Congressman Richmond Meets with FBI Director Over ‘Black Identity Extremists’ Report
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CBC Members Met with FBI Director Christopher Wray about the FBI’s Controversial “Black Identity Extremists” Report. This Is What They Learned.

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

FBI Director Christopher A. Wray failed to explain why the agency he leads changed the name of a domestic terrorism designation from “Black Separatist Extremist” to “Black Identity Extremist,” during a recent meeting with a group of Congressional Black Caucus members about a leaked FBI document.

Wray also refused to acknowledge that Black activists, including Black Lives Matter organizers, are being monitored by the FBI, according to CBC members present at the meeting.

The leaked FBI document, titled “Black Identity Extremists Likely Motivated to Target Law Enforcement Officers,” sparked a wave of controversy and sharp criticism of the FBI.

At least one CBC member called the leaked document “COINTELPRO 2.0,” while another said that the report “calls for open season on Black activists.” The document was shared widely with local law enforcement agencies across the country.

According to Newsweek, following the “fatal attacks on police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2016, the bureau expressed concerns about ‘the threat of copycat attacks against law enforcement’ at the Republican and Democratic national conventions.”

Newsweek also reported that other documents showed that “the FBI has monitored Black Lives Matter protesters.”

CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.) and a group of CBC members met with FBI Director Christopher Wray about the “Black Identity Extremists” report. This photo was taken during a recent ceremonial swearing-in event for the 115th Congress in Washington, D.C. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)
Those documents were released, because of a lawsuit to expose the surveillance filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the civil rights group Color of Change.

On Wednesday, November 29, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond (D-La.) and 2nd Vice Chair Karen Bass (D-Calif.), provided an overview of their meeting with Wray in a teleconference with National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) President Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis; NNPA National Chairman Dorothy Leavell; and a group of Black publishers, editors and reporters.

CBC members, who are also members of the House Committee on Homeland Security, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the House Committee on the Judiciary, were present at the meeting.

“Listening to [Wray], especially considering meetings and discussions we’ve had with Attorney General [Jeff] Sessions, he appeared to be a breath of fresh air,” Bass said.

According to Bass, Wray said the “Black Identity Extremists” report was completed prior to his taking the post, but he acknowledged that he “owns the document” now.

Wray also said that no one would be investigated or targeted, unless they met three points of criteria: there had to be credible evidence of federal crimes; a credible threat of force or violence; and both of those points had to exist in furtherance of a social or political goal.

Bass said the FBI uses that criteria to categorize people as domestic terrorists and, according to the leaked document, “Black Identity Extremists” fall into the category of domestic terrorism.

Wray also admitted that the policy wasn’t new, the name simply changed, Bass said.

“They used to call it ‘Black Separatist Extremists’ and they changed it to ‘Black Identity Extremists,’” said Bass. “[Wray] didn’t have a lot of rationale for why that change took place, except for the fact that the people that fall under the category ‘Black Identity Extremists’ don’t seem to be separatists in today’s world.”

CBC members raised major concerns about the report, one of which was how FBI even crafted the methodology to come up with the category of “Black Identity Extremists.”

“[Wray] essentially said that they used ‘open source’ documents, which means news reports,” said Bass. “Lord knows what that means.”

Bass said that, based on what she heard from Wray, the methodology seemed “flimsy.”

“When we raised our concerns that a new generation of Black activists were being targeted [including the Black Lives Matter movement] for surveillance and harassment, [Wray] said repeatedly that there was no investigation of the Black Lives Matter movement,” said Bass.

Bass and the other CBC members let Wray know that they were “completely aware” that some activists in their communities were experiencing surveillance and harassment, even though they didn’t meet the requirements that Wray described that would lead to an investigation.

The CBC members asked the FBI to retract the document and issue a new message to local law enforcement agencies.

“One of the problems with this document is that it has been widely distributed to law enforcement agencies around the country,” said Bass. “Many of us referenced either our own personal experiences or experiences we were aware of during the COINTELPRO years, when if you send a document like this out to local law enforcement, in many of our opinions, you can declare open season on Black activists, because, then local law enforcement agencies can use the document as justification for doing whatever they want to do.”

COINTELPRO, or the “Counter Intelligence Program” of the FBI, was designed in part to “expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of the Black nationalists,” during the 1950s and 1970s.

Writing for the Huffington Post, G. Flint Taylor, a founding partner of the People’s Law Office in Chicago, said that hundreds of documents were uncovered during a court case in 1976 that revealed massive wiretap overhears, including conversations between BPP members and their attorneys,” Taylor wrote.

“The FBI denies they are surveilling (sic) our groups like the Black Lives Matter movement, but we told them that we don’t believe it and our information tells us that” those groups are under surveillance, said Richmond.

Richmond said that the CBC members plan to present information to the FBI detailing surveillance and harassment of Black organizations.

The FBI director expressed interests in meeting with CBC members regularly because, “We are the eyes and ears on the ground,” and the FBI offers diversity that the agency lacks, said Richmond.

Bass asked the Black Press to put the call out to their readers to let lawmakers know if they have experienced harassment or surveillance, a request that Richmond echoed.

Chavis, the president and CEO of the NNPA, committed to working with Richmond and other CBC members to uncover stories of unwarranted government surveillance and harassment in the Black community.

“People may be more considerate in doing things, if they know that the Black Press will be on their case,” said Leavell, the chairman of the NNPA. “In addition, it certainly shows our strength, if we can have a great impact.”
Commission Sees Reparations as a Tool to Uplift African-Americans

Story and Photos
By Naomi Hill
Data News Contributor

The National African-American Reparations Commission brought its struggle for reparations for people of African descent to New Orleans on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 at Xavier University. NAARC’s primary demand is that European nations compensate African descendants in the United States for the effects left behind from the cruelty of slavery. Through ten steps of reparation, NAARC believes proper healing of African-American people could take place. The ten steps range from acknowledgement of past actions, to rewriting the Criminal Justice System.

“The first of our ten-point platform is a formal apology. The apology is the center of reclaiming our dignity,” said Kamm Howard, the Co-Chairperson of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. He believes European countries must own the crimes performed against people of color before any other steps can be taken.

“People become experts in what they do the most. This entire system has created nothing but death and destruction and debauchery for our people, globally, not just in the United States of America,” Newton said.

“Reparations cannot be fulfilled if the community’s health is in danger,” the commission’s members said. “Nana” Dr. Patricia Newton, the Chief Executive Officer of Black Psychiatrists of America, said centuries of slavery, economical and educational disparities, and all other struggles Black people have endured have turned the community into experts in dying.

“Education is another gateway to rightful action, according to the commission. Graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) are important, because they bring their knowledge back to the community, said V.P . Franklin, the Editor for the Journal of African-American History. He said reparations should be used to pay off student debts of those who gave back to the Black community.

“The following step is to create an African Knowledge Program,” Howard said. It would be established, which would feature the roles of public and private organizations in slavery, systems of segregation, damages that happened during and after slavery, and systems, such as Jim Crow Laws, that created entitlement for Whites in society.

The final step is to create sacred sites and monuments. “We need to know that we were buried in very scattered places,” said Yvette Modestin, the Founder and Executive Producer of Encuentro Diaspora. “And we need to recognize those spaces, so we can honor them in the rightful way.” Modestin said marked sites should include

Sir Hillary Beckles, the Keynote Speaker, is Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

With the apology, Howard said, an African Holocaust Institute should be established, which would feature the roles of public and private organizations in slavery, systems of segregation, damages that happened during and after slavery, and systems, such as Jim Crow Laws, that created entitlement for Whites in society.

“Our land has been systemically stolen, and the right to land for social and economic development is so important,” said Dr. Julianne Malveaux, the former President of Bennett College. She told the audience the United States had almost 130 Black-owned banks, but at the turn of the 19th Century, only 21 are in business. Establishing a Black Business Development Fund will kick-start competition with White counterparts, Malveaux said.

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Reparations Commission panelists from left to right: Kamm Howard, Dr. Julianne Malveaux, “Nana” Dr. Patricia Newton, Attorney Nkechi Taifa, Dr. Iva Carruthers, Rev. JoAnn Watson, Yvette Modestin, and V.P . Franklin.

Newsmaker, Continued
Big Chief Nelson “Mandela Jr.” Lewis
“The Black Wolf Hunters”

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

TRIBAL TIMELINE:
2008 – Present - Big Chief Nelson “Mandela Jr.” Lewis

Chief Nelson started masking as a Wildman with no tribe. Chief first saw Black Masking Indians as a child on horseback from the Black Mohawks Tribe that used to come out of Shrewsbury, but now is out of Uptown. “I started carving masks and receiving spirits on how to draw”, along with the spirit of his mother’s sewing. Before the age of 12 he would watch his mom sew as he was honing his skills in mask carving. As Chief says, “she put that spirit in me, in my later years I started sewing”. It seems that the spirits have been guiding Chief Nelson since he was a child. These two accounts of spiritual connectedness are quite unique.

Growing up Nelson watched the Indians in his area sew but did not belong to a tribe. Without receiving instruction on how to decompose a dress or coat to build a suit, he began scavenging for material and came across a baptism robe. The instruction on how to decompose belonging to a tribe. Without receiving Indians in his area sew but did not. He began scavenging for material and a dress or coat to build a suit, he started carving even more. That’s my culture, that is my call. All that you see in here is my Indian blood in me. I have that ral for me, I was born an Indian, I have that strength in you. If you don’t have the strength in you, you won’t pick up that needle because that needle will make you put it down. Once you start putting that thing in your finger, there’s no thimble on your finger if you a true Indian. You got to feel it, you got to want it and you must have that desire to make it. There are no weak Chiefs’ out there.”

Q) What is your opinion of the suits?
A) Let me tell you something about my feelings and view of the red man or the Black man in the designs on the suits?

Big Chief’s grandmother was full blooded Chasta Indian, and he lives in the house his family built over 80 years ago. Chief says “It’s natural for me, I was born an Indian, I have Indian blood in me. I have that desire. All that you see in here is based on the culture of an Indian. That’s my culture, that is my calling that is why I do what I do. If you don’t have that spirit in you, you will not be able to do this. When you are masking you must have that spirit and the strength in you. If you don’t have the strength in you, you won’t pick up that needle because that needle will make you put it down. Once you start putting that thing in your finger, there’s no thimble on your finger if you a true Indian. You got to feel it, you got to want it and you must have that desire to make it. There are no weak Chiefs’ out there.”

Q) What has this culture done for you?
A) It gave me a perspective of what my identity was. It made me feel, I could have peace in myself. To know who I am, what type of person I am. Why I do this here, also gave me the strength to pass it on to the younger generation. That’s something that everybody should know about, is how to identify yourself. To know who you are what you are. I feel good by doing this, there is a lot of time put into this. To have the type of spirit I have, it’s a good thing it’s a good feeling.

Q) What is one thing you want people to know about this Black Masking Culture?
A) Everybody should know that we all not African! And, that this was our land, basically people believe we all came from Africa and that’s not the truth.

Q) What is your hope for the future of this culture and our community as a whole?
A) As a group of people, I think we should come together a little bit more. And, find out which way we can communicate with each other for us to be successful as a race of people. We been on a trail of tears for so long.

Q) In the next 300-year celebration, what do you want the legacy of the Black Wolf Hunters to be?
A) He was a hell of a man, he was just like Geronimo and Cochise, he was legend to be.
This past Tuesday the Victoria Secret Fashion Show aired on CBS. The show displayed angels new to old and had a wide range of looks to wow the crowd. Here were my favorites looks of the runway:

The first line of styles the well-known lingerie company premiered were nothing short of fabulous. Models walked in dark colored bralettes, bras, panties and jewels that were a mix of urban and glam. The second look consisted of beautiful patterns in white, blue, and black. Designers focused a lot on lines and symmetry of each model, from the shoes to the wings. This collection gave off a light and flowy feel while still obtaining that sexy Vicky feel.

The last and final look of the night, or as I would call it, “the walk of angels” was by far my favorite look. Each model was in a light-colored bra, corset, or undie set with a pair of wings or long train attached. The models walked with grace as their trains flowed behind him and outfits shined in the light. In true angel fashion, the show ended with a performance and special confetti affects.

To view the show visit https://www.victoriassecret.com/fashion-show/videos. And email delinkey@yahoo.com or dm your favorite looks to @Delanii on Instagram.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
Power 102.9 Spotlight:
Tara Jae your On-Air BFF

By Delaney George
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Radio today is not just news or updates anymore, it's a conversation, and a chance to listen to your favorite tunes while engaging in a few hot topics with your Bff. Power 102.9 Radio Personality Tara Jae is that on-air Bff from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday through Friday and 2 p.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays.

Jae began her radio career in Mississippi, when she was a young girl shadowing her godfather who was also a radio personality. She fell in love with her craft in high school after joining the broadcast team, giving her the experience and passion to later create her own radio show in college, The Tara Show. Jae's show became the most successful show on Delgado’s campus, gaining her a large social media following, loyal listeners, and feedback.

After college, Jae interned with Veteran DJs like Slab 1, and worked in hospitality until she received two calls from two major stations in the metro area, 102.9 Radio Programmer and On-Air Personality Tahus Knight offered Jae a full-time on-air position.

"It's very rare that someone with no commercial experience gets offered a full-time position in radio. I'm just thankful that Tahus took a chance and believed in me, I really wanted to be a part of the re-branding of Power 102.9," said Jae.

Through heavy critiquing, persistence, and “boot camp” from her fellow radio family at 102.9, such as Downtown Leslie Brown, Jae grew into the successful on-air personality she is today. Since her hiring, Jae has been a part of the Power 102.9 team for two years and is the youngest full-time on-air personality in the City.

"When I first started it was a challenge to make it sound like it was a party in the studio, making everyone feel like you were specifically talking to them, not at them. People always say I have an easy job, but it isn't as easy as it seems, especially when entering a completely different world of radio," said Jae.

With over 100,000 listeners weekly, Tara Jae keeps her listeners in the know, discussing all things entertainment, pop-culture and anything hot in media. She has interviewed big names from Big Freedia to Vic Mensa and has appeared on the local late night show The 504 with Sheba Turk.

Although radio is her biggest focus, Jae has hopes of one day going into entertainment television, working in larger markets, and is constantly studying her field to become the best she can be.

"I make sure I study other people in my market and stay prepared for each show and on top of what's going on in the world. There is a Tyler Perry video I used to watch every day where he talked about focusing on one seed and its sure to grow. He also said you can get a million no’s but all you need is that one yes, and the opportunities will be endless. Talus gave me that one yes" said Jae.

In the future Tara Jae has plans to touch her listeners on and off the air by being a mentor. Jae spoke on the importance of how people carry themselves and how she wants people, specifically young girls, to see her as someone to look up to.

"I am most passionate about being a role model to young girls, on and off the air and I would love to get into mentoring especially on social media etiquette and taking pride in being a lady," said Jae.

Jae urges all aspiring radio personalities to intern, keep air checks up-to-date, network, and to be yourself.

"Always be yourself, and be true to yourself. I will always stay true to myself because that’s what makes me different. It is so rewarding when I’m out in public and a fan tells me I sound exactly how I sound on the radio. If you believe in your art and your craft everything will work out, it always does."

For more information on Tara Jae visit the Tara Jae fan page on Facebook or www.power1029.com/shows/tara-falesa/.
Young, Gifted and Black
What No One Told Me About Being “First” to Go to College

By Brandon Terrell
Data News Weekly
Guest Columnist

I was reared and schooled in Detroit, where poverty and oppression eloquently danced while violence and crime serenaded the communities.

The crime and oppression in my neighborhood drove me to submit a college application that changed my life’s trajectory. I wasn’t going to neighborhood communities.

The conversations I had growing up rarely involved college. We talked about who was buying dinner that night or who needed to get a job to help pay bills.

Survival was the goal. By the time I applied to college, I had already tangled with life and boared with oppression, discrimination, stereotypical beliefs, and negative ideologies, all while juggling school, plus a job or two.

Life had prepared me for college. But the challenges never stopped coming.

Even as I struggled to pay tuition and buy meals when the food courts closed for the weekends, I often got calls from relatives who needed help buying groceries. Relief started with me. I had no safety net - I WAS the safety net.

Completing colleges required a survival balancing act-maintaining my GPA, bridging gaps back at home, and navigating collegiate bureaucracies while carefully responding to micro-aggressions and prejudice in majority White spaces. Spectators would classify the underlying factor of our motivation as “grit” or “determination,” but for many first gen’s, our motivation is simply survival. We have no choice.

Missing an assignment, being too tired to attend a bio lecture after working more than 30 hours a week, failing a 300-level course, or even missing a tuition payment created a slippery slope back to the environment that suffocated dreams.

But we are as population college students like me, the 2012

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Access to college and financial aid is not enough to secure a better quality of life for students coming from low-income backgrounds. The gap is widening with only 14 percent of the most economically disadvantaged students earning a bachelor’s degree, according to a 2015 federal study. We need a different support system to thrive in college-mentors, help with living expenses, travel costs, tutors, flexible schedules, and emotional support from other students who feel isolated, but are coping with similar struggles.

We need to stop talking about college attainment in simplistic ways. It takes so much more than grit.

Brandon Terrell is currently attending graduate school at Eastern Michigan University, after graduating there in 2015 with a Bachelor’s in Psychology. He also works at the University of Michigan as a Program Assistant for the Community Health Department.

Ask Alma
Should I Let My Ex See Our Daughter?

Alma Gill
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Dear Alma:

I had a baby in my twenties when I was dealing with this guy, who was in the military, stationed close to where I live. I thought that we would get married and live happily ever after. Obviously, that didn’t happen. He relocated and eventually we stopped talking. He did however send money to take care of our daughter. I get a check in the mail from him every month and I’m forever grateful for it.

I was heartbroken when he moved away and I don’t think I ever really healed. I was in relationships here and there and eventually got married. When that marriage ended, I just shut down. I let myself go and made some not-so-good decisions. I put on weight, because I’ve been depressed and I just try not to bring attention to myself. I’m a great cook and all my daughter’s friends and my family usually come over when they want a good home-cooked meal. Recently, a knock came on the door and it was my daughter’s father. He asked if she lived there and then he asked if her mother was home; he didn’t even recognize me. I just said that she wasn’t home and that I’d give her the message. He said, “Okay” and I shut the door. I was so hurt afterward, I just cried and cried. I don’t know what to feel. I haven’t told my daughter yet, because I don’t know if I want to see him again. What’s your advice Alma? Should I give my daughter her father’s contact information or should I just pretend like he never stopped by?

Signed,
Rewritten, but It Doesn’t Feel So Good

Dear Reunited,
The question you asked has nothing to do with the answer you need, but because of the circumstances, I’ll offer you a twofer.

First, let me get this straight.

Your daughter’s father consistently provided for her and although he didn’t stay connected, his coins come regularly to help you take care of her. He recently stopped by to reconnect, but didn’t recognize you and you think that’s enough reason to keep him away from her?

Okay, I’ve gotta stop right here. I’m sorry Sweet Pea. I don’t mean to kick you when you’re down, but this ain’t about you. It’s about your daughter and her father reconnecting—period. Run to your pocket-book, pour out your belongings and give the contact information to your daughter, plain and simple.

Now, scooch over and let me sit, here’s part two: Ain’t no doubt about it, it can seem like forever to spoon your way out of a dark, deep ditch, but you can do it. Once you get started, your spoon becomes a spatula, the spatula becomes a ladle and then the ladle becomes a shovel—you feel me?

What you thought you couldn’t do, suddenly becomes natural to you, but first you’ve got to change your mind, change your thinking. It’s been a long time since your old flame has laid eyes on you, that doesn’t mean you didn’t look the same. It just means he didn’t initially recognize you. Let that go, use it as the fuel you need to get back to your best. If you can’t find the strength in yourself, do it for your daughter.

When you get tired, don’t let “Ms. Easy” rule your decisions. Ms. Easy will lead you back to eating fried chicken, mac & cheese and a drinking milkshakes, but don’t do it. No excuses. Today is the day you are stuck in the ditch, but you can do it. Once you get started, your spoon becomes a spatula, the spatula becomes a ladle and then the ladle becomes a shovel—you feel me?

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When you get tired, don’t
Musicians Host Special Concert in Final Days of ACA Open Insurance Enrollment Period

Data News Staff Edited Report

Musicians host special concert in final days of ACA open insurance enrollment period. Ace Hotel partners with the New Orleans Musicians’ Clinic, all-star musicians and Martin Guitar’s to offer onsite healthcare enrollment, wellness, and live music on Tuesday December 12th.

New Orleans, LA – The shortened open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act’s Health Insurance Marketplace ends on December 15th, and local musicians are making a final push to make sure the word is out.

On Tuesday, December 12th from 3pm, famed New Orleans Bassist Charlie Wooton will be joined by all stars Johnny Vidocovich, June Yamagishi, John Gros and Kris Royal in a Pop-up Concert that is free and open to the public. The musicians will be joined by health-care organizations 504HealthNet and Musicians’ Clinic who will offer on-site marketplace and Medicaid enrollment from insurance counselors who can assist those who need to get signed up with the process and help choose a plan that’s right for them.

With much confusing political discourse surrounding the ACA and a shortened enrollment window, many are at risk of remaining uncovered or paying too much for insurance so all are encouraged to come out and review their options. “The Affordable Care Act is an opportunity for many New Orleans musicians, performers, and culture bearers to get health insurance for the first time in their lives” says Megan McStravick, New Orleans Musicians’ Clinic’s Social Worker, who has helped hundreds of local musicians gain access to insurance. “A lot of people don’t know they qualify for financial assistance. Many of the people I help are surprised to learn they have affordable options. Sometimes it just takes that one-on-one meeting.”

Last Chance to Dance: Healthcare Enrollment ahead of the ACA’s December 15th Deadline.

Free Concert by Charlie Wooton, Johnny Vidocovich, June Yamagishi, John Gros and Kris Royal Healthcare Navigators on-site to enroll clients in Marketplace Insurance and Medicaid.

Tuesday, December 12th - 2-6p Ace Hotel, 600 Carondelet Street Last year, close to 120,000 Louisiana residents received health coverage through the Marketplace, and more than 350,000 more found out they were eligible for coverage due to Louisiana’s Medicaid Expansion. Working in a gig economy often means that musicians and culture workers do not have access to health benefits through their employers.

In addition to healthcare enrollment, the New Orleans Musicians Clinic will also offer free flu shots, wellness, and clinic pre-enrollment on-site. Those interested in insurance enrollment should bring their ID, social security card, and proof of yearly income.

This event is a part of the New Orleans Musicians’ Clinic, Ace Hotel New Orleans, and Martin Guitar’s ongoing partnership to raise awareness for healthcare for performers and culture bearers in New Orleans.

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The United States of America represents the land of the free, however, when the land is built on slavery and fabricated with inequality, justice isn’t served to all. On Nov. 29th, New Orleans’ locals and residents filled the auditorium of Xavier University to hear Tim Wise, an Essayist and Anti-Racist Educator, speak on race relations in the United States and the most recent presidential election.

“Donald Trump hasn’t done any of the economic stuff that he promised White folks he was going to do and, yet they still stick with him. So, here’s the deal, if I tell you I’m going to do all this stuff for you and then I don’t do any of it and you stick with me, what does that tell me,” Wise said. The Author of “White Like Me,” Wise has become a regular commentator on national media, who has spoken about Trump’s election as part of his public campaign to educate, primarily White Americans, about privilege.

“It tells me that you didn’t vote for me because of your own interest or economic concerns, you voted for me because I made the right enemies and you liked the fact that I attacked ‘those people.’” Those people Trump turned into “enemies”, Wise said, were “Mexican folk, Muslim folk, and Black folks.” Not everyone who voted for him is a racist, White said, but he added that “everybody who stuck with him at this point, yeah pretty much, that’s where you’re at.”

Trump’s victory, he said, sparked a fire of racial tension across the country. Racism was a part of the 2016 Presidential Election and how voters allowed Trump to once again turn the presidential race into a “who can you really trust” argument.

While some voters celebrated the new president, many more mourned, he said.

“If you have a rich White person telling non-rich White people that their enemies are Black and Brown people, they’ll believe anything, and for 400 years that has worked. So, we need not to be shocked by this, this is the oldest play in the book,” Wise said.

For decades, Black and Brown people have been denied equal opportunities and have existed under the cloud of discrimination. Wise said that after the election people were shocked by the outcome of the race, but he noted that people of color were merely disappointed and not at all surprised by the choice of their fellow citizens.

“It’s important for us to know the monster that we’re facing right now, and I don’t mean an individual monster like Donald Trump or Richard Spencer, I mean the monster of Trumpism, the monster of racial scape coating and White supremacy,” Wise said, “Sometimes thinking the monster is new makes it scary, but this monster is not new.”

Wise told the audience Trump naturally uses institutional racism to his advantage by convincing his supporters that the American enemy is, and always will be, people of color.

“As a young Black person in America, I’ve always noticed racism in the obvious ways and in the minor, under the table ways,” said Skylar Tate, a sophomore at Xavier. “It’s disheartening though to live in America as a Black person, knowing all the rules were set against me.”

The future of America is not dark, according to Wise, there is room for moral progression and development. “We have to commit ourselves to making America great,” Wise said, “not again, but for the first time.”

By Naomi Hill
Data News Contributor

Author Tim Wise Blames Trump’s Success on Racism

Tim Wise, author of White Like Me, speaks at Xavier University on Nov. 29 on the Great White Hoax: Racism, Divide and Conquer and the Politics of Trumpism. (photo by Naomi Hill)
Poll: 70 Percent of Marketplace Enrollees Satisfied with Obamacare

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As President Donald Trump continues to sow confusion about the Affordable Care Act (ACA), a recent poll by the Kaiser Family Foundation shows that, although some of his tactics are working, many consumers still plan on signing up for healthcare during the open enrollment period.

The ACA open enrollment period started on November 1 and will end December 15 in most states and despite its critics, the law has effectively reduced the uninsured rate for Blacks; healthcare advocates have said that access to preventive care provided by the ACA could also limit the effects of healthcare disparities, like infant mortality rates and deaths from breast cancer among Black women.

Even though the ACA, also known as Obamacare, provided healthcare to millions of Americans—some of them Trump supporters—the current president has worked to cripple the law in tweets and actions.

Deep cuts to funding for advertising about the ACA are having expected results.

In previous years, television ads played a key role in educating people about open enrollment and the ins and outs of the ACA. Trump cut that advertising budget to the bone.

According to a recent Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) poll, “few of those most likely to consider marketplace coverage report hearing or seeing any ads providing information about how to get insurance under the health care law.”

Don’t just “auto-renew” your health insurance plan. Study your options carefully.

In previous years, the healthcare marketplace auto-renewed consumers for the upcoming coverage year. According to the KFF poll, almost 25 percent of marketplace enrollees were auto-renewed for their same plan or auto-reassigned to similar plans in 2016 for the 2017 coverage year.

But experts have said that the auto-renewal feature may not identify the subsidies that you’re eligible for accurately and when it comes to prescriptions or other life-saving services that you need, you’ll want to make sure that any similar plan fits your needs.

Remember, it’s best to enroll early; don’t wait until the last minute.

During previous enrollment periods, there has been a surge of interest as the deadline nears; that increased activity slowed down the responsiveness of HealthCare.gov and created longer wait times for the marketplace call center, said Karen Pollitz, a senior fellow at the Kaiser Family Foundation.

“Log-in to HealthCare.gov, update your application for financial assistance, review your plan choices and what they cost, and select a plan for 2018,” said Pollitz. “If you want the same plan, select the same plan.”

Whether you choose the same health insurance plan or a new one, don’t wait until the last minute to make your decision. This year, thanks to Trump and the Republican-controlled Congress, if you have questions about plans in the final hours of the enrollment period, you might just be on your own.
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