funds to help recover from the severe storms and EF-3 tornado in New Orleans East.

The City has set a 30-day timeline to clear all debris from the impacted area. This will be completed in three passes at the curbside by City contractors and local, national, non-profit and faith-based organization volunteers.

In addition to clean up efforts, the City, in conjunction with the City Council, has introduced a Building Permit Fee Waiver Ordinance to ease the burden on impacted in-



The tornado that hit New Orleans East severely damaged over 300 properties, and over 10,00 people were without power.

dividuals as they begin to rebuild their homes and businesses.

Below is a list of efforts the City and its partners have undertaken

since the tornado touchdown. Residents are urged to monitor www.ready.nola.gov for up-to-date information.

Applying for Federal Assistance

Today, FEMA is on the ground and going door-to-door in the impacted area registering individuals for federal assistance.

You may be eligible to receive direct federal assistance for temporary housing, home repairs, and for other serious disaster-related needs, such as medical and dental expenses.

In order to receive federal aid, you must first register with FEMA, even if you have registered with another disaster-relief organization. You must use the name that appears on your Social Security card on your registration. You can register whether you have insurance or not. While FEMA won't duplicate insurance benefits, it may provide assistance if you were underinsured.

When completing your registration, you will

be asked to provide the following:

- Social Security number
- Address of the damaged home or apartment
- Description of the damage
- Insurance coverage information
- A current contact telephone number
- An address where you can get mail

Bank account and routing numbers if you prefer direct deposit of any financial assistance

When registering, individuals will be receiving a FEMA registration number. Make sure to save this number as it will be needed when contacting FEMA.

Impacted Individuals can register with FEMA the following ways:

Apply online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

Call the registration phone number at 1-800-621-33

Zulu Contributes to Crime Stoppers Efforts During Mardi Gras

Kevin Foster Data News Weekly Contributor

Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club announced it will donate funds to support efforts by Crime Stoppers and the New Orleans Police Department to enhance public safety, particularly with the start of the Mardi Gras season and other festivals across the year. Officials with Zulu said at a press conference on Feb. 8th at their Broad Street Headquarters, that portions of the proceeds from poster sales will support this effort.

"We are always looking for wonderful partners like Zulu," said Darlene Cusanza, the Executive Director of Crime Stoppers Greater New Orleans. She added the partnership would extend beyond Mardi Gras with Zulu becoming a part of Crime Stoppers' upcoming outreach initiatives.

This year Zulu's 2017 theme is

'Stop the Violence,' and is reflected in the throws available during the parade as well as the year-round community outreach programs sponsored by the club. Some of Zulu's Mardi Gras poster sales this year will aid Crime Stoppers with advertising costs and informational outreach for tourists who may be unfamiliar or discouraged from visiting New Orleans for parades due to safety concerns.

Naaman Craig Stewart, Zulu's President, echoed Cusanza's sentiments, saying that Zulu reached out to the organization as part of a goal to serve and improve safety in the community. The funds would expand the reach of Crime Stoppers during Mardi Gras, dramatically reducing the potential of violent crimes going unnoticed during parades. For Zulu officials, the need for stronger public safety hit close to home.

"There were several members



Zulu President Naaman Craig Stewart discusses Zulu's partnership with Crime Stoppers Greater New Orleans, alongside Darlene Cusanza the Executive Director for Crime Stoppers GNO and Clarence A. Becknell, the Chairman of the Zulu Historic Committee. Photo by Kevin Foster.

of us that lost our sons to violence over the years," said Clarence A. Becknell, the Chairman of Zulu's Historian Committee who explained the organizations' decision

to get involved in community outreach this year. "We figure that we need to make a statement about it."

Cusanza said Zulu was a natural partner for Crime Stoppers' Peace

Conference in April last year. "The role of the peace conference is to give kids an opportunity to have a voice, to talk to leaders about very important issues we're seeing on the streets," Cusanza said.

Zulu's pledge to support public safety efforts is part of wider community-based outreach by City police to ensure a successful and safe Mardi Gras season.

"We'll still be able to cover Mardi Gras sufficiently," said John Thomas, the Deputy Chief for NOPD's Management Service Bureau. "We have ample officers covering the entire City."

He reminded tourists that most incidents at Mardi Gras occur from excessive alcohol consumption, verbal altercations, and other minor infractions that escalate unless officers intervene. With such community donations, more resources will be available to help maintain vigilance over rowdy parade-goers.

GirlTrek Empowers Black Women One Step at a Time

Deja Dennis
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Walking can save the world. This statement is how T. Morgan Dixon, the Co-Founder of GirlTrek inspired an audience in a Tulane University Auditorium on Monday, Feb. 6th. She gave a powerful speech on the history and benefits of walking as it informs the mission of GirlTrek, an organization that gets women of color moving.

"When Black women walk, things change," Dixon told the audience.

She highlighted influential women like Fannie

Lou Hamer, Angela Davis, and Harriet Tubman who "walked herself to freedom" as examples of women with great spirit who inspired change with their feet.

"Great spirit matters," she said because walking to put an end to negative health statistics is just like walking to end social injustices. She told the audience that this was the reason why GirlTrek wasn't just a job for her. It was a mission. With this organization, Dixon said she set out to heal bodies and communities.

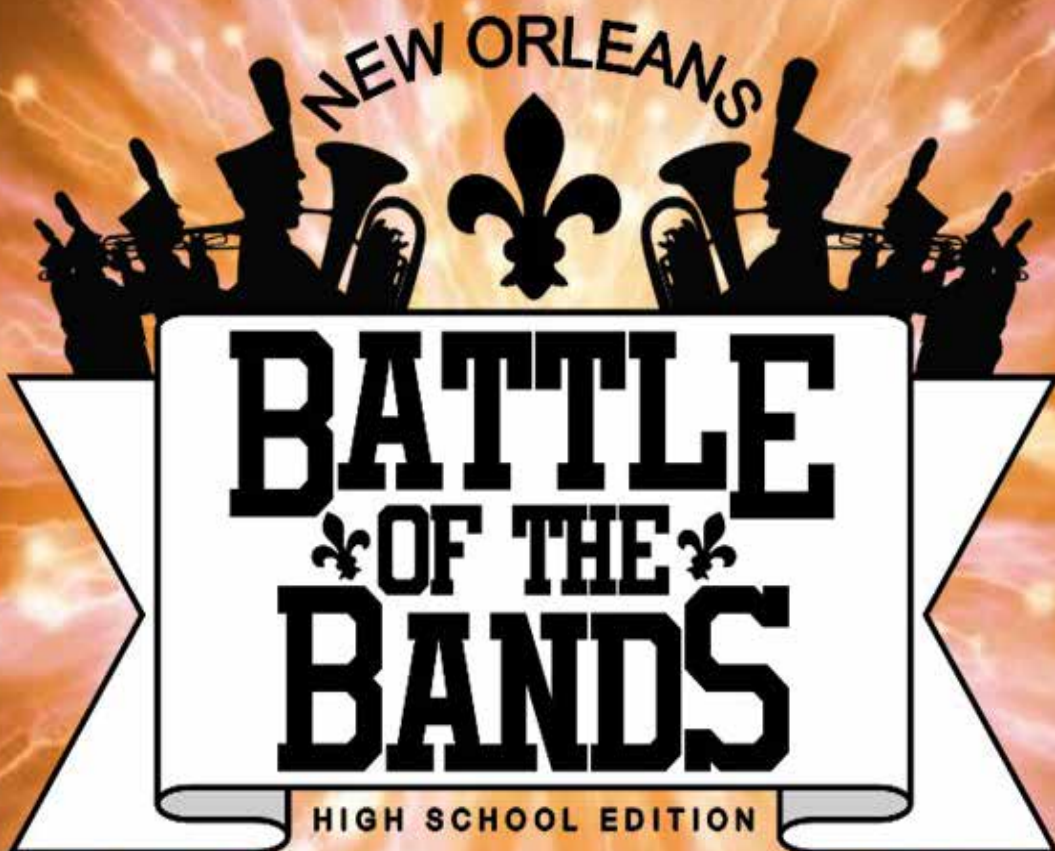
She co-founded GirlTrek with Vanessa Garrison in 2012, in Bridgeport, Conn. At first it was a hiking club

for middle school girls. Now the organization has grown to become a nationwide solution for the health issues that plague African-American women.

"137 Black women die every day of heart disease," Dixon said. Walking just 30 minutes a day can have a significant impact on women's health, reducing risk factors of heart disease, diabetes, and other health problems by 50 percent, she explained. GirlTrek was needed to bring about "Black girl healing."



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Gert Town Residents Archive Community's Past at History Harvest

Langston Bowles-Fulmore
Data News Weekly Contributor

It was a windy Saturday morning on the corner of Short and Edinburgh Streets where Gert Town residents gathered to give back and share the history of their community. Xavier University Community Outreach Center, along with its Art, History and Counseling Departments put on this first History Harvest in Gert Town on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2017 to better connect with the community that surrounds it. The event began the process to document what Gert Town used to be like and what can be done to revive it. Residents of Gert Town brought in pictures and instruments from their homes that they have had to give to the project. The items brought in will be put in an archive and displayed later in an art exhibit at Xavier this year.

Residents brought keepsakes that helped paint a picture of life in Gert Town and how it has changed since Hurricane Katrina. Douglas Holly has been giving back to his community for over 20 years. Holly has been growing a community garden for the last 20 years and became a permanent resident of Gert Town six years ago. Prior to moving to Gert Town from New Orleans East to work on his community garden. Not everyone has recovered from Hurricane Katrina, Holly said.

"We need more to be given to the community for it to get back to where it was," he said.



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

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Local Muslim Students Protest Trump Ban

Eugene Cooper
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Xavier University community walked about two miles around Drexel Drive leading the charge against President Donald Trump's ban on people from 7 majority-Muslim nations being allowed into the United States. On Sunday afternoon on Feb. 12, 2017, Xavier's Muslim Student Association joined with Xavier students and faculty and students from other universities who marched.

They carried signs and chanted slogans like: "Say it loud, say it clear, immigrants are welcome here," and "The walls must go, from Palestine to Mexico!" Some wore patriotic colors alongside their Muslim garb, even as they expressed fears about the ban and speaking up.

"We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health and our commu-



Xavier's Muslim Student Association joined with Xavier students and faculty and students from other universities to demonstrate against President Trump's travel ban. Photos by Eugene Cooper.

nities," said Anne McCall, Xavier's Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. In support of immigrant students, McCall said the university will be offering free legal services to those who need it. It was the university's mission, she said, to

create an open and supportive environment to all students regardless of who was in the Oval Office.

"It's my hope that by showing up people know that they can come to us if they need help on any issues," McCall said at the march.

Prior to the march, students voiced their opinions on the executive order in town hall style speeches. Students expressed disappointment in the president's decision to implement the ban, however most of the remarks remained positive.

Sisters Hana and Farah Alkhafaf grew up in New Orleans but have family of Iraqi origins, one of the 7 banned countries. Hana Alkhafaf, who is currently a Freshman, Biology, Pre-Dental Major at Xavier said she showed up to participate because of her rights to assemble and protest.

"We were given our first amendment right for its very important, and when that right is threatened we all need to come together and stand up for everyone," Hana Alkhafaf said. She said she was pleased to see her fellow Xavier students support Muslim students at the march.

"Both groups have received tremendous amounts of discrimination for a very long time," Hana Alkhafaf said. "If we don't stand in solidarity then we never will."

Her sister Farah, who attends the University of New Orleans agreed.

"Staying quiet makes others think you're accepting what's given to you," Farah Alkhafaf said.

Lake Forest 5th Grade Debut Social Studies Fair Projects



1st Place- Noah DeTiege- "The French and Indian War"



2nd Place- David Washington- "The War of 1812"



3rd Place- Sayiddah Muhammad - "The Navajo"

Lake Forest Charter School

Lake Forest Charter School's Fifth Grade students under the leadership of their Teacher, Ms. Tanya Richard, competed in their First Annual Social Studies Fair. They filled the school's atrium with the past, present and future as they competed in their First Annual Social Studies Fair. Many

of the projects explored various topics, from George Washington to Fredrick Douglass to African-Americans Fight to Freedom. Students learned how the past and the future are relevant to their lives today.

Students spent many hours researching and building their three-dimensional projects and displays.

The following students placed:

1st Place
Noah DeTiege
"The French and Indian War"

2nd Place
David Washington
"The War of 1812"

3rd Place
Sayiddah Muhammad
"The Navajo"

Honorable Mention

Aniya Hayes
"Slavery in the 13 Colonies"

Aminah Rouzan
Abolitionists: African-Americans Fight for

Freedom
Laila Javery
Fredrick Douglass
Micaela Wyche
George Washington
Demi Route
Major Battles of the Revolutionary War

"I Am Not Your Negro" Receives Oscar Nod

Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

On February 1st, the first day of Black History Month, the National Museum of African-American History and Culture premiered the Oscar-nominated documentary "I Am Not Your Negro," which features commentary by James Baldwin. The film is a tribute to the staggering contribution of one of America's greatest men of letters.

Director Raoul Peck spent ten years completing the film. The documentary was inspired by one of Baldwin's unfinished manuscripts regarding his friendships and views on three of his friends: Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. None of the three would live to see their 40th birthday. Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963 in Jackson, Miss.; Malcolm X

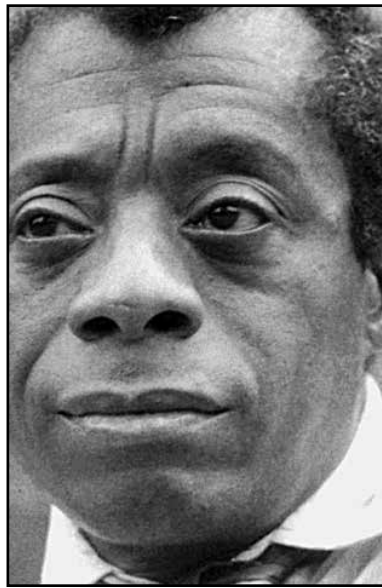
was assassinated in 1965 in New York City; King was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

At the heart of the film, the jarring documentary provides Baldwin's sociopolitical observations and showcases the writer's eloquence and directness as a communicator.

Peck credits Baldwin with changing his life after he read "The Fire Next Time" when he was a teenager.

"The starting point of the movie are the words of a person, a great author, James Baldwin," Peck said at the The Hollywood Reporter's Documentary Oscar Roundtable. "My job was to put myself in the background. I knew those words since I was 15 years old."

"If I can summarize the essential part of Baldwin, it is the ability and obligation to always question what-



At the heart of the "I Am Not Your Negro," the jarring documentary provides Baldwin's sociopolitical observations and showcases the writer's eloquence and directness as a communicator.

ever truth is put in front of you. Beginning with images, beginning with stories, beginning with cinema. This is something that I learned very early on," Peck told a reporter last week. "And Baldwin gave me the words and the instruments to do that, to be able to deconstruct whatever was put in front of me—ideology, stories, narrative—very concretely."

Baldwin was an American social critic, novelist, essayist, playwright and poet. His essays, as collected in "Notes of a Native Son" (1955), explore issues of race and class differences in a poignant, sometimes provocative way. His books include "The Fire Next Time" (1963), "Giovanni's Room" (1965), "No Name in the Street" (1972), and "The Devil Finds Work" (1976).

There hasn't been anyone who has been able to duplicate the

power of Baldwin since his death at 63 in France in 1987. Baldwin confronted the "moral monsters" of racism in the United States and dealt with the complex social and psychological pressures confronting Black people in America. Baldwin often challenged White Americans on the question of racism.

"It does matter any longer what you do to me," Baldwin said in an interview in 1965. "The problem now is how are you going to save yourselves?"

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.

Our lives begin to end

**THE DAY WE
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about things that matter.

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

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From Every Day to Runway



Delaney George
Fashion Columnist

Choosing the outfit of the day can sometimes be a hassle and a struggle for many women. It is so tempting to throw on a tee-shirt and jeans but, depending on the occasion we can't always wear what's easiest. But, local Stylist and Creative Director Syrajhoxo has a few tips that can bring life to any dull outfit.

Tip 1: "Break out the LBD"

"Every woman should have a little black dress in her closet" said the flamboyant Stylist, Syrajhoxo. The LBD is a closet essential, bringing life to any ensemble while still being simple to wear. "The little black dress is always a good place to start, that is the type of outfit you can build upon" said Syrajhoxo.

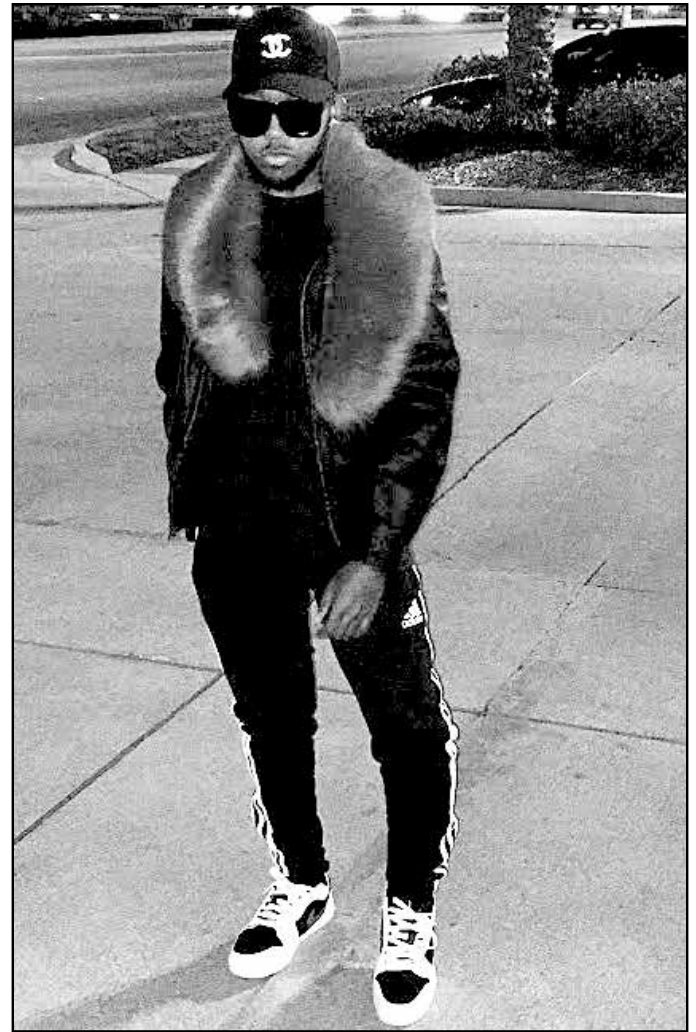
Tip 2: "Think tall and sexy"

Syrajhoxo went on saying how pump heels are sure to "pump life" into any ensemble.

"Weather its jeans, a skirt, shorts, no matter the article or occasion, a nice pair of heels makes everything look stylish" added Syrajhoxo. The stylist recommends vibrant colored pumps to complement any solid colored outfits.

"It doesn't matter the type of woman; every woman looks sexy and stylish in pumps" said Syrajhoxo.

For more tips from Syrajhoxo and advice on everyday looks, visit www.syrajhoxo.org or visit @Syrajhoxo on Instagram.



Cover Story/ Continued from page 4.

the branch, Gloria Hall-Johnson, a Political Consultant, for a two-year term. This year, the NAACP will be focusing on protecting voter right, defending against voting suppression. In early March, the New Orleans Branch of the NAACP will be attending a national event that will bring awareness of changes to the renewed Voter Rights Act.

"Because there have been changes to the 1965 Voter Rights Act, we are meeting in Selma to fight those changes," Hall-Johnson said.

"The Supreme Court has loosened its belt by taking that clause out where they allow unfair and impartial voting rights," She added.

In 2013, the Voting Rights Act, which is legislation that prevents voting discrimination, and holds

states accountable for voting procedures, was renewed for 25 years. However, in 2013, Section 5 of the legislation was removed.

The removal of Section 5 led to no longer holding states accountable for submitting redistricting plans, and allows the movement of polling sites without clearance from the state or any federal oversight.

"Seventy percent of African-Americans live east of Canal Streets and the majority of polling sites are

out of their precincts," said Carl Galmon, Chair of the NAACP's New Orleans Branch Political Action Committee.

"Since Hurricane Katrina, you have low turnout rates of Black voters because of the lack of easy access. Students at SUNO, near the lake, for example, have to go a mile-and-a-half to cast a vote. We need more polling access in New Orleans and the State of Louisiana."

According to Galmon, The NAACP conducted a study of southern states. Between 1982 and 2006, the NAACP found the State of Louisiana violated the Voting Rights Act more than any other state; Louisiana was found guilty 146 times.

"We need the polling sites to make sure the African-American voice is heard. The Mayoral Election is coming up in New Orleans and being able to vote will matter," Galmon said.

The Curly Corner

Strange History

When Women of Color Were Required by Law to Cover Their Hair



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

Headscarves and head wraps are two of the most beautiful natural hair accessories that can come in an assortment of bold colors to enhance any outfit. African women have worn them for hundreds of years as a trend and way of life. However, in 18th Century New Orleans, women of African descent were required by law to wear a hair covering called the tignon (pronounced ti-yon). A tignon, was a type of thick fabric worn to cover the hair. It came in a variety of colors and could be shaped in numerous ways.

Free Black women living in New Orleans were required to cover their hair to designate their social status. The intricate hairstyles that many women of African descent had adopted were considered too ostentatious for the likes of their White female peers. Free Black women wore of jewels and even feathers in their hair as a form of adornment.

Prior to the hair covering law, many Black women had begun to attract White men in New Orleans and help to create a new mixed population of colonists who were

part African and European. White women living in the New Orleans colony were intimidated by the alluring hairstyles of the Black women who were supposed to be in a lower class. Many women with lighter complexions who were only part White, were also required to abide by the law so the colonists could readily identify who belonged to the lower classes.

Although this law was meant

to hide the natural beauty of Free Black women living in the colonies, it was embraced as a fashion statement. The texture, colors, and shape of the tignon all reflected a woman's style and personality. The tignon eventually became a symbol of social status once again as women experimented with jewels, glimmering fabric and ribbons. Consequently, this led to Black women garnering more attention from po-

tential White male suitors.

Today, head wraps and scarves are worn in a multitude of ways to reflect the distinct personalities of Black women. No longer are head wraps a requirement but the cultural significance of covering your hair dates back centuries. Adorning the tignon was certainly a form of rebellion but wearing an exquisite head covering will always be a source of Black pride.



A 17th-Century woman wearing a beautiful tignon.



Created to hide natural beauty, the tignon was a gorgeous accessory.

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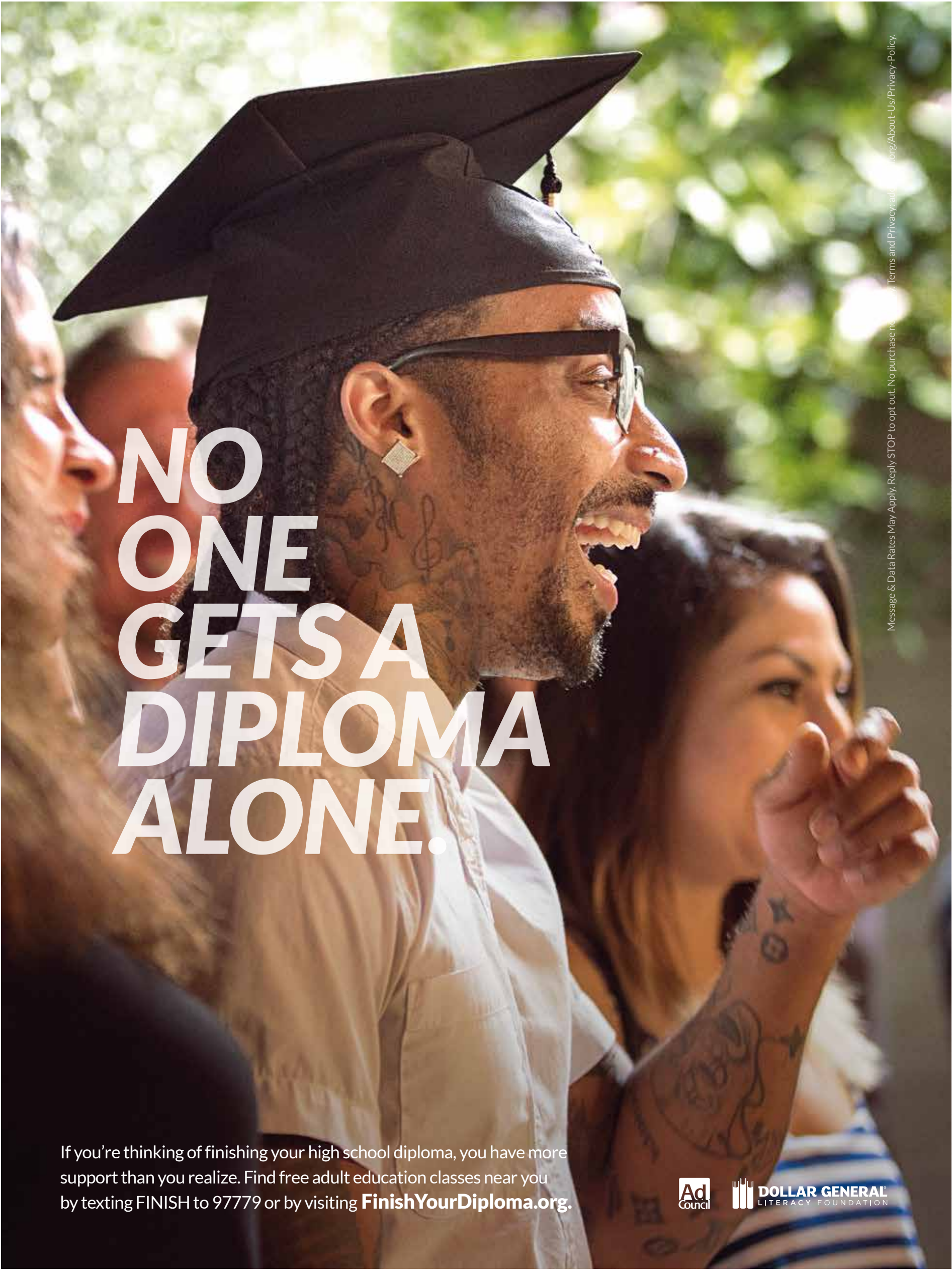
The National McDonogh 35 High School Alumni Association is reaching out to all graduates as it begins the celebration of the school's Centennial Celebration (1917 to 2017).

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.

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