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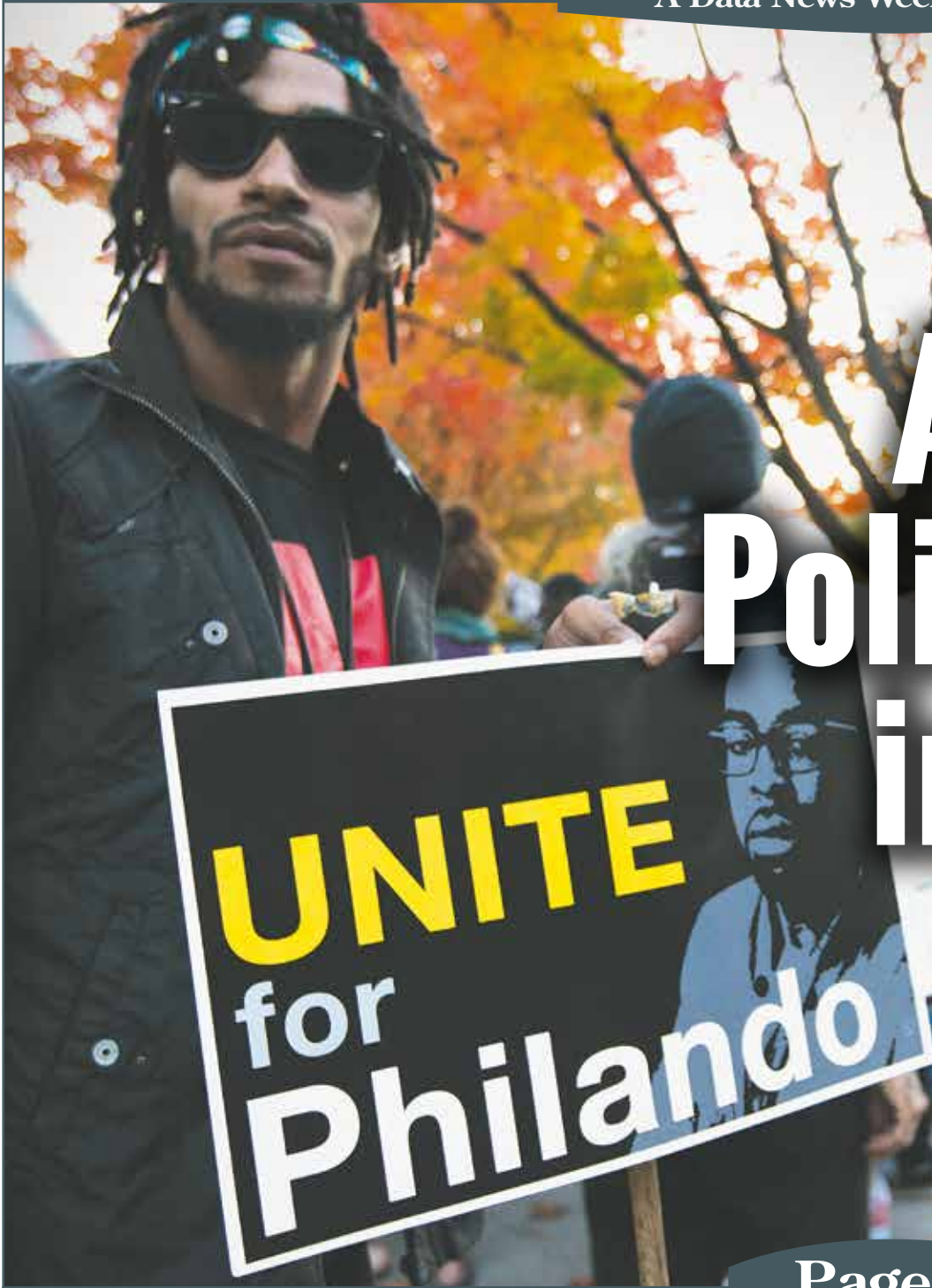
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Remembering Isaac Edward, Jr.

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July 22 - July 28, 2017 52nd Year Volume 13 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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In “Chokehold: Policing Black Men,” Attorney Paul Butler Takes on the Police Brutality



Butler points out that Black people have never been in a situation of good faith in America with police. Photo via Fibonacci Blue/Wikimedia Commons

Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Police brutality in the Black community is as old as law enforcement itself.

Former federal prosecutor Paul Butler speaks in depth on the issue in his new book, “Chokehold: Policing Black Men.”

“Even as a prosecutor I was a still a Black man,” said Butler during an interview on MSNBC with Rev. Al Sharpton. “I was even arrested for a crime I didn’t commit I was acquitted in less than five minutes.”

In his book, Butler points out that Black people have never been in a situation of good faith in America with police.

“When we say that the system is targeting Black

men, that’s true,” Butler told Sharpton. Butler worked as a prosecutor at the Department of Justice and is now a professor at Georgetown Law School in Washington, D.C. Butler also had a few recommendations for decreasing incidents of police brutality.

“Half of cops should be women,” Butler suggested. “Women cops are much less likely to shoot people.”

Butler continued: “Cops should have college de-

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Cover photo by Fibonacci Blue/Wikimedia Commons

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

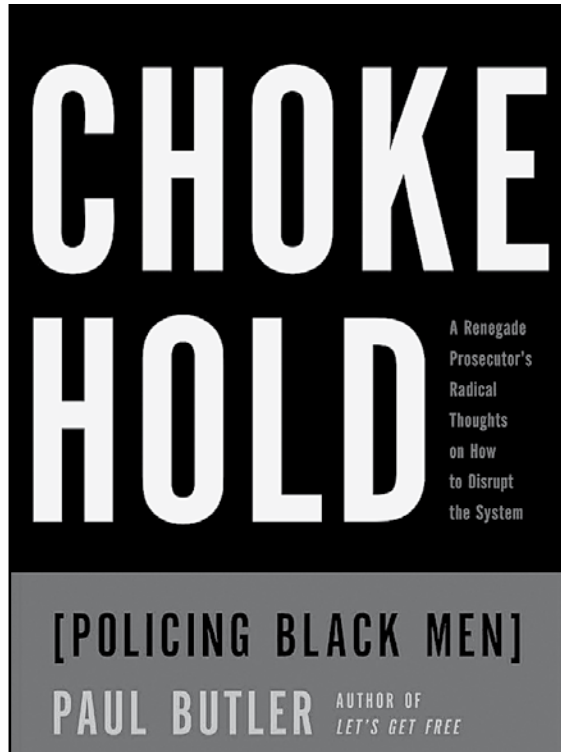
grees. Cops with college degrees are much less likely to shoot unarmed people.”

Butler takes a “no-holds-barred” approach to writing about police brutality.

In his book, Butler also points out that White men commit the majority of violent crime in the United States and that a White woman is ten times more likely to be raped by a White male acquaintance than becoming a victim of a violent crime perpetrated by a Black man.

Butler also speaks forcefully on the unwarranted fear Whites have of Blacks, and how that perception ends up impacting American policing.

Lauren Victoria Burke is a speaker, writer and political analyst. She appears on “NewsOne Now” with Roland Martin every Monday. Lauren 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.



Butler writes about police brutality in “Chokehold: Policing Black Men.” Image via Georgetown University.



Georgetown Law Professor Paul Butler. Photo via Georgetown University.

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Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman Inducted into Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame

Data News Staff Report

The Louisiana State Penitentiary inducted Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman to the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame on, Friday, July 14, along with eight other officials. The Penitentiary, which voted for Gusman unanimously, recognized Gusman and the other eight officials that work justice, civil rights and the protection of the public.

"I am humbled by the invitation for induction into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame," said Gusman. "In my 12 years as Orleans Parish Sheriff, I have championed alternatives to incarceration and supported victims' rights, while advocating measures to increase public safety. To be recognized along with such an impressive group of inductees is truly an honor."

The Justice Hall of Fame was



OPSO Sheriff Marlin Gusman

of law enforcement, the judiciary, criminal justice, civil service, and other related fields, including governmental service, corrections, education, communications/media, victim services, volunteerism, sponsorships and community activism.

As a member of the Justice Hall of Fame, Sheriff Gusman will have a permanent exhibit inside of the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum to display memorabilia representing aspects of his life and career in law enforcement. The day-long ceremony involves a tour of the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, a viewing of its Museum Complex and a formal banquet honoring the inductees.

The Thirteenth Annual Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame inductees include:

- Honorable Dennis R. Bagneris, Sr.
- Honorable Leon A. Cannizzaro, Jr.
- Honorable Jimmy N. Dimos
- Honorable Marlin N. Gusman
- Major General Bennett C. Landreaneau
- Honorable Marc H. Morial
- Honorable Newell Normand
- Rabbi Arnold S. Task

established by the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation Board of Directors in 2004 to honor and acknowledge the men and women of Louisiana who have served their community and their state in the honorable professions

NAACP to Hold Freedom Fund/Scholarship Banquet

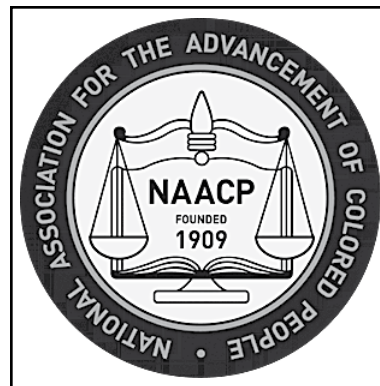
The Banquet will be primary fund-raising event for our branch and for a deserving scholar. Your contributions will help us sustain the New Orleans Branch that is honoring its 103-year legacy. The Branch will continue to engage our citizenry and commemorate some of our successes.


The featured speaker will be Dr. Cynthia Butler McIntyre, NAACP National Board Member.

This will be a night of fine dining and entertainment, with NAACP national leaders, elected officials, and community leaders in attendance. For ticket information or Souvenir Ad Book information, call 504 909-8011 or 504 628-4529.



Data News Staff Report

The NAACP New Orleans Branch will hold its annual Freedom Fund/Scholarship Banquet on August 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Abundance of Desire Center, 3600 Desire Parkway.






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Big Chief Victor Harris Fi Yi Yi

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Timeline:

Present – 1984 Mandingo Warriors
1965 – 1984 Yellow Pocahontas
(Flag boy)

Chief Fi Yi Yi has been a part of the Black Masking Culture (BMC) for over 50 years in New Orleans. Well respected amongst his peers and the community for his warrior spirit. For twenty years he was a Flag Boy for a legend. It is often said but rarely valued "in order to lead you must learn to follow". Chief Fi Yi Yi's devotion and dedication as flag boy has made him a Mighty Chief that has created his own banner under the Mardi Gras Indians (BMC). The Mandingo Warriors Tribe is an African Banner, the fourth. This humble warrior's community investment has been as mighty as his great spirit.

Q) How did the Mandingo Warriors and the spirit of Fi Yi Yi begin?

a) Well, it started out in 1984 but at the time I wasn't the spirit of FI Yi Yi I was only the flag boy of the Legendry Chief Tootie Montana of the Yellow Pocahontas and I was his flag boy for 20 years. I started off with the Yellow Pocahontas in 1965. He will always be in my heart. He will always be my chief.

Q) What separated you from the Yellow Pocahontas?

a) They had a guy named Ernie Skipper. He wanted to make a record. He called me and said hey Flag (because I was a Flag boy) Meet us across the street from Blunts Bar at a little house studio. He told me what he wanted me to do. He gave me my little que and I said:

Flag Boy, Flag Boy, Flag of the
Nation I'm the Flag Boy, I'm
Flag Boy the next one with a



Big Chief Victor Harris Fi Yi Yi

bad bad reputation I'm Flag Boy
from downtown and I won't bow
down because I don't know how
I'll meet everybody let them
come you know and with my tra-
ditional Howler.

I thought it was nice but it was so good to him, he took it and ran with it and from that point I didn't hear no more about that. Now when I did hear about it "Wow" it was a big ole conflict. It kept coming up and then I said well I gotta go and find out what is all this. Next thing I hear I'm out the tribe. I knew nothing about what they were talking about I knew zero! The guy Ernie Skipper took the record and he wrote Shot Gun Joe, Ernie Skipper, Flag (me), and he used the Yellow Pocahontas and that was the problem.

Q) An all this was in 1984 Chief?

a) Yeah, I was out the tribe and people were acting funny with me and even my cousin was ducking me, and he must have been brainwashed. I'm saying this went too far. This man used to do all of my designs. I used to tell him what I wanted. He used to draw everyone's stuff.

Q) What was the difference between going from Flag Boy to Chief?

a) I'm in control. Nobody wants to hear that but I'm in control and when they hear the word FI Yi Yi people come running you know. It's like a blessing everybody comes in for blessings believe me because they coming to be blessed. It's a blessing. It's a healing that's what. It's all about when you hear FI Yi Yi everybody coming and when everybody's feeling good you hear FI Yi Yi you forget your sickness. It's a healing thing and when FI Yi Yi comes everything else stops.

Q) Chief we know the name of the tribe is Mandingo Warrior's but where did you get the inspiration for FI Yi Yi?

a) The spirit of FI Yi Yi is about everyone. It don't exclude nobody. Things were going so bad I had to go to God. God is the only one that could save me. One night I'm home all alone. I turned everything off. I needed silence. I recall being in the kitchen with my back up against the wall. I started ask-

ing all these questions. Why? I want to mask but I have no tribe. How can I mask with no tribe? I said God please talk to me. I'm truly spilling my heart out...No answer from God. I started crying. Big tears. I cried and I cried till I put myself to sleep. The next morning, I woke just feeling good. Then I said to myself AYE Yi Yi... AYE Yi Yi... Fi Yi Yi. Then I got chills in my body then I said it again FI Yi Yi and it felt good then the third time. I clinched my fist and held my hand to God and I scream It FI YI YIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII

Q) After that major transition what was the environment like for masking in 7th ward?

a) Well since then it's like Roman falling. It started falling. It fell apart then the next thing you know someone else in the tribe got out the tribe and started a tribe and someone else in the tribe got out the tribe and started a tribe. There might be seven tribes in the seventh ward, in that one area from that one tribe. "I do know as long as I was there, there was one and as long as I had been there, and if I would have been there. There still would have been one."

Q) Chief how does your tribe impact the community?

a) I give a back to the school picnic party every year for 34 years we give 200-300 children and we give them all school supplies. We give them everything necessary that they need to put in their school pack. Pencils, paper, erasers, toilet paper, barrettes, you name it. Sharpener, rulers we just don't give them a school bag we pack it. Colors, glue and not only that but, we feed them, many people and everybody who walk on that field while we are doing that. So, you see yeah, we have an impact.

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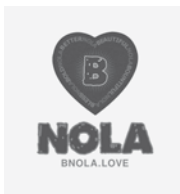


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Remembering Isaac Edward, Jr.

Kichea S. Burt
Photographer

Via Isaac Edward, Jr.'s obituary: Isaac "Mr. Ike" Edward Jr., retired Army Air Corp of the 92nd Division, served during World War II. He was born in Washington, DC to the late Isaac Edward Sr. and Cednoia Anthony on May 1, 1923, and departed this life on Wednesday, July 5, 2017.



TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

from the Clerk of Civil District Court
for the Parish of Orleans
HONORABLE DALE N. ATKINS



E-FILING LAUNCH JULY 2017

"It is with great excitement that I announce the launch of E-Filing in the Office of the Clerk of Civil District Court for Orleans Parish."

Hon. Dale N. Atkins

E-Filing is now available to attorneys through our new E-Filing and existing Remote Access subscription online services.

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- ✓ 2017 – Civil Electronic Filing



The Curly Corner

How to Strut your Best Mommy & Me Ensembles



Delaney George
Fashion Columnist

Being a new mommy can be one of the most special times in a parent's life, especially for a mommy fashionista. Mothers can take advantage of a fashion opportunity by dressing their little one up as they would themselves. It's never too early to start passing down style, class and the art of chic.

Mommy and me eyewear:

There's no better way to block out the summer heat than with a cute pair of shades. Cheetah print, all white, and vibrant neon summer colored shades would be perfect for a mom and her little supermodel. Local retailers such as @boldlense on Instagram, sells adult and child size shades for the mommies and daddies who want to keep themselves and their little one shaded and stylish.

Following in your stylish footsteps:

Matching shoes, whether it be sandals, flip-flops, or even beach shoes are one of the many cute ways to match your mini-me. Many stores and local vendors commonly sell adult styles that can be found in kids shoes as well. Even if your ensembles don't match, you and your little fashionista can step out in style with your matching footwear.

Who wore it best:

There's nothing cuter than you and your cutie dressed exactly alike from head to toe. Let your little one get inspired by your closet or you get inspired by theirs. Matching shirts, skirts, pants headbands and accessories are always a fun and fashionable idea. You can even take it a step further and style your hair the same as your kid's: assuring a cuteness overload.

For more information on how to be the most fashionable with your child email Delinkey@yahoo.com



Mommy and me African Tribal set worn by a baby girl and her expecting mother.



Bold Lense kids shades for boys are worn on two kid models.



Blue bow satin Mommy and me sliders worn by a mom and her daughter.

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Ol' Southern Racism Fuels Economic Inequality in Louisiana



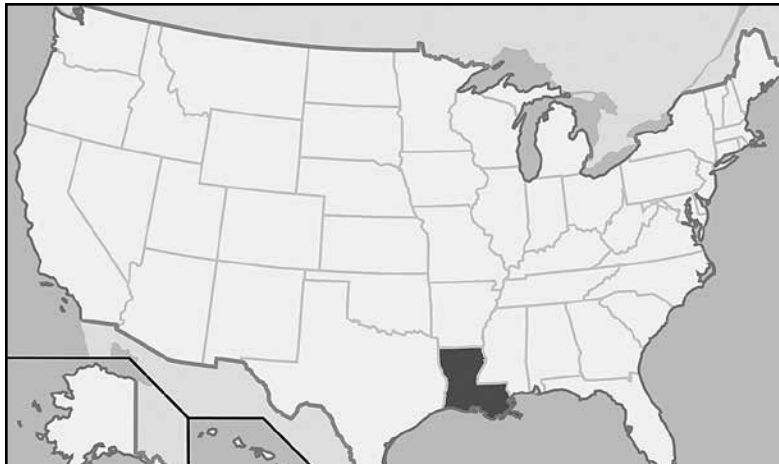
Carmen Green, MPH
The Drum/NNPA Member

Economic mobility is the ability for someone to go from low or no income to middle income in one lifetime, or for the next generation to earn money at a higher tax bracket. This is the essence of the American Dream. However, today it is more difficult for young adults to surpass their parent's socioeconomic status than it was in the 80s.

We were taught if we work hard and funnel enough opportunities and blessings our way, we would be able to provide a better life for our children and grandchildren. However, the data on economic mobility says otherwise, especially for people of color in Louisiana.

Our state is the third poorest state in the nation where 347,000 Black and Hispanic children live in poverty. The latest Census reported that Louisiana's 31 percent poverty rate in the Black community dwarfs that of Whites (12 percent) and Hispanics (16 percent). Forty-two percent of our households struggle to meet their basic needs and our Black women only make 48 cent for every dollar that men make.

The Pew Charitable Trust released a report that measures resident's average earnings growth over time, ranking state mobility based on people's earnings, their peers and ability to move on the economic spectrum. They found that even though the economy is on the uptick, most of the decline in mobility is due to unequal distribution of economic growth. Louisiana is considered an economically poor state. Thirty-five percent of our jobs are low-wage and more than 205,000 Black children here are living in families where the parent(s) do not have full-time, year-round employment. Considering the large



Carmen Green, a policy fellow at the Louisiana Budget Project, says Black people have an especially hard time with mobility in Louisiana, with little to no fault of our own. Photo via Wapcaplet/Wikimedia Commons

gaps between the very poor and very rich in this state, Louisiana is named one of three "worst states" for economic mobility. Black people have an especially hard time with mobility in Louisiana, with little to no fault of our own. Let me explain.

Being subjected to an American history rife with policies that economically oppress people of color has its effects, and they've been

building up. Eighty-seven percent of the time that Black people have been in the Americas, since being dragged across the Atlantic in the 1600s, it was legal to block us from building wealth, i.e., slavery, sharecropping, and exclusion from the benefits of the GI bill after fighting for our country in WWII. Even after civil rights legislation released us from overt oppression, discrimina-

tory federal and state policies have worked against us to maintain that income inequality. Right now, a White head of household who is high school dropout makes two-thirds more than Black heads of household with a college degree. This is not happenstance. This environment was created over time and can be dismantled over time, and it won't take another 400 years, if we play it right.

As we attempt to move upward, discriminatory policies for the low-income and melanin-rich continue to weigh us down. Legislative bills to raise minimum wage are routinely shot down in Louisiana for fear of stressing businesses at the expense of helping low-wage earners. The rise of corporate power in politics has made it so that only the most affluent keep their money bags—which is why everyone isn't moving on up like George and Weezy Jefferson. Additionally, Louisiana tax policy simply isn't doing enough to repair the tax structure for a sus-

Racism, Continued
on page 11.

Welcoming Immigrants Keeps America Great



Rep. André Carson
(D-Ind.)

President Donald Trump was elected on his pledge to make America great again. Yet, for all of his rhetoric, he seems to have forgotten the men and women, from every corner of the globe, who have worked so hard to build the great country we see today.

President Trump leads a nation of immigrants, yet part of his plan involves suspending our country's refugee program and barring immigrants from six predominantly

Muslim countries.

It's a policy that is not only unsafe; it's unlawful, uninformed, and un-American.

Many of the most shameful periods in our nation's history were those in which we permitted hatred and fear of the "Other" to shape our public policy. Beginning with slavery—which took a civil war to overcome—to the denial of entry to Jews fleeing Nazism, or the internment of Japanese Americans, today these moments are correctly judged as shameful departures from our core values. Right now, we face one of those moments.

President Trump's ban is affecting millions; mothers with young children, family members trying to reach their loved ones who are already here, and those desperately fleeing for their lives. These people look to America as



President Trump's travel ban and propaganda has displaced many minority and international families. Photo by Laurie Shaul/Flickr.com

a land of hope and opportunity, where they can build new lives away from the violence and persecution they face in their home countries. To turn them away at our doorstep is cruel.

This policy degrades our alliances with countries we rely on

in the war against ISIS—most of which are majority Muslim. We cannot ask for their assistance while simultaneously insulting their religion and questioning their reliability. This policy, born out of fear rather than a security strategy, threatens our friend-

ships, fuels terrorist propaganda, and supports the false narrative that the West is waging a war against Islam. It makes us a target for terrorism rather than keeping us safe.

As a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I know better than most the wide array of threats our country faces every day. We cannot ignore them. But forcing an entire population to shoulder the blame is unjust and does nothing but divide us further.

This ban is not an effective way to protect Americans. Instead, we should be investing in our intelligence professionals, who can analyze information and develop calculated responses in real-time. Additionally, we can further strengthen our immigrant vetting

Immigrants, Continued
on page 11.

New Study:

Black Homeownership Falls to 42.2 percent



Charlene Crowell
NNPA Newswire Columnist

For the 12th consecutive year, America's national homeownership rate has declined, according to Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS)' annual report, "State of the Nation's Housing 2017." This year's report also found these declines vary by race and ethnicity.

As some might expect, the steepest homeownership decline occurred in Black communities, where the percentage of homeowners dropped to 42.2 percent. Among the nation's largest metro areas, Black homeownership declined the greatest in Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas and Detroit. By contrast, Latino-American homeownership is higher at 46 percent, but both communities of color severely lag behind the nearly 72 percent rate of White homeownership.

"The ability of most U.S. households to become homeowners," states the report, "depends on the availability and affordability of financing."

And therein lies the crux of the problem: access and affordability.

The lack of access to mortgage financing in Black America has a long history rooted in outright discrimination by private actors such as banks, and supported by inequitable federal housing policies that favored white communities, while intentionally disadvantaging Black communities. This discrimination hindered generations of Black families from entering and remaining among America's middle class. These practices also resulted in lower levels of both Black wealth and homeownership.

Today, applying for a mortgage means a visit to a bank where high incomes, low debt and high credit scores are among the most favored measures for loan application success. Since the foreclosure crisis, according to the JCHS report, the median credit score for an owner-occupied home purchase origination increased from about 700 in 2005 to 732 in 2016.



Charlene Crowell says that the lack of access to mortgage financing in Black America has a long history rooted in outright discrimination.

Just as communities of color were wrongly targeted for predatory and high-cost mortgages that pushed them into foreclosure, these same communities are the most likely to have suffered credit score declines from foreclosures, unemployment or delinquent debt—or a combination of all three.

According to a 2017 CFED report, "A Downpayment on the Divide," the mortgage denial rate for Blacks is more than 25 percent, near 20 percent for Latinos, but just over 10 percent for White applicants.

The issue of housing affordability is just as challenging. CFED also found that whites are three times more likely than Blacks to receive financial assistance from families to pay for down payments and other upfront costs that accompany a mortgage. The racial disparity is due to America's history of whites being able to accumulate wealth through homeownership opportunity while Blacks were denied. As a result, Black households typically delay homeownership 8 years longer than Whites, resulting in a comparable delay in building home equity.

JCHS also found that nearly 39 million American families are financially challenged with their cost of

housing.

So, is the American Dream of homeownership realistic for communities of color?

A June 29 public hearing before the U.S. Senate Banking Committee focused on how mortgage finance reform and government-sponsored enterprises, also known as GSEs, must live up to its "duty to serve" all communities.

"Homeownership is the primary way that most middle-class families build wealth and achieve economic stability," testified Mike Calhoun, President of the Center for Responsible Lending. "Wide access to credit is critical for building family wealth, closing the racial wealth gap and for the housing market overall."

In the throes of the 1930s Great Depression, Congress created the GSEs to provide stability to capital markets and to increase the availability of mortgage credit throughout the nation. They were also given a mandate: Serve all credit markets all times, ensuring access and availability across the country.

From 2003 to 2006, the years leading up to the housing crisis, the GSEs followed an unfortunate private mortgage market trend. By loosening underwriting guidelines, particularly for Alt-A no documenta-

tion loans, millions of foreclosures occurred and GSE credit losses led to conservatorship under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, also known as HERA. HERA also enacted a number of reforms that have made today's market stronger.

Now, with far fewer foreclosures nationwide, Congress is deliberating over the future of the GSEs and \$6.17 trillion in mortgages they now hold along with Federal Housing Administration issued mortgages.

"Home equity accounts for only 30 percent of the net worth for wealthier households," continued Calhoun, "but constitutes 67 percent for middle-to-low income households. Home equity accounts for 53 percent of African-American wealth as compared to 39 percent for whites."

Homebuyers of the future will be more racially and ethnically diverse than those of the past. The JCHS reported that non-whites accounted for 60 percent of household growth from 1995-2015. By 2035, it predicts that half of millennial households will be non-White.

When communities of all sizes, colors, and economies succeed, so does America. While much of our nation has financially recovered from the foreclosure crisis that brought the loss of homes, jobs, businesses, and wealth, recovery has been uneven and left many communities behind.

Those entrusted with leadership roles in the public and private sectors must agree that it is in our national interest to ensure that the recovery is inclusive and sustainable long-term. Broad access to mortgage credit still helps families and the national economy.

"The goal must be to ensure that the full universe of creditworthy borrowers—regardless of where they live, including in rural areas, or who they are—have access to the credit they need to be able to secure a mortgage so that they can build their American dreams," concluded Calhoun.

Charlene Crowell is the communications deputy director for the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:crowell@responsiblelending.org).

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Girls Trip

Dwight Brown
NNPA Newswire Film Critic

This hilarious and relentlessly bawdy take on a girls' weekend reunion in New Orleans is following in the footsteps of some very popular female-appeal movies like "Sex In the City" and "Bridesmaids." But "Girls Trip" is not a copycat. It's very unique and will leave its own lasting imprint on the good-girls-gone-wild genre.

Ten minutes into this comedy, you're asking yourself, "Who the hell wrote this?" The story is contemporary, the dialogue is laugh-out-loud funny, the characters are distinct and their life dramas, rivalries and relationship problems are thoroughly engaging for 122 minutes.

Blame the naughty humor on Kenya Barris (TV's "Black-ish") and Tracy Oliver ("Barbershop"). They completely understand the lurid minds of ladies who've had one-too-many cocktails and speak their mind. And for audience members who do not have a potty mouth, but wish they did, this crew says every wicked thing you ever thought, but never had the nerve to say.

Ryan Pierce (Regina Hall, "When the Bough Breaks") is a successful and envied author, somewhat like an Oprah without a TV show. She's married to ex-NFL player Stewart (Mike Colter, "Luke Cage"). On the surface, they have an ideal marriage and are on the verge of getting their own talk show. Behind closed doors, they've got problems. However, they must protect their brand and are determined to keep up their facade.

Ryan talks her old college girlfriends, who used to call themselves the "Flossy Posse," into a reunion in New Orleans at the annual Essence Music Festival. There's Dina (Tiffany Haddish, "The Carmichael Show"), the brassy one who talks like a drunk hooker, "We gonna get some d—k this weekend." Lisa (Jada Pinkett Smith), a nurse with two kids, is the prudish one: "Dina! I need you to use your lady mouth." Sasha (Queen Latifah) is a gossip columnist, who is having trouble paying her bills.

The foursome gathers at the airport, checks into a lavish hotel and in short order they are kicked out thanks to Dina's outlandish behavior. Apparently the finer establishments don't take kindly to women



Queen Latifah, Regina Hall, Jada Pinkett Smith and Tiffany Haddish in Girls Trip. (Universal Pictures)



Tiffany Haddish stars in Girls Trip. (Universal Pictures)

who threaten patrons with broken champagne bottles. The group moves to a fleabag motel that's frequented by \$5 prostitutes.

That's the set up, and director Malcolm Lee ("The Best Man"), who has become the populist voice for the Black middle-class, works his magic. Scenes melt into each other with a quick rhythm, and

each has its own dynamic, builds to a crescendo and leaves plenty of room for the cast to engage in comical banter. He gives the actresses room to play their characters to the max. Bedroom scenes, dance-offs, bar fights, Beale Street parades, testy confrontations, shocking revelations and raunchy repartee are orchestrated with precision.

You barely have time to breathe between the outrageous scenes (editor Paul Millsbaugh, "The Best Man Holiday").

The cast works well together as an ensemble. Pinkett Smith finds the humor in her dour character, who is in desperate need of a wild night out. When she hooks up with a lanky 21-year-old (Kofi Siriboe,

"Queen Sugar"), she gets her mojo back. Hall, as the lead character, has the right mix of shocking indignation and resignation. Latifah adds texture to the financially challenged Sasha. Larenz Tate plays an old friend named Julian, who is a sensitive soul and a perfect counterbalance to Stewart, a hardened lothario. Tate hasn't aged a day since 1997's "Love Jones."

Haddish gets the best lines and the most outrageous physical humor. What she does with a banana and a grapefruit in one scene is so whacked out she could earn a best supporting actress award. She lifts the Dina character off the page, brings her alive on screen and displays a go-for-the-jugular humor that makes you think she will do anything for a laugh, just like Melissa McCarthy.

The quartet of actresses must share top-billing with New Orleans and the Essence Music Festival. Through the lens of cinematographer Greg Gardiner ("The Best Man Holiday") NOLA and Beale Street look so inviting. The colors, especially in the costumes (Danielle Hollowell, "The Best Man Holiday"), pop off the screen with brilliant yellows, lush reds and bright oranges. Also, if you've been curious about the Essence Music Festival and have never gone, you're getting a free look. Glimpses of concert performances by Maxwell, Faith Evans and others enliven the footage. Cameos by Morris Chestnut and Ava DuVernay add verve.

There is something endearing about watching old friends work through their differences and rekindle the love and solidarity that once united them. But that's like reading Playboy for the great articles. Audiences who venture out to see Girls Trip are really hungering for outlandish humor and a good date movie—and that's what they'll get. They will laugh themselves silly and leave happy.

Every two seconds you'll find yourself saying, "I can't believe they just said that." But they did—and it was oh-so funny!

Dwight Brown is a film critic and travel writer. As a film critic, he regularly attends international film festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Toronto and the American Black Film Festival. Read more movie reviews by Dwight Brown here and at DwightBrownInk.com.

3 Reasons Why You Should Try Fulani Braids This Summer



Destiny Johnson
Natural Hair Columnist

Braids and natural hair have been paired since past and current natural hair movements. Throughout the decades since the 1960s, braids have been a way to reveal your afro-centric style or non-conforming personality. In 2017, thinner braids are beginning to make a comeback through the rediscovered "Fulani Braid Style" that was first spotted on the Singer Alicia Keys in the early 2000s.

This style originates from braids worn by the women of the Fulani Tribe that is scattered across



Fulani braids are the perfect way to upgrade your style. Photo via www.africanamericanhairstylevideos.com.

Niger, Nigeria, and other West African countries. They are readily identified by the forward-facing braids that sit above each ear with attached colorful beads. Cowry shells and gold braid cuffs can also be incorporated into this hairstyle for creativity.

Here are 3 reasons why you should rock Fulani braids sometime this summer:

1. Fulani braids are a great protective style if you want to give your curls a rest in the summer heat. They can protect from dryness and even promote growth due to low manipulation.
2. This the perfect way to display your admiration for African Culture and style.
3. Fulani braids are ultra-feminine and go well with any outfit from casual to elegant and depending on how you adorn your braids with beads, gold, or shells you can add flair to any wardrobe.

Happy Growing!

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If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

We can't wait to hear from you!

Racism, Continued from page 8.

tainable and fair future where everyone can get the mobility to roll out of their tight situation.

Policies fueled by that ol' southern racism are the core reason why the economic inequality hasn't begun to level in Louisiana and neighboring states. Policies that gerrymander districts, segregate the population, and disinvest from Black communities have long-term effects. Racially-segregated, Black communities have low capital, meaning it's harder to get 'hooked up' with an interview, internship, or first job that may lift someone out of poverty. Our communities are targeted for mass incarceration with "poverty violations" like officers scouting innocent drivers in the hopes that one will be driving with a suspended license or a warrant. Education is one of the silver bullets; even after taking student loan debt into account, most college graduates earn more than their parents did.

Economic mobility is such a challenge for Black people in this state, because of the deep economic inequality created by historical and current racist policies. We need to do our part to heal racism in our state and become more civically engaged. Racial equality and overall economic growth will increase mobility for Black people in our state. That means more job-training, small business ownership and entrepreneurial activity. That means fewer tax breaks to the richest one percent of residents and those serving corporate interests. It also means effectively reinvesting in our communities, from the state house to your house.

Immigrants, Continued from page 8.

processes to better weed out any legitimate threats without categorically denying a safe haven for those who need our help the most. We should be focusing on real tools to keep our country safe, relying on facts and analysis instead of uninformed biases.

Since our founding, our country has struggled with discrimination and inequality. But experience has shown us that those pushing fear and hatred have been proven wrong time after time. And with each challenge we have overcome, it has become increasingly clear that our country is stronger when we embrace diversity of all types. Today, immigrants from all parts of the world and people of all faiths have been central to our economic success, vibrant democratic discourse, and cultural richness. We must keep America great by embracing immigrants and refugees, not turning them away.

Rep. André Carson represents the 7th District of Indiana. He is First Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and one of two Muslims in Congress. Rep. Carson sits on the House Intelligence Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Follow Rep. Carson on Twitter @RepAndreCarson.

MCDONOGH 35

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

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

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



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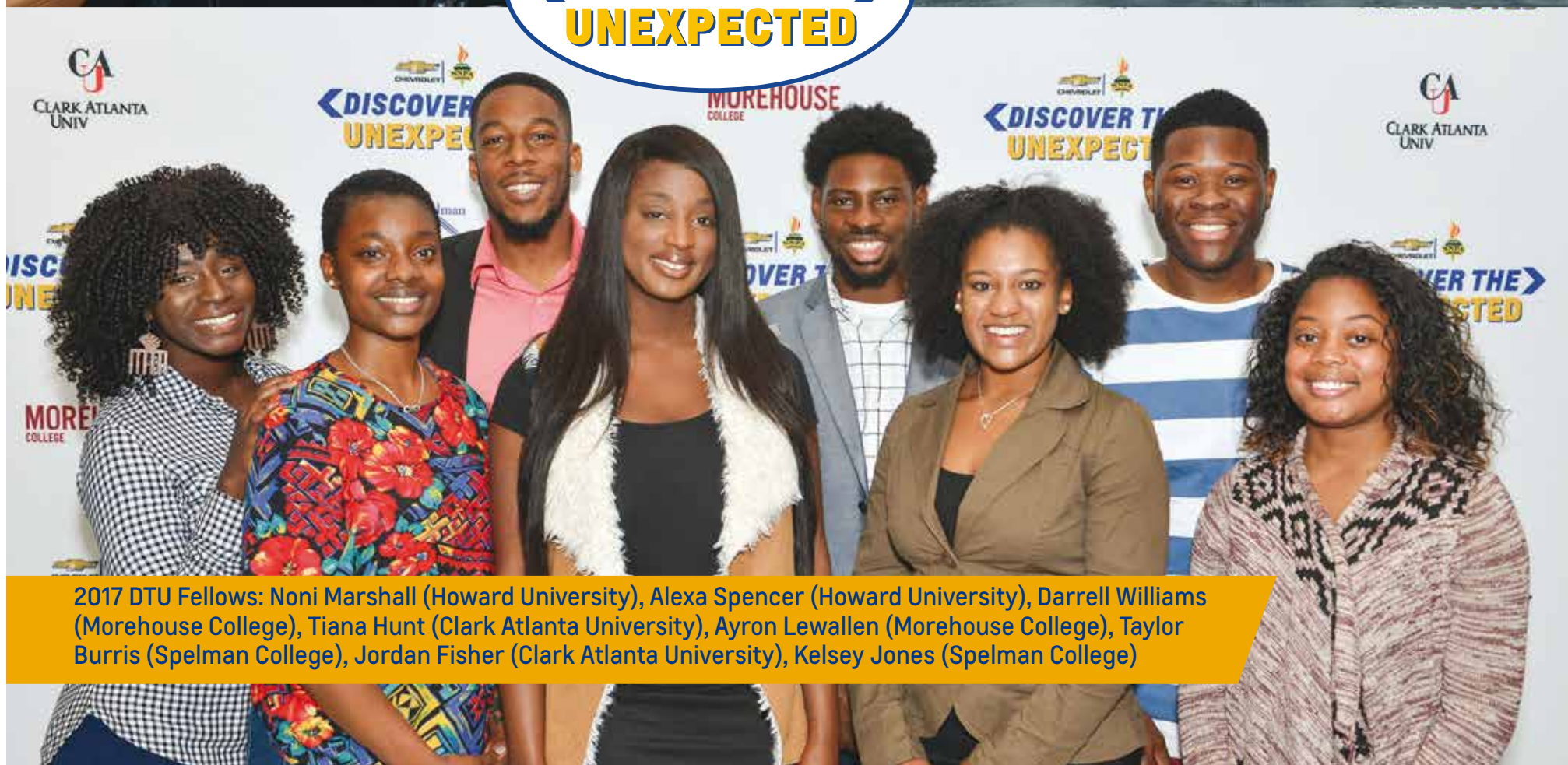
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CHEVROLET 



2017 DTU Fellows: Noni Marshall (Howard University), Alexa Spencer (Howard University), Darrell Williams (Morehouse College), Tiana Hunt (Clark Atlanta University), Ayron Lewallen (Morehouse College), Taylor Burris (Spelman College), Jordan Fisher (Clark Atlanta University), Kelsey Jones (Spelman College)

Our DTU Fellows are busy connecting and collecting amazing stories from the African American community! This year, Discover the Unexpected presented by the all-new 2018 Chevrolet Equinox in partnership with the National Newspaper Publishers Association includes students from Howard University, Spelman College, Morehouse College and Clark Atlanta University. Check out the inspirational stories and exciting videos from our 8 DTU Fellows from Atlanta, Washington D.C., Raleigh and New Orleans.

#discovertheunexpected

DISCOVER MORE OF THEIR STORY AT NNPA.ORG/DTU