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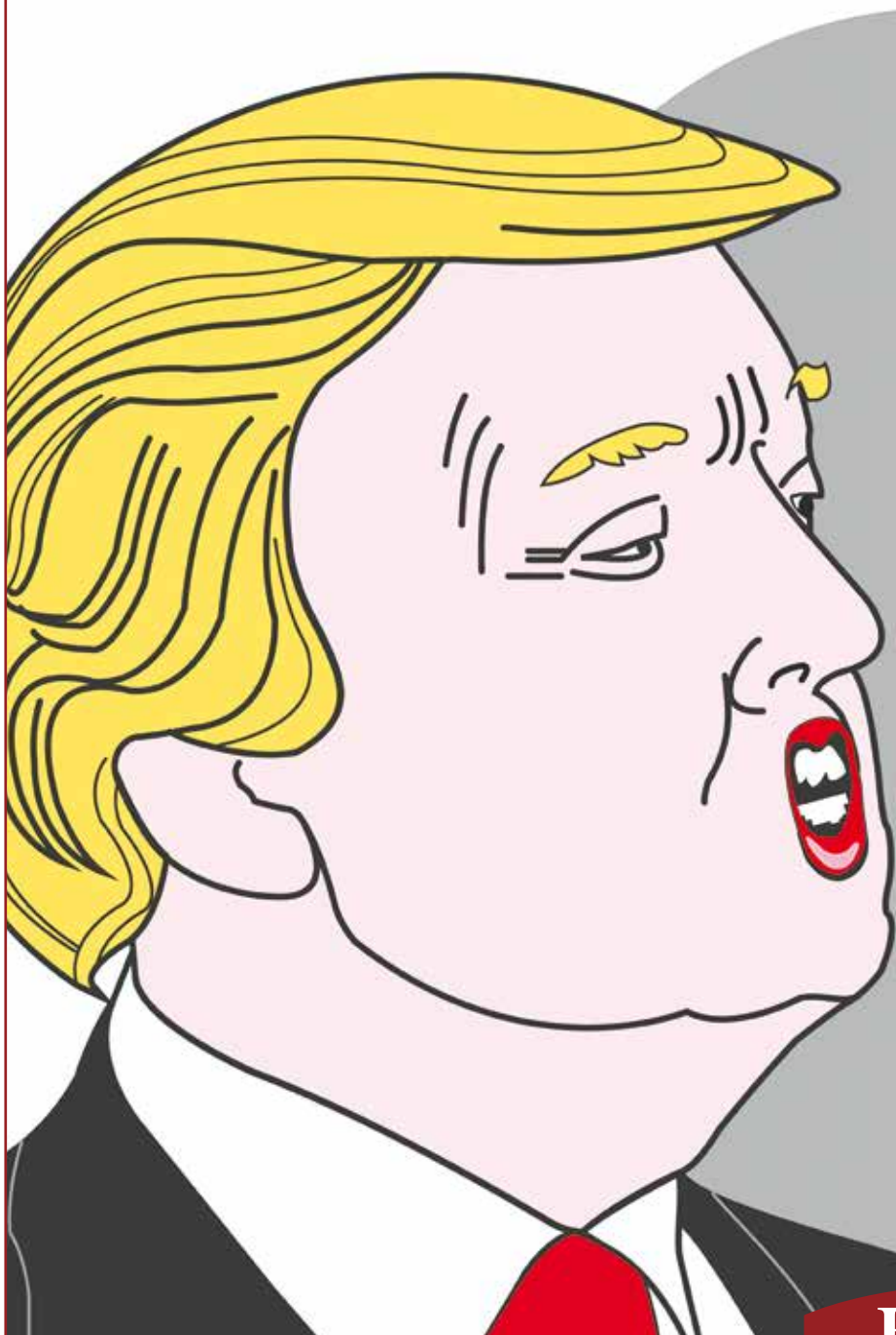
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Diner En Blanc 2017

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Trump's

First Four Months in Office

Attacking Obama's Legacy

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President Trump Wages War on Obama’s Legacy in First 100 Days



President Donald Trump attempted to reverse many of former-President Obama’s policies. Photo by Gage Skidmore/Wikimedia commons.

Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

There was the proposed massive budget cut to the Department of Housing and Urban Development; the incessant rhetoric about a rise in crime in the nation, that lacked evidence to back it up; the threats of a re-

newed war on drugs. There was even a failed attempt to bully Republican lawmakers into passing a flawed bill that sought to roll back the Affordable Care Act, a law that provides healthcare to millions of Americans. This was President Donald Trump’s first 100 days in the White House. Trump didn’t win a single legislative achievement during his first 100 days. For policies

that impact the lives of African-Americans, it was just as perilous as you thought it would be. During the 2016 campaign, Trump often described the Black community as a monolithic, stereotypical caricature. Trump used the types of violent stereotypes one parrots after they’ve binge-watched 11 seasons of “Law & Order,” but have never actually been to an inner city.

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So, much of what Donald Trump focuses on is about undoing the accomplishments of the first Black President of the United States. The obsession with “alternative facts” and the erasure of President Obama’s legacy continues to be the core focus within the Trump Administration.

Days before his 100th day in office, Trump’s spokesman Sean Spicer blamed President Obama for the fiasco surrounding Gen. Michael Flynn. Flynn, a loud supporter of Trump during the 2016 campaign, was fired by Trump as National Security Advisor on February 13 and ended up holding the position for the shortest time in U.S. history (24 days) after it was reported Flynn lied to Vice President Pence.

Trump’s Attorney General Jeff Sessions, perhaps the most dan-

gerous federal official for African-Americans, sought to revive the “War on Drugs,” a set of policies that disproportionately impacted African-Americans in the 1980s and 1990s.

“We can wish that we could just turn away and reduce law enforcement,” said Sessions in 2016. “But I do believe that we’re going to have to enhance prosecutions. There just is no other solution.”

During a trip to Richmond, Va., on April 11 Sessions said: “We need to say, as Nancy Reagan said, ‘Just say no.’ Don’t do it... We can reduce the use of drugs, save lives and turn back the surge in crime that inevitably follows in the wake of increased drug use.”

None of this should be a surprise to the Black community. Sessions comes from Alabama where incarceration is high art. Placing

humans in cages is Alabama’s leading industry. At 70, Sessions is a stark reminder of another era. He’s also a reminder of how old, failed policy is difficult for so many to break away from. With so many Republicans embracing “smart on crime” policies, Sessions is determined to star in the movie “Groundhog Day” on federal crime policy.

The inmate population in the U.S. rose from 500,000 in 1980 to 2.2 million in 2015 and has made the U.S. No. 1 in the rate of incarceration in the world. When there’s an uptick in law enforcement, do more police show up in Manhattan or the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C.? Of course not. A quick glance at the stop-and-frisk statistics the ACLU tabulated in New York City over a ten-year period, in an effort to

identify the communities that experienced the greatest number of interactions with police after an elected official (in that case former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani) decided to “get tough on crime,” tells the story.

Pastor Darrell Scott of Cleveland, a Trump supporter, held a summit on gang violence in Washington D.C. on April 18. The focus was on crime in Chicago and Trump Administration officials attended. Did they introduce or invite any policy proposals to address any of the underlying issues that plague some of the predominately Black neighborhoods in the Windy City (i.e., high unemployment, high poverty, poor schools)? Not quite yet.

During Trump’s first 100 days he met with seven members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

He also met with over a hundred presidents of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the Oval Office to take what would turn out to be a historic set of images.

In the end the truth is obvious: It will take more than pictures and meetings for there to be verifiable evidence that President Trump actually wants to have a positive impact on the African-American community. So far, there has been a ton of talk that has not been reflected in hard policy. As Trump revealed during a recent interview, the job of President of the United States was tougher than he imagined, it’s clear that some policy, particularly policies impacting African-Americans, rest in the hands of his appointed minions many of whom have shown no interest in issues affecting the Black community.

Politics

Michael Bagneris Announces Bid for Mayor

John McAdams
Multimedia Editor

This past Thursday, May 11th, Michael Bagneris announced his bid for Mayor at Dooky Chase’s Restaurant in Tremé. So far, Bagneris is the first to officially announce his candidacy for the political position. LaToya Cantrell has unofficially announced her bid for the Mayoral election earlier this year.

“If New Orleans is to survive, the public safety issue must be addressed now.” He said that public safety is needed to protect gainful employment,” Bagneris said. The candidate’s platform stands on three grounds: creating safer roads, a diverse economy and a bulkier public safety division. In essence, one of his stronger and more passionate points was to make New Orleans’ road repaved by allocating more funds to what matter to the people.

“We should not allow ourselves to be a one ship pole...This City has been blessed with too many resources to depend simply on tourism. We are a resourceful, rich City,” Bagneris said.

At his announcement, Bagneris laid out his plan to get more police



Michael and Althea Bagneris celebrate after Michael’s official announcement.

officers on duty, and potential partnerships that can make New Orleans a stronger, vital City in Louisiana and the nation. He said that most of the problems in the City can be solved by holding the government responsible.

The open primary election is October 14, 2017. The general election

will take place on November 18, 2017. Filing for official bids are due by July 14, 2017.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu is ending his second-term as Mayor of New Orleans. His term started in 2010, and won his second-term in February of 2014. Landrieu’s term will end in 2018.

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Gov. Edwards Announces NGA Partnership to Reduce Child Hunger in LA

Data News Staff Edited Report

On May 15, 2017, Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) chose Louisiana among only 10 states to participate in a learning lab on state strategies to reduce childhood hunger.

"I am excited for my administration to embark on this learning opportunity as we continue working to fulfill our commitment to end child hunger in Louisiana," said Gov. Edwards. "Our children depend on the adults in their lives, and in some cases those of us trusted with the duty of public service, to protect and provide them with the best chance at leading a happy and productive life. This partnership will help us fulfill that duty."



After the new partnership with the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards will learn how to better handle child hunger in the state. Photo by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

determination for free meals.

"Gov. Edwards, First Lady Edwards and selected team members are committed to implementing a rigorous No Kid Hungry Campaign that will increase access to breakfast, lunch and summer meals for Louisiana's children," said Dr. Dana Hunter, Executive Director of the Children's Cabinet. "Louisiana's participation in the NGA Learning Lab will provide opportunities for cross-sector partners including state and elected officials to learn about national best practices for ending childhood hunger. It's an honor to be a part of this effort."

NGA learning labs provide an opportunity for a limited number of state teams to visit a state that is successfully implementing an innovative practice. States participating in the learning lab will have the opportunity to meet in Virginia to learn about best practices for providing healthy meals to school-age children; get an assessment of the degree of childhood hunger present in their own states for policymaking; and receive assistance developing a plan for reducing childhood hunger. The NGA Center is conducting this learning lab in collaboration with Share Our Strength, a national non-profit focused on ending child hunger through its No Kid Hungry Campaign.

In the program, state teams will learn about how Virginia leverages public-private partnerships to ensure school-age children have regular access to healthy meals and increased participation in child nutrition programs. They will discuss strategies such as communicating and collaborating to reduce hunger; expanding access to school breakfast; supporting innovation in summer meal programs; and streamlining eligibility

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Can Pundits, Pols, & Network Anchors Save Us?

John Slade
WBOK 1230AM

How long is it going to take for the media, pundits, and the GOP to see that Trump is a clear and present danger to the republic? Invoking the Nixon administration's actions over 40 years ago known as the Saturday Night Massacre where, on October 20, 1973, then-President Nixon fired Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, who wanted access to the audio tapes that Nixon recorded in the Oval Office. On the tapes was the damning evidence about the Watergate scandal. Cox was getting too close to the truth and Nixon dumped him to try and stop the investigation. As soon as this happened, the calls for Nixon's impeachment from the Congress were loud and long. We've just witnessed Donald Trump repeat histo-

ry by firing the FBI Director James Comey. Why? It is suspected that Mr. Comey was getting to the point that despite three alleged assurances from Mr. Comey, Mr. Trump was not under investigation where it seemed he was in the process of beginning an investigation into Mr. Trump himself.

The saga continues with Mr. Trump appearing on the NBC Nightly News with Black Anchor Lester Holt, and attempting to defend the firing of James Comey, and the fool wound up admitting that part of the reasoning behind the firing was because of the GBI's ongoing investigation into the Trump campaign's collusion or connection with the Russian government. In the same interview with Mr. Holt, Mr. Trump called the investigation about the Russia ties "an excuse by the Democrats



When Trump fired James Comey, it looked a lot like President Nixon during Watergate. Photo by Gage Skidmore.

for having lost an election."

Also, it appears that James Comey was fired mere days after asking for more money to investigate the Russia issue. Trump couldn't face the man to do his own dirty work, by the way. They sent one of his trusted aides to drop the letter of dismissal off at Comey's office.

Now, as we all know, if this was the Obama or a would-be Clinton administration, Republicans would be screaming for blood and that heads need to roll! Trump, it seems to this writer, has admitted to an impeachable offense on television and the Republican Party is like Uncle Joe: moving kind of slow at the Petticoat Junction. Where is the call for societal death for the conspirators? Where are the chants from the GOP like, "Lock him up?"

Slade, Continued on page 8.

B-CU Grads Protest Betsy "DeVoid" in Epic Fashion



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

I could not be more proud of the students at Bethune-Cookman University (B-CU) than if I had raised them myself. Responding to the university's very late selection of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos for the spring commencement speaker, graduating seniors chose to turn their backs on a woman who described HBCUs as "pioneers of school choice." The students' repudiation of DeVos' very right to be present was well coordinated; the protest reflected their ability to be sophisticated, not reactive when confronted with a speaker that epitomizes the very refutation of their HBCU education. It is my hope and dream that these students can continue to operate in formation, as they oppose oppression.

I don't know how DeVos (hereafter referred to as "DeVoid," as she is devoid of good sense, history, literacy, and even courtesy) came to be B-CU's commencement speaker. I suspect that the White House (Omarosa Manigault) made a call to offer an administration speaker and they went for it. Maybe Trump Whisperer Manigault's new hubby, Florida Rev. John Allen Newman, has some ties to the college and he saw this as a way of burnishing his wife's credentials as a HBCU savior. Maybe there is a bunch of Black Republicans on the B-CU board of directors standing in the wings and hoping for goodies from "45." Truly, this is all speculation but, most of the time, commencement speakers are secured months before graduation. This speaker was thrust on students and their families just ten days before the ceremony.

For most students, speakers are the sideshows, not the main deal in commencement, unless the speaker is someone like President Barack Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, or Viola Davis. White folks might prefer Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Wolf Blitzer or Sheryl Sandberg. Commence-

ment speakers are expected to spout uplifting platitudes, offer sage advice, maybe share a private challenge, and wish the graduates well and do it in less than 20 minutes. Students are sitting at the edge of their seats, not because they are waiting for the punchline, but because they want their degrees.

What was B-CU President Edison Jackson thinking? In his printed statement on May 1, he said, "The legacy of Dr. Bethune is that she was not constrained by political ideology, but worked across all parties to support B-CU. Moreover, students are directly impacted by funding dollars that are dispersed through the Department of Education. B-CU receives \$4 million annually through Title III, which supports teaching, research and infrastructure. Additionally, Title IV impacts the ability of B-CU students to receive federal financial aid, overall influencing the ascension of Bethune-Cookman University students."

Maybe President Jackson thought he was making friends by inviting DeVoid to speak at B-CU's graduation. Actually, he made a spectacle of the graduation by in-

volting a woman who had already disparaged HBCUs with her ignorance. And he did it in the same week when her boss, "45," said (and then quickly reversed himself) that he was not sure that some federal provisions for HBCUs, such as the HBCU Capital Finance Program, are constitutional.

It is odious that DeVoid has received an honorary degree from B-CU. What has she done to earn it? According to President Jackson, "Through Secretary DeVos' life work, her contributions extend far beyond her home state of Michigan. Secretary DeVos has supported educational opportunities for students in over 25 states and supported Central Florida through several philanthropic efforts: 100 Black Men of Central Florida; Jones High School, and the Parramore neighborhood located in Orlando to name a few. Secretary DeVos is a graduate of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich. She is the wife of community activist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Dick DeVos, where they have four adult children and six grandchildren." This earns her an honorary degree? Really?

I reached out to President Edi-

son Jackson and several members of his team to discuss this. I've been to Bethune-Cookman University twice under President Jackson's leadership and know, all too well, what kinds of pressures that HBCU presidents face as they juggle constituencies—faculty, students, alumni, community, trustees and many others. He might have found himself stuck between a rock and a hard place, when he invited DeVoid; or he may have welcomed the opportunity.

We in HBCU Land (my special term for our space) play ourselves cheap. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Dartmouth, Columbia, Georgetown, and Stanford aren't rushing to give Betsy DeVos honorary degrees. They don't think she deserves them. The woman with a simple undergraduate degree from the unremarkable Calvin College (yes, my elitism is showing), whose only contribution to the education arena is her rabid embrace of school choice, should not get an honorary degree from anywhere. Unfortunately, Bethune-Cookman University was first in line to de-

Malveaux, Continued on page 11.

Diner En Blanc 2017

Eric M Craig
Multimedia Editor

This past Saturday, The Spear's Group held Diner En Blanc 2017 on the Lakefront. Thousands of people were in attendance, decked-out with their all-white ensembles, and well-equipped with picnic delights. This year, the Spear's Group invited Rapper Doug E. Fresh to perform just before the final fireworks at the all-white dinner.



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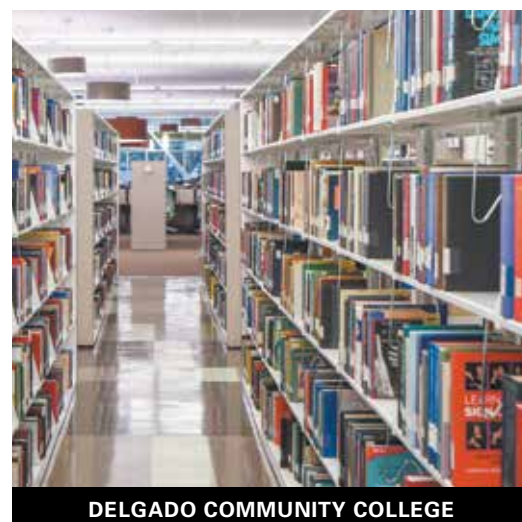
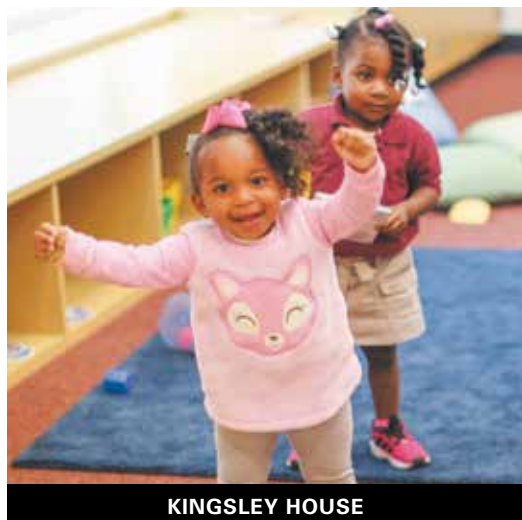
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WE POWER LIFESM

Nicole Carter's Birthday Party

Harvey Brown Photographer

On Saturday, May 13th, Nicole Carter held her Annual Hawaiian Luau themed birthday party at Julius Kimbrough's Prime Example Jazz Club. She has worked for Julius the longest of his bartenders and she is loved by all. The party was filled with friends, family, music, food, and, most of all, celebration.



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

Slade, Continued from page 5.

Now supposed to be sources in the White House say Trump was angry, that somehow the Russia investigation would not just go away. Not to mention that Comey said in front of the Senate no less that he wouldn't support Trump's claims that President Obama had tapped his phones in Trump Tower. Claims that many thinking people thought would be something Trump was foolish to say because Trump seemed to be admitting that he is under investigation—as a sitting

judge would have to okay a warrant for such a thing. Let's not even get into Trump's political lack of instincts as he thought this would be a win-win as democrats hated Mr. Comey for the waste of time reopening the Sec. Hillary Clinton email case on the eve of the election and by Republicans because they hated him for letting Sec. Clinton off the hook on the email issue. Well, Senator Chuck Schumer told Mr. Trump on the phone that he was making a big mistake and, wouldn't you know it, Trump was surprised to hear that.

Meanwhile, the Republicans in Congress are trying to slow walk as much of this so-called investigation as they can. It appears with only so far mostly democrats calling for a special and independent prosecutor to dive even deeper.

Now, as for the major media's role in this scandal, I have to say at least we've been spare the "Donald Trump has finally become President of the United States" crap that grey-haired old White men, and the sometimes confused non—White people who have work with them. For too long we've had major media

desperation to imagine that somehow the 2016 presidential election resulted in Kennedy versus Nixon, and Kennedy won. They have a stake in my opinion not to look like fools that supersedes their will to tell it like it is with the president. Because, if Trump is Nixon 2.0, and they've been trying to figure a way to sell you Nixon 2.0, then they do look like fools. If the major corporate media wants to get out from under the Trump debacle that they have delivered to us, they might start by not paying or inviting Trump surrogates

like Kelly Ann Conway on the news shows knowing she's going to lie. I can't get that mad at the conservative blowhards who are still defending Trump on national television. Like the insurance commercial say, it's what they do. Major media looks like the very fools they wish not to be.

Finally, let's hope that this time the political and media parties do what needs to be done in the wake of Nixon 2.0, making them look not just foolish but complicit. Remember the Saturday Night Massacre October 20, 1973.

Vanessa Bell Calloway

The Definition of a Phenomenal Woman

Edwin Buggage
Editor

A Portrait of a Phenomenal Woman

The title of one of the signature poems of the late great Maya Angelou is entitled "Phenomenal Woman." At this year's, Jazz Fest while sitting backstage waiting for the legendary Stevie Wonder to hit the stage, Data News Weekly had the opportunity to speak with Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway, a woman who is every bit of phenomenal. She is timelessly beautiful, intelligent, graceful and talented, as she is looking casually chic on this warm day in the month May. She is alluring and exudes an elegant yet down to earth aura. Calloway has had a career spanning several decades on the stage, silver screen and television. She's earned eight NAACP Image Award nominations; winning the "NAACP Theater Award for Best Actress" for her critically acclaimed role as Zora Neale Hurston in "Letters From Zora".

My Love Affair with America's Most Interesting City

Speaking enthusiastically, she says, her connection to the Crescent City runs deep, "I love New Orleans; I have been coming here for years. My husband Dr. Anthony Calloway, both of his parents are from New Orleans and his best friend is here. We're also very good friends with Marc Morial who served two-terms as mayor and we attended both of his inaugurals. Continuing speaking of the City's unique character and flavor she says, "New Orleans is my favorite City in the U.S., when I am here I feel like I am on an island, it is a City that is so special and so different from the rest of the country."

On Being Black and Successful in the Entertainment Industry

Over the years, she's played countless roles and is one of the most in demand character actresses in the business. Vanessa is best known for her roles in the box office smashes "Coming to America," "What's Love Got to Do with It", "Biker Boyz", "Love Don't Cost A Thing", "Daylight," "The Inkwell", "Crimson Tide", "The Brothers", "Cheaper By The Dozen" and she's



Vanessa Bell Calloway



(L-R) Winston Burns, CEO Newburns Management Group, Actress Vanessa Bell Calloway and Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry Jones

also voiced the lead female role in the animated feature "Bebe's Kids". Calloway is currently starring in Bounce TV's new hit one-hour drama "Saints & Sinners" as the matriarch Lady Ella Johnson. Talking about her recent projects she says, "Right now I am starring in 'Saints & Sinners' on Bounce TV I am Lady Ella, the lead character and our second season we've just completed and waiting to do our third. I am always staying busy; I am directing now as well, I directed an episode of 'Saints and Sinners,' I also have my own content on the web, 'In the

Company of Friends' and 'Cooking and Hooking Up' which are my own projects that I conceived, directed and created."

In the entertainment industry where many are hailed as the next big thing today only then to hover into obscurity; Calloway, since her early television appearance in 1985 as Yvonne Caldwell on the ABC soap opera 'All My Children' has been a mainstay in the industry playing many memorable roles. A feat not accomplished by many especially someone of color. Speaking of her secret to longevity she

says, "The secret to having longevity is to keep working and staying prevalent, stay positive and stay in the moment. It's like you just must keep working, like anything else we know about life you can't rest on your past laurels. You must keep moving and keep creating and just being present. I have a lot of people I have to thank for keeping me in the loop, but I also have to say it is my will and determination and belief in myself for staying relevant and being positive and keeping it moving and not being afraid of taking chances; in addition to growing and understanding all aspects of the industry."

Words that are Key to Living a Great Life

While being successful in business, she's been successful in other aspects of her life with the role of

mother and wife being the one she takes the most pride in. Vanessa has two beautiful adult daughters, Ashley and Alexandra and she has been married to her loving husband Anesthesiologist, Dr. Anthony Calloway for 28 years. She says this is what matters most to her in life, "My family is what gives me meaning and purpose. I love them; there's nothing I would trade for my family. Any professional accomplishments or awards substitutes for the love, the support and the health of my family and they are first and foremost to me and the rest will work itself out." On this ending note before Stevie Wonder hits the stage she's given me these words that are the keys to a great life. Vanessa Bell Calloway, through her example in the show business and living a well-rounded life is the true definition of a phenomenal woman.



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Delaney's Armoire

Fashion at Diner En Blanc



Delaney George
Fashion Columnist

Last week, people in white from all walks of life flooded the Lakefront during the anticipated interactive dining experience, Diner En Blanc. The dining experience originated in Paris in 1988 and debuted in over 70 cities to date. In New Orleans, Diner En Blanc guests showcased unique, extravagant, and angelic ensembles.

Attendees made fashion versatility look easy with their range of styles, from psychedelic trips back to the 70s, to elegant and white, to Afrocentric. Guests arrived in sheer with sparkling rhinestones, delicate furs and feathers, and even an all-white corset or two for an elegant renaissance touch. Attendees expressed their personal style with accessories such as a mask or cane or, in more lavish ways, a tailored suit or diamond feather head-piece.

"I have been waiting on this, for an entire year" said Melissa Causey, a first-time Diner En Blanc attendee. Causey said she was so eager to buy her ticket in advance based on the photos she saw of the event on Facebook the prior year.

Causey arrived in an all-white lace romper, made to hug the body, paired with a white 1930's bejeweled head-piece.

"I've known what I was going to wear for a while, and you would think you'd find someone with the same outfit as you because of the all-white attire, but I have yet to see a plain jane or a look stealer" Causey added.



Group of attendees pose in their unique style of all white ensembles.



This man posed in ripped jeans, a solid white long sleeve shirt, paired with a tailored over the shoulder blazer with a touch of red in its pocket.



This women wore sports a strapped mini-dress with a feathered covered skirt and a bow-style head band to match.



This guest arrived in a deep V-neck lace mini-dress paired with a sash around the waist and 2 Chanel accents two match.



Event attendee pairs a renaissance style corset with an all-white shawl complimented with an over-sized, customized, sheer sun hat.

For more information on Diner En Blanc visit www.neworleans.dinerenblanc.com and visit <https://nerenblancshotbylaneslense.com/dinerenblanc> for Delaney's Armoire's Top Diner En Blanc looks and event shots.

The Curly Corner

Why I Had to Stop Comparing My Natural Hair to Others



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

My natural hair journey is just mine. It isn't supposed to reflect anyone else's. It isn't supposed to be compared to someone else's texture, length, or style. Unfortunately, it is so easy to get lost comparing your curls to someone else's.

Social media can become a huge contributor to these feelings. Some of your favorite hair gurus may have corkscrew curls with definition to die for. You'll watch them post videos of using one creamy product on their hair and watch their frizz turn into these bountiful curls that incite envy. Accordingly, if natural hair is beginning to make you compare your hair texture to other women, then you're approaching your natural hair journey the wrong way.



Loving all of you includes loving every unique curl and coil.

Everyone has their own journey whether it be when you receive your degrees, marriage, children,

and how long it will take you to grow out that big chop. Your hair may not grow as fast as someone

else's but that does not mean that something is wrong with you. Too many times we see women on social media with our desired texture and buy loads of products trying to achieve that look but that isn't always the healthiest option for your hair.

The key is finding the right products, right length, and right style for YOU. If we all looked the same, the natural hair movement would look bland and predictable. A movement means that women from all walks of life with all types of experience with natural hair come together to improve their natural beauty.

Your natural beauty is unique and there is no other curl pattern that would look better on you than the one you have right now. The key is to embrace fine, coarse, kinky, curly, and everything in between. Your twist out may not look as full as another natural but that's okay. Embrace what was given to you. Your crown is fine just the way it is. Your hair is not second place to someone else's. Every natural must love their own crown of kinks and curls. If you don't then who will?

Malveaux, Continued from page 5.

base itself by offering a degree to DeVoid.

DeVoid insulted the BCU community by recounting Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune's life story as part of her commencement speech. How dare she tell us about ourselves in a way to attempt to endear us to her? Betsy DeVoid, you are no Mary McLeod Bethune. You can go to her gravesite, but you can't channel her energy. Don't get it twisted.

The low point of the B-CU commencement was the spectacle of President Edison Jackson chiding his students, because they had the integrity to protest the presence of Ms. DeVoid. He is their leader, their guru, their mentor. He should not have threatened his students, but instead offered them, and Ms. DeVoid, a series of palliative statements designed to honor the protest spirit of Dr. Bethune, and the

awkwardness of the moment. Had I been a scolded student, I would have felt slimed; had I been understood, I might have felt differently.

If I were a member of the Bethune-Cookman University class of 2017, I would contribute, for the next few years, to a fund that supports student activists. I'd find a classmate to run the fund outside the confines of the university. I'd support the fund, because I support my college, but not an administration that insults the best day of our college career with an odious and repugnant speaker.

We have to resist the ways that "45" and his minions like Omarosa Manigault are pimping HBCUs. "Woke" Black people have to be aggressive in our financial support of HBCUs, and indifferent to the disingenuous overtures that would bring a devoid presence like Betsy DeVos to an HBCU campus.

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

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



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