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The Made Men in New Orleans

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

An Exclusive Look into the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club



The Soul of New Orleans

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Adonis Expose' Zulu King 2017

Exclusive Interview with Data News Weekly



2017 Queen Zulu and King Zulu in their ceremonial attire.

Edwin Buggage
Editor

Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club: A Rich History

For over a century the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club has evolved from its early beginnings in 1909 parading on Mardi Gras Day through the Black communities in a racially segregated New Orleans, into being one of the preeminent attractions of the season where people from around the globe come to witness

the splendor and spectacle that is Zulu. This year is no different, Data News Weekly caught up with this year's King Zulu, Adonis Expose', who spoke about the organization, its history and the many events around Mardi Gras and the larger purpose of the Zulu.

A Few Words From 2017 King Zulu Adonis Expose'

With excitement ringing in his voice, Expose' speaks of his feelings on being elected King of Zulu. "It is unbelievable; I have been in the organization

for 10 years. I have been on many committees and I have chaired a few of them. I was elected Zulu Mayor in 2008. I knew one day I would want to run for King of Zulu, it is incredible that the membership entrusted me with this title."

He says he is honored to be crowned King of this historical and important organization. Also, as he gets ready for Mardi Gras Day; when he will be riding as king he says this year will be special for him as it

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the culmination of him taking part in the revelry of Fat Tuesday for many years.

"I have been riding since 2002, and then before I was elected Zulu Mayor, I rode with the mayor's krewe for a few years. I enjoyed riding and from there I started walking with the Walking Warriors and with the Tramps. Every facet of the Zulu's during Mardi Gras I have been part of and it has been a great thing."

Continuing speaking of his anticipation for the big day that will include, the pageantry of the parade with its floats and many throws, including the coveted Zulu Coconuts and several toasts, he says, "I hope for good weather and seeing the hundreds of thousands of people yelling for King Zulu. I look forward to seeing my family and friends who affectionately call me Mr. New Orleans because I know so many people. It will be a great time for me to represent the people of my City. I also am looking forward to parading in front of Gertrude Geddes for my first toast, then to Gallier Hall to share a toast with the Mayor. We may even stop at Dooky Chase and there may be a toast there as well. I feel great because during Carnival Time not just for myself, but all of the people of New Orleans post-Katrina; it is like a reunion because we get to see people we haven't seen in years. Again, let me say that I am honored to have this once in a lifetime opportunity."

What is a King Without a Queen: King Zulu Reflects on 2017 Queen Zulu, Donna Glapion

What is a King without a Queen? Speaking highly of his choice, longtime friend Donna Glapion, Expose' says, "The king gets the opportunity to select his queen and I've chosen Donna Glapion, who I have known since 7th grade at Gregory Jr. High School. We also attended college together at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. We are more than friends, we are business partners with our own event planning company." He says she is also active in the Zulu Organization, "She is someone with a big heart for helping others, she got involved with our Toys for Tots Program with the other ladies, in addition to coordinating the King section and VIP creating centerpieces, so she been involved with Zulu for the last 10 years. Everyone knows her and it was not that much of a secret that I would choose her as my

queen. I am so excited that she as my best friend is experiencing this journey with me."

This Year's Zulu Ball is Bigger and Better than Ever

The King and his court will be on full display at the Annual Zulu Ball, something that has become a destination where people from around the City and nation come dressed to the nines for a night of great food, fun and music. Expose' says this year's ball will not disap-

point and is one of the biggest and best ever, "The entertainment this year is amazing, the O'Jays, Bell Biv DeVoe, Jaheim, along with Mia X, Partners-N-Crime and Fifth Ward Weebie. I think this is going to be one of the most well-attended balls we've ever had. I don't think we've ever sold out this early, the excitement of the people anticipating 2017 Zulu Ball that will go from 6PM to 4AM. I know everyone is going to have a great time."

More than Just Mardi Gras: Zulu, the Community and Giving Back

While the festivities during Mardi Gras are a big part of what the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club is known for, they also do a lot of things for the community throughout the year. "We do Toys for Tots, I also give a big birthday party in December and I donate all the toys to Zulu. We have a Christmas basket giveaway that we do for the elderly and the needy. Also we

do the same thing for Thanksgiving. We partner with Crime Stoppers to participate in the City's Night Out Against Crime. We also do outreach to young people. This year our theme is Stop the Violence where we go to different schools and speak to the kids. Additionally, we have Jr. Zulu's where we mentor young boys up to the age of 18 and we are working with 30 young boys encouraging them to stay in school.

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From Left: Toni Braxton, Lonnie Bunch, Lauren Seroyer, Larry Tripplett, Donovan Smith, Charles Tillman, Wendy Raquel Robinson

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Shaun King Shares His Journey to Fight Injustice Using Social Media

Kynedi Grier
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Do you want to be heard or do

you want to make a change? This was a question that Civil Rights Activist and Senior Justice Writer for The New York Daily News, Shaun King, asked the audience

at Xavier University on Feb. 16, 2017. Shaun King is one of three speakers selected for Xavier's Black History Month Speaker Series that features a new genera-

tion of young, Black activists.

"A lot of you know me as just a profile picture on Facebook and Twitter," the social media activist said.

King used humor to inspire the audience at Xavier's University Center about tough subjects like police brutality and this year's election. His lecture at-

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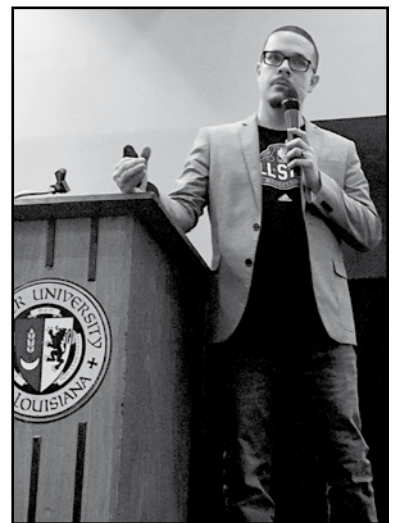
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Children's College



Shaun King delivers the Black History Month Lecture at Xavier's University Center on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. Photo by Kynedi Grier.

tracted people from all around the City from local teachers to Xavier's alumni.

King's large social media presence began when he started to share and speak out about the death of Eric Garner, who died after being placed in a chokehold by an undercover New York police officer in July 2014.

"I'm going to share this video and someone will be held responsible," King said of his first time using social media in this way. King described the increase of police brutality in the United States as an American crisis. Since sharing the video of Garner's death, King's social media presence greatly increased, making him known all over the country for bringing awareness to police brutality.

King shared statistics on the increase of the U.S. prison population, which has the highest incarceration rate in the world. He also spoke on the number of innocent people that have been shot by the police.

"What are you doing? Know that you know you're in 'the dip,'" King asked the audience in reference to the progression of humanity. 'The Dip,' King explained, refers to a decline in civil progression, at a time when humanity should be advancing.

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trailblazer

Michele Brierre Jean-Pierre

A Holistic Prescription to Saving a Community

by: Edwin Buggage

Michele Brierre Jean-Pierre, is a woman dedicated to giving back to her community. She is the Executive Director of the Ellis Marsalis Center, located in the Lower Ninth Ward, named for the patriarch of the first family of Jazz and Co-Founded by Musicians Brandford Marsalis and Harry Connick Jr. Since opening its doors in 2011, it is changing the lives of children using music education by engaging them and giving them the skills to lead fulfilling and successful lives.

Her journey into giving back started when her father Dr. Jean Chenier Brierre, a Physician, who blazed the trail for future Black doctors and his wife Nicole, both Haitian immigrants that came to America in search of a better life. Recalling these time, she says, "I think back to my childhood where serving those in need was a big thing that drove my parents. My father worked in the community and my mother was a homemaker who was constantly involved in things, volunteering and helping others. I had two great examples as parents. It's the way I grew up and it's become a way of life for me."

Prior to coming to the Ellis Marsalis Center, Jean-Pierre was working in Public Health but always found time to volunteer

in the community. "I have been giving back for a long time; I feel it is my duty. Throughout the years, I have worked with kids as a tutor. I volunteered to help first time homebuyers and I also served as a parent advocate with the school system."

She uses her experience in Public Health to approach how she runs the center, focusing on the children in a holistic way. Speaking of this she says, "Community health and what makes a community healthy are things I have tried to incorporate into the programming and planning of the center. We support the kids academically and socially, there is a component where they have access to good nutrition and healthy eating, so we provide healthy snacks for them when they come after school and they also can get a hot healthy balanced meal. We also provide homework help and we have certified teachers helping with that."

While their program is aimed at children from ages 7 to 18, there are also services available for adult musicians and those young people who are interested in working in non-performing careers in music and entertainment. "Children are at the heart of our mission, but we work with adult musicians, who live in the village. We



have a recording studio and they can come in and access our professional recording services. We have an acoustically perfect performance space. We also offer instruction in audio engineering and video editing. In addition, we have a monthly concert series with musicians from the community. There are really great things happening in the Ninth Ward."

Jean-Pierre speaks of the challenges that children face as she harkens back to their holistic approach as a key to solutions. "Part of our holistic approach to problems is that we provide safe spaces where they could come and get some additional support. Some of these children are dealing with

a whole family, where we began providing services to this young person by also engaging the parents and grandparents and we were able to intervene and get him on the right track. I am proud to say this child is thriving musically and his behavior has improved."

In the center, the kids are getting the tools and developing their full potential, but Jean-Pierre says the center serves another purpose by passing on and preserving the important musical and cultural legacy of New Orleans. "I see the impact in the growth of my students, they are getting wiser and growing and becoming focused young people. We will be playing in Jazz Fest this year. I am excited to see them go from the classroom to going on stage and playing the music that is part of the strong cultural heritage of the music of New Orleans. Not just Jazz, but classical and many other types of music; I feel our young people are ambassadors

of our culture and our program helps in preserving our musical heritage and its growth and development."

Speaking of the joy she derives from her work because it is tied to her meaning and purpose in life, which is service that's uplifting to the community. "I enjoy that my work is having a positive impact on my community and that is what drives me. I know my purpose is that I give a large amount of my time in the passion I feel about serving others. Continuing she says of what inspires her in a life dedicated to giving back, "If I had to say something that inspires others I would say, every time I look at the children I see the next generation that will continue our rich traditions and legacy. And it's up to us adults to give them the life lessons they need whether it is through music or the stories of who we are and our culture and heritage will not only survive, but our young people will thrive."

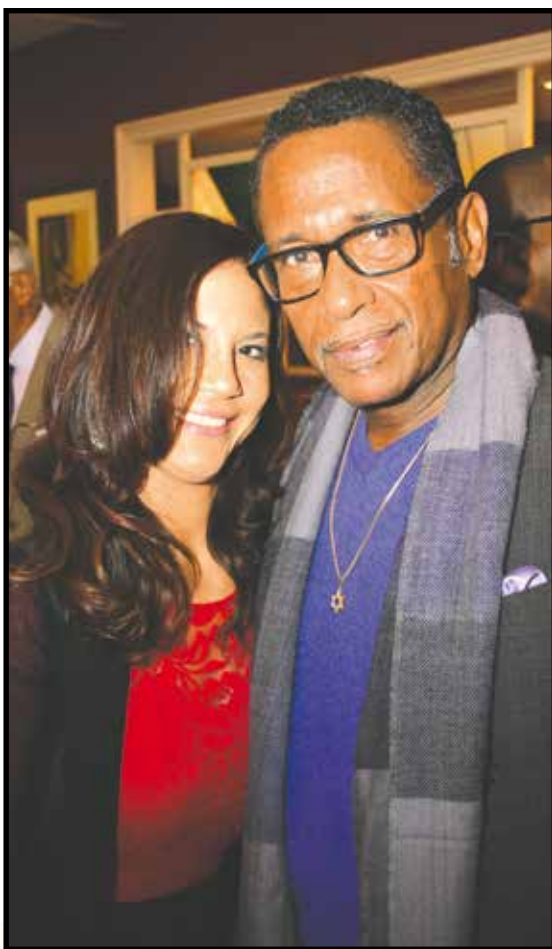
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The Made Men Event

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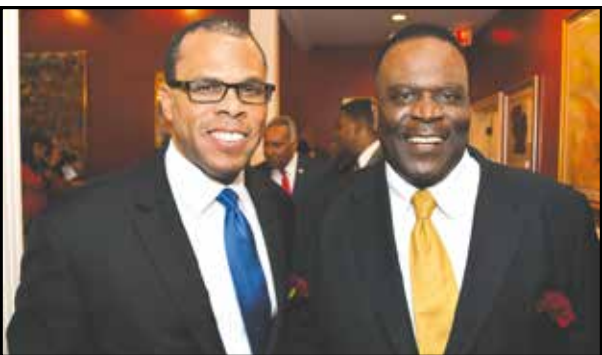
On Thursday, February 16th, The Made Man Red Carpet Awards Reception was held at Dooky Chase's Restaurant. The event presented by Blueprint Global Group, 100 Black Men of America, Black Enterprise Magazine, National Urban League, Upscale Magazine, 100 Black Men New Orleans, and the New Orleans Morehouse Alumni Association. The event highlighted over 50 men in New Orleans and each of their community initiatives that empowered African-American communities, youth and initiatives.



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Black History Month... Celebrating Black Theater

Anthony Bean
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Known as The Bean Brothers, Jomo Kenyatta Bean, who was known as Monroe Bean until about 1990 and his younger brother, Anthony Bean, were instrumental in the formation of Ethiopian Theater in 1973.

Since the word, Ethiopian means dark skin, it seemed a fitting name for the theater, said the younger brother. Anthony Bean was 16 and Jomo Kenyatta Bean was 25 when they began the Community Theater in the City's 7th Ward. They started in their mother's Bar Room on Pauger Street, and then moved to their father's Sweet Shop with a bakery in the back, which they turned into the theater space.

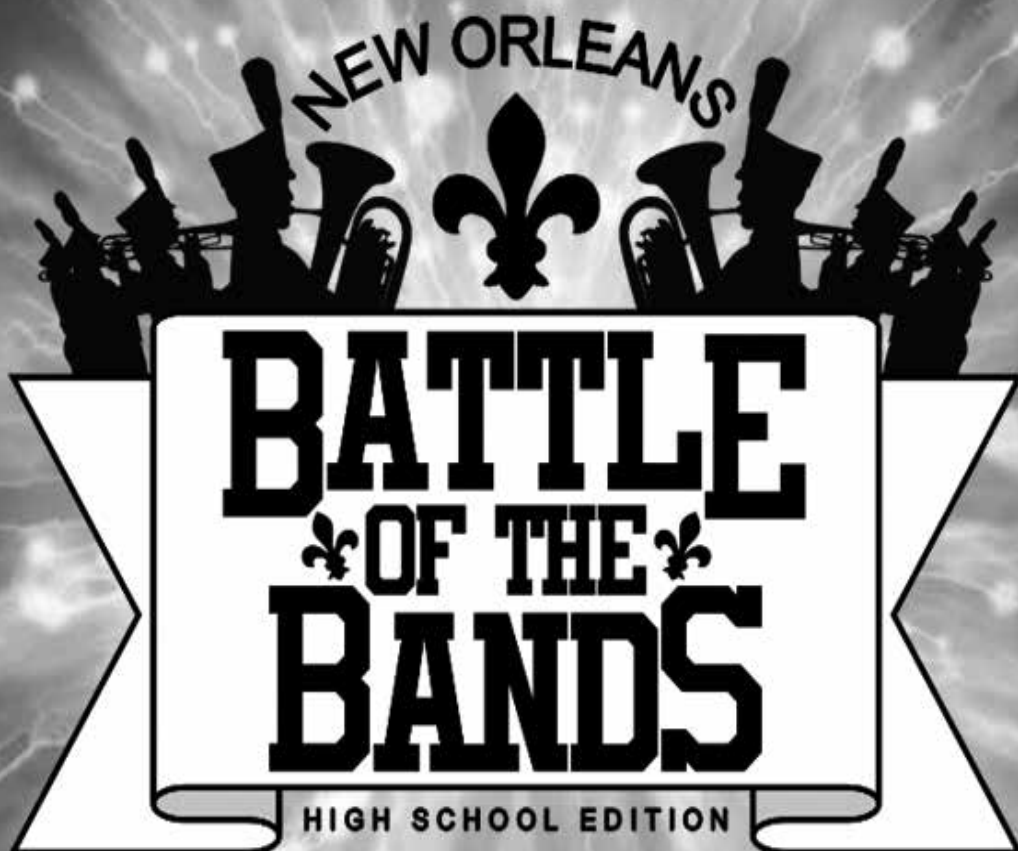


Anthony and Jomo Kenyatta Bean

In 2000, Anthony Bean founded (ABCT) the Anthony Bean Community Theater and Acting School. The goal of the ABCT Acting School is to provide an intense, high quality learning and performing opportunity in an atmosphere where young people are encouraged to set goals, take risks and view mistakes as an avenue for learning. His brother, Jomo Kenyatta Bean continued the Ethiopian Theater, becoming the oldest Black Theater in the South, until his death. Jomo Kenyatta Bean succumbed to cancer on August 16, 2011.

"Bean is a purveyor of truth," Andrew Adler wrote in The Times-Picayune in February, 2010, calling the language in "D.O.G.," Jomo Kenyatta Bean's Drama about Black-on-Black Crime, "utterly frank, cast in language brutal and beautiful."

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Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

We are trying to teach them not to follow the wrong crowd and we encourage them that if they follow the right crowd they can accomplish any goals they choose to pursue. Continuing he says, "I have always believed in giving back, that's what brought me into Zulu. I joined when I was 34, and I joined to have a purpose in being active and participating in things to give back to the community."

Zulu A Parade and an Organization for All People

The Zulu Organization continues to grow with its parade, Lundi Gras on the River and events throughout the year. It's continuing to expand and is not only a group and a parade for Black New Orleans, but an inclusive one that has members of different races. Today people from across

the globe are clamoring for their coveted throws, most notably, the Zulu Coconut. "In Zulu, we have all kinds of members from many different backgrounds, and I don't think people see color when they see Zulu during Mardi Gras time. They are just excited about the Zulu Parade. We have hundreds of thousands of people who come out. We are the first parade on Mardi Gras Day, we start at 8 AM and everyone is out there because they don't want to miss it. They know what we do and they love what we do in the community and I think that is where we get our support from us continuing to be a positive organization and we are out there in the community and that is who we have been for over 100 years and we will continue to build on our rich history and tradition."

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How African-Americans have Healed America



Derrian Smirh, Pharm.D.
Candidate; William Kirchain,
Pharm. D; Eric Griggs, MD
Data News Columnists

Many people think healing simply means to be freed of disease or injury, but this is not the type of healing I am referring to. The healing that will be expounded upon in this article is about overcoming an unwanted circumstance. Gathering the courage to turn a terrible situation to one that can be learned from by simply believing it will come to pass. Faith and spirituality is something that African Americans have always held dear to their hearts and is deeply rooted in their culture. You may be asking what sort of "faith" are you referring to? Well, faith in the God and even within oneself has carried many African-American people along the road to triumph.

African American churches have always been a place of healing where people can go to for help with mental, physical, and emotional struggles. Traditionally, African-American churches have provided a guiding light to people who have lost their way. From the era of slavery to the present, some examples of ministerial outreach and support services in black churches include assistance to runaway and emancipated slaves, ministry to children in the foster care system, to youth in gangs, to persons infected with



African-American churches have always been a place of healing where people can go to for help with mental, physical, and emotional struggles.

HIV and AIDS, to persons with physical and mental disabilities, to persons in recovery and drug treatment programs, to ex-offenders, and in some churches to persons who have been alienated because of their sexual orientation and preferences (1). Spiritual beliefs can be an essential guide in shaping the way we rationalize and make decisions when we are sick or need guidance.

Although it's still a work in progress, church-based health promotion (CBHP) programs have potential to reduce health disparities and cause healthy behavioral changes. Churches and faith-based groups are becoming more popular in encouraging health promotion and research studies. They provide the framework of mental and physical healing which is a recurrent theme in many churches throughout the world (2). For example, Christ Community Health Services in

provides behavioral and dental services, HIV treatment and care, women's services, and they also have a pharmacy. The health care is affordable, volunteers are acknowledged, and they accept donations from people within the community. Another CBHP that follows the same model of care is Faith and Health Church Center also located in Memphis, TN. There are plenty activities that these programs carry out throughout the year that helps promote health and positivity; these activities are open to the patients and include: yoga, brunches, art classes, and educational sessions. These programs have become very beneficial to the community and have helped individuals strengthen their relationship with God simultaneously.

So, if you are ever sick, hurt, or

feel like giving up, look to God for strength and courage. He will provide for you what you need to go on and conquer any obstacles that stand in your way. You never know, just one visit to your neighborhood church for fellowship can be the root cause of a very significant change in your life!

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

Black Women in Fashion



Delaney George
Fashion Columnist

Black models in fashion were considered unheard until the 1960's, when top models like Beverly Johnson and Naomi Sims were landing magazine covers. Johnson and Sims jumpstarted the path for the modern models, starting an opportunity for three Contemporary Iconic Black models. In a predominately White industry, Black models such as Iman, Grace Jones and Naomi Campbell pushed boundaries and were paving the way for many minority models to be as successful as they are today: shaping the culture and bending the rules of fashion forever.

Iman:

This Somali Model made one of her first marks on fashion when she appeared on the cover of Vogue in 1982; Despite Black cover models being unpopular. Iman, known for her grace, beauty and poise, reigned as the most Iconic Somali

Model of her time. As her career progressed, she would go forward in being featured on several magazine covers, commercials, runways, and product deals: inspiring Black women in Somalia and the United States.

Grace Jones:

Jones is Jamaican Singer, Actress, and Supermodel, who broke an immense number of boundaries for more than just Black models. The artist moved to the fashion headquarters of New York City, making her impact on several art forms including: movies, magazine covers, and producing albums. Jones explored her masculine and feminine sides shocking the world with her wildly unusual shoots, album covers and antics. Jones was the epitome of dressing by feeling and challenging the rules and social norms of society.

Naomi Campbell:

Recognized as one of the top three models in the world, Naomi Campbell is the poster child of being a successful



Iman poses gracefully in one of her earlier year shoots.

Black model. Campbell began her career at a very young age, 15, and



The legendary Naomi Campbell strikes a pose in an all-black ensemble.

has been one of the most in demand models since. Campbell focused her craft around runway, print and commercial modeling and is still active in her craft: appearing in TV shows, product commercials, video

shoots, and high fashion photography. Campbell dedicates her talents to helping other models and youth as well, curating and contributing to several charities and workshops worldwide.

From Poetic Justice to Moesha: Braided Up in the 1990s



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

The current natural hair movement is more than just afros, curly 'fros and twist outs. Braids have become a go-to style for thousands of Black women wanting to give their hair a rest from the daily wear of natural styles that require them to wear their hair "out". Braids can come in all colors and lengths to give women a versatile look to highlight their sense of fashion.

However, braids have been around for thousands of years and worn by several cultures around the world. The recent braid phenomenon modernizes a trend that began as a celebration of natural Black beauty in the media and beyond in the early 1990s.

Two incredible braid icons include Janet Jackson and Brandy Norwood who helped to popularize the wearing of braids in the 1990s. Braids were considered feminine and fun during a time when perms and weaves dominated the African-American aesthetic. Janet Jackson wore the now infamous "Poetic Justice" braids in a movie with the same title. Chunky, heavy braids, also known as "Box Braids", were now hugely popular within Black communities across the country and the media. Cur-



rently, the "Poetic Justice" braids are a social media staple amongst young Black women. Although not as versatile as the wearing braids

that are much thinner, they give the wearer more of a hipster, vintage look.

Brandy was famous for promoting the wearing of thinner braid styles that are sometimes called "Individuals". These braids were thinner in volume and allowed one to wear them in a variety of coiffures. These braids could be worn in elegant bridal styles to being easily placed in a bun for comfort.

Brandy Norwood wore several braided styles on the hit sitcom Moesha that aired from 1996 to 2001. She encouraged thousands of Black girls to look glamorous and effortless in braids. While filming Moesha, Brandy's braids were carefree and reflected her budding teenage temperament. In the late-1990s, the toy company Mattel created a doll in Brandy's

likeness. This was the first doll to have individual braids instead of the long, straight hair on typical Black Barbie dolls. The long, braided locks could be brushed and styled as any other doll. This was a bold move for a toy company and a fascinating time for little Black girls everywhere.

Brandy Norwood and Janet Jackson were not the only braided icons of the 1990s but they help to set the tone for Black beauty for the rest of the decade. Following their presence in the media, Braids were feminine, attractive and a celebration of West African allure. Natural Black beauty was trending and would continue to make waves in the world of Black beauty for years to come.

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Giving Youth the Keys to Unlock Their Future

George Cleveland
Vice President of Channel
Operations Cricket Wireless

Every school year, scholars, parents, media and politicians debate the best way to educate our youth and prepare them for success in a growing global economy. The debate is often centered on whether public, private or charter schools offer the best opportunities for kids to succeed. Each institution has its own supporters and detractors, successes and failures. One point everyone agrees on is that every student deserves access to a quality education despite their economic situation.

Unfortunately, public schools face multiple challenges that impact our teachers' ability to effectively educate their students, and the challenges are compounded in economically distressed areas. As a kid growing up in Macon, GA, I attended both a school located in a lower economic community and one in a more affluent area. These varied experiences helped me understand the important role financial and socio-economic differences play on education.

Hard work and dedication helped bring my vision to life. I serve as vice president of channel operations at Cricket Wireless, a subsidiary of AT&T, where I'm responsible for customer care, training and communications, digital experience and sales operations. I'm proud to represent both AT&T and Cricket. Our employees donate

countless dollars and volunteer hours to support organizations like Junior Achievement (JA). JA is re-designing the student learning experience in Georgia, which we hope will serve as a model for schools across the country.

"There is a direct correlation between education and economic development," said Jack Harris, president & CEO, Junior Achievement of GA. "Through strategic partnerships between JA, school systems and the business community, this model [JA Academy] has the potential to transform education to meet the needs of today's students. Together we can bring innovation to education in order to create more pipelines to economic opportunities for all students."

The JA Academy is a full immersion "school-within-a-school" model that acts as a joint venture between JA, the local school system, and the business community. It's designed to provide rigorous standards-based education infused with career readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. This model ensures that learning is relevant, experiential and authentically connected to the complexities that exist beyond the classroom walls.

This model is working and JA recently announced that the program will launch in Atlanta Public Schools at the start of the 2017 school year. It's currently operating in two school systems in Metro Atlanta - Fulton County Schools and Gwinnett County Public Schools - and, the first-year results

are really encouraging:

- **Attendance:** Chronic absenteeism decreased by 75% in the second semester compared to non-JA Academy students, and overall JA Academy students are present much more frequently than their non-JA Academy counterparts.
- **Reading & Math Levels:** JA Academy students advanced an average of nearly 3 grade levels in Reading and Math from the beginning of the year, starting from an average level of 6th grade.
- **Discipline:** Discipline incidents occurred 90% less compared to non-JA Academy 9th grade students, and fell 49% from fall to spring semester amongst JA Academy students.
- **Assessments:** JA Academy students outperformed their peers in every state milestone assessment for 9th grade - Science,

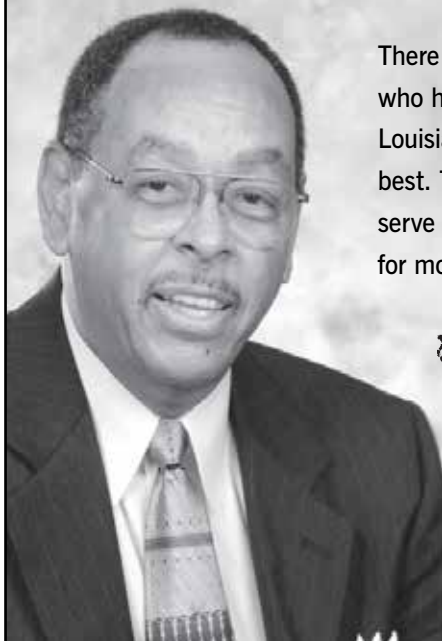
Math, and English Language Arts - while at the same time, the scores for the overall 9th grade students increased from the year before.

- The above results are truly impressive. My hope is that the JA Academy will be adopted by more school systems in Georgia and throughout the country. This will take time, patience and commitment. It's imperative that every child have the opportunity to reach their potential. Until then, I ask that you join me in giving your time and sharing your experience with our youth by serving as a mentor, or volunteering with organizations like JA.

Let's help them locate the keys to unlock their potential and passion to be successful leaders in a growing global economy. We all can make and be a part of history!

Black History Moments in New Orleans

- 1957 Reverend A.L. Davis organizes the Southern Christian Leadership Conference
- 1970 Israel Augustine elected first Black Criminal Court Judge
- 1978 Ernest "Dutch" Morial elected first Black Mayor
- 1985 Erroll G. Williams and Kenneth M. Carter elected first African American Assessors in Orleans Parish
- 1991 William Jefferson elected Louisiana's first Black Congressman
- 2004 State Senator Diana Bajoie becomes first woman to serve as Senate President Pro Tempore
- 2011 Erroll G. Williams becomes first elected citywide Assessor in New Orleans



There are many African Americans who have made history in Louisiana every day by doing their best. Thank you for letting me serve the citizens of our great city for more than 30 years.

Erroll G. Williams

Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.

"Why does stuff keep happening that feels like it should be back in time?" King asked. King cited the multiple controversies since the election of President Donald Trump as being part of 'The Dip.' As King explained, one-day, future generations would look at 2017 and compare the way society acts towards minorities to the 1960s, he said.

King encouraged the audience to stay aware of issues currently taking place in America's society. "After hearing [Shaun King's] speech, anybody can be the next person to

make a difference and are able to start young," said Jordan Deloch, Xavier's Freshman Class President, after being moved by King's speech.

Along with Deloch, several members of the general student body were motivated by King's talk. "[King] inspired me to stay aware and to take action instead of standing by," said Craiana Cleveland, a Sophomore at Xavier.

Ending his speech, King challenged the audience to get involved to correct the injustices in society. "It's going to take every single one of us to get out of 'The Dip,'" King said.

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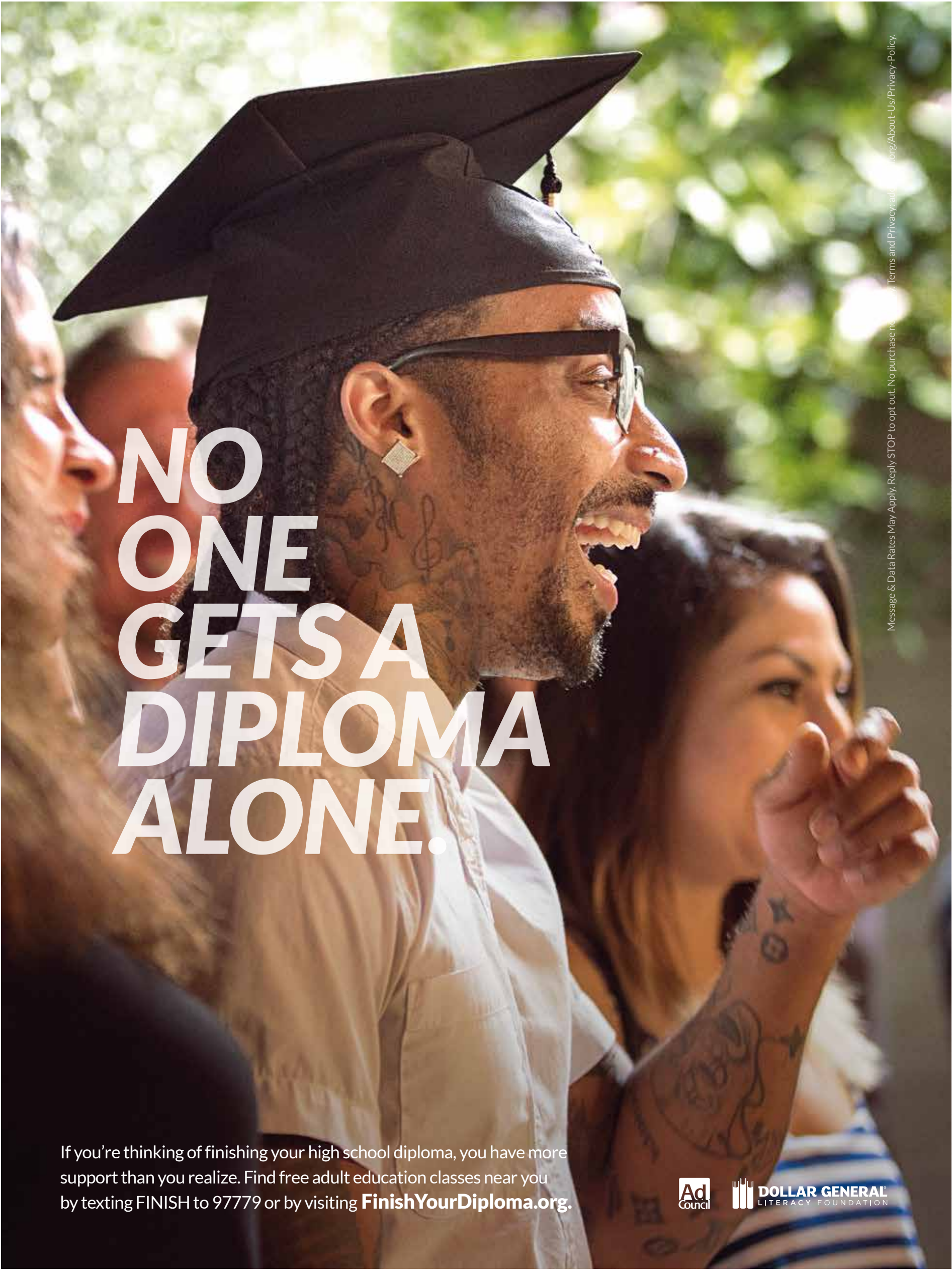
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