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Trump, Blacks and America... One Year Later

As the country approaches one-year of the Trump Administration and its assault on Blacks, women, immigrants and the free press, it is important that as citizens, especially African-Americans, that we remain vigilant in what makes and keeps this country great.

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

Black America in the Age of Trumpism

The Trump Presidency has been one that’s been full of controversy. From his attacks on the media, to embracing White Supremacists and more recently endorsing an alleged child predator Roy Moore in a U.S. Senate Race in Alabama, who stated that America was a great country during slavery. Who is running against Doug Jones, a man who successfully prosecuted members of the KKK for killing four little girls in the bombing of a Birmingham church in 1963 during the Civil Rights Movement. It is a sad time for America when the president would rather see a man who is accused of being a sexual predator of young girls than one who fought for justice. But we must be reminded that this is one whose political rise has been related to the birther movement and the questioning of America’s first African-American President Barack Obama.

This flirtation with many things racial has been a...
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When President Trump calls for Making America Great Again, in essence, it means turning back the hands of racial progress and completely erasing the legacy of Barack Obama.

It seems that this president is obsessed with erasing the legacy and legislative achievements of the country’s first African-American President, Barack Obama. In less than a year in office he’s has signed legislation and proposed changes or ending DACA, Pulling the country out of Transpacific Partnership (TPP), The Paris Climate Accord among many other, but most importantly he and fellow Republicans are working feverishly to end his signature legislative achievement the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) something that’s given access to healthcare to many who could not afford it previously.

Reshaping the Courts

During the last Presidential Administration Congressional Republicans, who were in the majority obstructed and left many seats on the Federal Bench vacant. These lifetime appointments have far reaching implications on issues surrounding civil rights, the environment, criminal justice, housing, employment and a host of other disputes.

While the media have mostly spent time since this presidency focusing on Trump’s incendiary Tweets and the Russia Collusion investigation; it is this story that is not getting the coverage and attention it deserves. For unlike many legislative policies that can be reversed these appointments cannot. In his first year in office an analysis by the Associated Press found that of the 44 District Courts and 16 Court of Appeal nominees 91 percent of them have been White and 81 percent White males and only one African-American nominee.

Voter Suppression

Voting has been a right African-Americans have fought to earn and now more than any time in history must fight to preserve this right and get to the polls. Fourteen states have installed new voting laws that target African-American voters and other minority voters. Voter ID Laws and a misinformation campaign were a few of the contributors to helping get Donald Trump elected.

But even in the face of new laws, it is important that more people get out and vote; in this past election it was 107,000 votes in three states Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania that put Donald Trump into the White House. In two of these states Wisconsin and Michigan the number of Black turnout dropped by twelve percent; so, it is possible with higher turnout among African-Americans we could be telling another story today and the country could be headed in another direction.

Future of Black America in the Trump Era

As we have weathered one-year of the Trump administration and its assault on Blacks, women, immigrants, the free press it is important that as citizens especially African-Americans that we remain vigilant in what makes and keeps this country great. Our spirit of dissent and engagement that makes us too American. That we have fought to amend this country into a more perfect union.

And that a people who have endured, survived and thrived in spite of slavery, segregation and discrimination can survive the presidency of Donald Trump and his racist, xenophobic, sexist agenda. It is time for African-Americans to re-engage get informed and get involved; for it is in this that will make a great country even greater.
TV One Cancels Roland Martin’s NewsOne Now Show
The Only Black Daily Newscast on Television is No More.

By Stacy M. Brown
Data News Weekly Contributor

TV One is canceling Roland Martin’s morning show “NewsOne Now” due to budget cuts.

“They called a meeting on Wednesday and told the staff they were canceling the show. They’re having significant financial problems and they have to scale back,” a source told The New York Post.

“After four years of award-winning programming and distinguished service to our viewers as the only Black daily newscast on television, the network has made the difficult decision to suspend the production of NewsOne Now as a daily morning news show. The last live show is scheduled Thursday, December 21, 2017,” TV One’s Interim General Manager Michelle Rice wrote in a memo.

The news shocked staffers—including Martin—as the network had just expanded the morning show to two hours in September, according to Page Six.

“There were lots of tears…The staff was completely caught off guard,” Page Six reported a source as saying.

Neither Martin nor his producers returned calls on Wednesday seeking comment.

TV One management did not return messages on Wednesday.

According to Page Six, the memo added: “While we will continue our long-standing partnership with Roland Martin to ensure his important voice can be heard across all Urban One platforms examining issues of importance to the Black community, we regret this decision adversely affects several of our valued colleagues whose positions will be eliminated with the suspension of the show.”

The news caught viewers off guard and many, including high-profile journalists, took to social media.

“Maybe if the viewers make enough noise, TV One will reconsider canceling Roland Martin’s NewsOne Now,” said journalist Jawn Murray. “The only news show geared toward African Americans—and ditch the dozen or so Black crime shows they air.”

Author and media personality Tariq Nasheed tweeted: “Damn…TV One just canceled Roland Martin’s NewsOne show.”

Gregory H. Lee, Jr., the editorial director at NBA.com and the past president of the National Association of Black Journalists called the cancelation of NewsOne Now “crazy.”

Lee wrote: “Roland Martin’s morning show had real substance and covered the issues of our community.

On Thursday morning, Martin read more from the memo that was sent out to employees of the Urban One company.

“We are committed to providing quality news content to our viewers, but now realize a daily news program is not sustainable in this current financial climate,” Martin read from the memo. “Our plan is to take a moment to regroup and restructure NewsOne Now in 2018 under a new format that will serve the needs of our diverse audience and the business.”

Martin noted that, during the show’s run, there were a number of stories that were covered on NewsOne Now that weren’t covered anywhere else.

“For me, my voice will not be silenced,” said Martin. “You have numerous platforms, numerous opportunities the ability to be able to communicate with folks through social media as well, that voice will always be there, speaking to our issues.”

Martin continued: “The most important thing for us to understand is that we move forward…speaking to our issues and our concerns. I understand that a lot of people are hurt and disappointed by this…between now and December 21 we’re going to keep doing our jobs, keep giving folks hell, keep holding folks accountable and doing and saying what is required.”

TVOne has announced that due to budget cuts at the network, there would be a cancellation of the popular news program NewsOne Now, with host Roland Martin effective at the end of this month. The news came as a shock to not only the viewers, but to Martin and his staff.
Dumaine Street Gang 20th Annual Second-line Parade

photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

The Dumaine Street Gang held its 20th Annual Second-line Parade on Sunday, December 3rd. The parade featured The King & Queen, club members, Second-line Queen Ms. Angie Sever, Da Young Rollers, Da Truth Brass Band and the Big Six Brass Band. What a day, and of course, Data was there!!!

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Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events
Voices in the Dark Company Theatre, Inc. presented a preview of their powerful play titled Le Code Noir on December 3, 2017 in Congo Square. The play is directed by Tommye Myrick and was written by playwright Mark Sumner. The play is a depiction of Le Code Noir (The Black Codes) found in Louisiana, and how in many ways, these Black codes, regulated the behavior of the slave and in many cases the free man of color as well.

Black codes were harsh and restrictive but also granted the Black man certain rights not normally enjoyed by the slaves in the American colonies. In many cases the slave family could not be separated. They were able to have Sundays to themselves. They were able to work and earn wages so that they could buy their freedom, and, in many cases the Slave master could be punished for sever mistreatment of his slaves.

It was this Black Code of law that allowed the Louisiana slaves to eventually break the bondage of slavery and become free, which many of them did long before the Emancipation Proclamation.

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

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

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As part of our commitment to improving professional service and operational efficiencies, we are excited to announce continued enhancements to our E-Filing system!

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E-FILING INFORMATION

• Prior to E-Filing activation, new users (either attorneys or their designee) are REQUIRED to attend the Clerk of Court’s Remote Access with E-Filing Training, as FILING FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.

• The E-Filing Training course qualifies for 2.00 CLE hours for attorneys and paralegals. Contact Lisa Griffin at (504) 407-0042 or lgriffin@orleancdco.com to schedule for December 2017 or January 2018.

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENTS

• Users now have the ability to upload cover sheets separately from pleadings and attachments.

• Now, users will receive an email with a link to download and print the filed-stamped copy upon completion of the Clerk’s Office review.

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The deadline to enroll or modify healthcare coverage under the Affordable Care Act is December 15. So, time is running out. Despite what you may have heard, the Affordable Care Act is still the law of the land, and everyone must have health insurance or pay a penalty. Go to www.healthcare.gov to find a plan that works for you. Don’t delay, enroll today.

Congress enacted the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure all Americans have access to affordable quality healthcare, which ought to be a basic human right. Since becoming law, the ACA has provided health insurance for more than 20 million people who did not have it before its passage.

When Congress was considering the Affordable Care Act, I spoke on the House floor and called the legislation the “Civil Rights Act of the 21st Century.” I gave it that moniker because the ACA outlaws discrimination against sick people and their families. It outlaws discrimination against women, closes the Medicare “donut hole” and allows adults up to age 26 to stay on their parents’ policies. I strongly believe that access to affordable, high-quality healthcare should be a right for all, not a privilege solely for the wealthy and well-connected.

Despite the current administration’s ongoing attempts to undermine the law, sign-ups for 2018 have outpaced most expert predictions. To date, more than 2.5 million Americans have already chosen plans. This is a great show of faith and proves Americans want affordable health care. Discounts and subsidies are still in place and may be better than last year. In fact, 80 percent of healthcare.gov enrollees will be able to purchase a plan for $75 or less per month.

As the Chairman of the Democratic Faith Working Group in the U.S. House of Representatives, I have been working with faith groups from across the country to spread the word and articulate the good work about the ACA. This outreach has engaged the faith community in promoting sign-ups during this open enrollment period through our “Souls 2 Enroll” outreach effort and other engagement activities. We need to build on this record of success in the remaining days of Open Enrollment.

Time is running out for you to enroll in the Affordable Care Act. If you have questions or need help, there are many people willing to assist you. Go to the website, www.healthcare.gov or you may be able to find in-person help in your area at https://localhelp.healthcare.gov/#/ to shop for plans and sign up. You can also call the marketplace call center at 1-800-318-2596. Don’t be left without health insurance; get covered today.

U.S. House Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn represents South Carolina’s 6th congressional district. In Congress, he serves as the Chair of the Democratic Faith Working Group. Follow him on Twitter at @Clyburn.

Clinical Trials and Sickle Cell Disease

Clinical trials are critical to bringing new medicines to people who need them, particularly those affected by conditions with limited treatment options, such as sickle cell disease (SCD). These studies, which determine the safety and effectiveness of new investigational treatments, rely on the participation of volunteers. Without enough volunteers, researchers are unable to complete the research required by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to evaluate if a new drug should be made available to the American community. A majority of respondents indicated a willingness to participate in future clinical trials for SCD, if given appropriate knowledge and recommendations from health care professionals. Of those who indicated that they would not participate in clinical trials, “fear of uncertainty” was the most cited reason.

To help address some of these uncertainties, I’m here to answer the most common questions about clinical trials. It is my hope that this information will help you make an informed decision should you or a loved one choose to participate in a clinical trial in the future.

Are clinical trials safe?

Strict guidelines and supervision are in place to protect the safety of people who take part in studies—from careful study design to periodic monitoring of study data by independent experts. That said, clinical trials are designed for research purposes, and because of this, there is some level of risk involved. However, before an investigational drug can be given to clinical trial volunteers, researchers must complete a rigorous screening and preclinical testing process (in the laboratory and in animals), which can take up to six years to complete.

If I participate in a clinical trial, will I get a “sugar pill” or placebo instead of a real drug?

Participants in a clinical trial using a placebo will always be informed if there is a possibility they could be receiving the placebo, which looks identical to the real drug but does not contain the active ingredient. However, the vast majority of studies are not placebo-controlled trials, and patients in the clinical trial who are not receiving the drug under study will receive the current standard of care available to the public. Patients who take part in clinical trials will never be asked to sacrifice quality of care.

Will I be expensive to participate in a clinical trial?

Patient care costs are generally covered by health insurance, as they are for tests and treatments you would receive even if you were not involved in the research. The majority of participants in clinical studies receive at least some reimbursement from their health insurance. Most often, the clinical trial sponsors will pay for the study therapy and insurance companies will pay for the routine care procedures, such as blood tests.

Before participating in clinical trials, I recommend checking with the researchers regarding your financial responsibilities as a patient, as well as with your health insurance carrier regarding coverage.

What's the timeframe for clinical trials?

I’m often asked, “Why does a new treatment take so long?” The short answer is that treatment takes understanding of sickle cell disease in the African American community. You can find more information on Pfizer’s Clinical Trial page, too.

In clinical trials, which generally take 5 to 10 years, are at the center of the rigorous science that demonstrates the safety and efficacy of a medicine and provides a thorough view of its benefits and risks, and is the only avenue to bring medications to patients in need.

Dr. Kevin Williams is the Chief Medical Officer for Rare Disease at Pfizer. He pursued medicine after being inspired by his father’s work as a general practitioner in his hometown of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Kevin is passionate about raising awareness and increasing understanding of sickle cell disease in the African American community. You can follow Pfizer on Facebook and Twitter.

Don’t Delay, Sign-up for Affordable Healthcare Today

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Big Chief Edward “Freaky E” Johnson, The Uptown Warriors

By Glenn Jones
& Oba Lorrius
Data News Weekly
Contributor

TRIBAL TIMELINE
2012 – Present Big Chief Edward “Freaky E” Johnson

There are very few good things that came from the Katrina catastrophe. The more we speak with younger chiefs we see the effect much more clearly. Before the storm Chief Edward was raised and still lives in the Heart of Uptown on the corner of Louisiana and Baronne. He grew up across the street from the legendary Big Chief Bo Dollis Sr. of the Wild Magnolias and went to elementary school with Bo Dollis Jr. and his late father Joseph Johnson Sr. was a Music Minister and Member of Zulu. His spiritual roots given by his father while playing drums in the church connects to Chief also being immersed in the brass band culture as a member of “The Young Finstripe Brass Band” and VP of the “We are one” social aid and pleasure club and most of his tribe being comprised of brass band players. Those roots make it easy to see why Big Chief was destined to be an uptown culture bearer.

After the Hurricane Katrina, Joe Johnson, the brother of Chief Edward, introduced him to the person he refers to this day as his Big Chief Otto “Fyo” Dejean of the Hard Head Hunters. Joe Johnson also masked after getting inspiration from his younger brother. Joe took up their father’s trade as a plumber during the rebuild and met Chief Fyo and convinced this staunch uptown soldier to mask downtown after being The Wild Magnolias, Wildman for four years. Chief Edward is from Uptown so he got one thing we say, we don’t have a brother and you get into the culture, we look out for each other. You learn a lot in the culture. You meet people and you do things that you never did before. It’s not like you can go pay somebody to do this. You have to build a bond and follow that. Chief and learn his ways. If you want to be with that tribe you go find out about that Chief, you just don’t hop into that. To teach somebody that stuff is a blessing, to give back is a blessing, and our gang we give back, even helping other tribes if we’re not masking.

Q) What does sewing mean to this culture?
A) A lot, we are paying homage. Certain people like FiyiYi, their suits tell a story, some people have their own way of giving their story. When you look at our suits on different parts (patches), you could look at it and see what’s what it is. Last year my Flag Boy Cordell Patterson did Congo Square. You didn’t have to look at it with a flashlight to see that its Congo Square, you knew. We critique to the end because of where we come from.

Q) Why do you decide to use the dark brown man on your suit?
A) Indians are Black, but I would never use a black bead because black beads are usually for outlining. Back in the day you would see the difference in uptown outlining with white beads and downtown uses black. In our suits we use them in different ways. With the faces and stuff I use them because we’re brown, we’re black. I use something close to it.

Q) What is the spirit of your tribe?
A) We got one thing we say, we say Warriors, and when we say that its on. If the Spy Boys or anybody says Uptown Warrior Gang, it’s on.
Simeon Booker, An Icon of Black Journalism, Dies at 99

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Simeon Booker, a trailblazing Black journalist, who covered the Civil Rights Movement for the Iconic African American Magazines EBONY and Jet and who was the first Black person to work as a full-time Washington Post reporter, has died.

Booker, who’s credited with playing an integral role in delivering the story of Emmett Till’s murder, was 99.

“As Chairman of the NNPA, I know that we honored Simeon Booker during Black Press Week for his overall excellence of journalism and certainly he is someone that has been very, very important to our industry,” said Dorothy Leavell, the National Chairman of the NNPA and Publisher of the Crusader Newspapers in Chicago, Ill., and Gary, Indiana.

“His presence will be deeply missed. Even though he lived a long life, we still mourn and we send our sympathies to his family and want them to know that he was highly-appreciated at the NNPA and the Black Press around the country,” Leavell said.

Simeon Saunders Booker, Jr. was born on August 27, 1918, in Baltimore, Maryland to Roberta Waring and Simeon Saunders Booker, Sr., a YMCA Director and Minister, according to his biography published by The HistoryMakers.

After his family moved to Youngstown, Ohio, Booker became interested in journalism through a family friend, Carl Murphy, the owner and operator of “The Afro-American” newspapers, also known as “The Afro,” in Baltimore, Md.

In 1942, after receiving his bachelor’s degree in English from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Booker took a job at the Washington Post.

In 1954, Booker was hired by the Johnson Publishing Company to report on current events in its weekly digest, Jet.

In 1955, Booker helped to redefine the role of Jet and the entire Civil Rights Movement with his famous coverage of the Emmett Till murder and trial, turning an all too familiar event in the Deep South into a national tragedy that united the Black community.


When the buses were firebombed in Anniston, Alabama, Booker arranged the Freedom Riders’ evacuation with U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Continuing his work of in-depth reporting, Booker toured Vietnam and interviewed General Westmoreland for Jet in the mid-1960s. In 1964, Booker outlined the importance of the ongoing Civil Rights Movement in his book, Black Man’s America.

Booker covered every presidential election since the Eisenhower Administration in his 53 years with Johnson Publishing until he retired in 2007.

In 1982, Booker received one of the most prestigious awards in journalism, the National Press Club’s Fourth Estate Award.


Popular CNN White House Correspondent April Ryan wrote: “Thank you Simeon Booker for your stories that exposed truth this nation did not always want to see and read. History.”

Leavell said she hopes that someone among today’s young journalists will be the next Booker.

“Although he wasn’t actively practicing his profession any longer, his presence was one of those things that we all regret losing. We hate to see a chapter close with what Simeon provided to the Black Press,” she said. “I’m saddened, but it calls for the need for us to develop younger, Simeon Bookers as we are all standing on the shoulders of those who came before us and who set [such lofty] standards.”
New Report Finds Distressing Inequities in New Orleans Schools

New Report Finds Students Of Color And Low-Income Students Face Distressing Inequities In New Orleans Public Schools

Data News Staff Edited Report

The Urban League of Louisiana released Equity in Unification: Core Issues, Responses and Recommendations to Advance Equity in New Orleans Public Schools, an extensive look at how students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities are faring in the city’s education system. The report finds that as the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) prepares to take back control of the majority of New Orleans public schools, which were handed over 12 years ago to the Recovery School District, equity remains an uphill battle.

The report documents an “opportunity gap” for historically disadvantaged students by examining six indicators: student outcomes, school choice, teacher quality, high level curriculum, discipline and funding. A few of the revelations from the report:

The achievement gap between African American and White students is approximately 50 percentage points.

Latino students, limited English proficient students, and students with disabilities have among the lowest graduation rates and highest dropout rates.

About 37% of New Orleans students attend schools ranked D or F.

Students in high poverty/high minority schools are more likely to be taught by inexperienced and uncertified teachers than their counterparts at low poverty/low minority schools.

Among schools with high concentrations of African American students, less than one-quarter offer AP courses, and less than two-thirds offer advanced courses like calculus.

African American students are three times more likely to be suspended than students of other races/ethnicities.

“New Orleans public schools have made strides, but troubling and unacceptable inequities still persist,” said Erika McConduit, president and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana. “When African American students - who make up the vast majority at New Orleans public schools - are less likely to be taught by credentialed teachers, to attend schools ranked A or B, and to have access to advanced courses like calculus, our city’s education system is clearly not meeting the needs of all of its students.”

McConduit says that while the achievement gap shows the stark contrast in outcomes between white students and students of color, it is the opportunity gap - lack of access to the same educational opportunities that continues to undermine African American, Latino, poor students, and students with disabilities. “As long as this opportunity gap exists, too many of our city’s children will be caught in the cycle of poverty.”

Looking forward, especially as unification under OPSB approaches, the report urges greater intentional collaboration between OPSB, charter management organizations, and community groups, who must bring educators, administrators, non-profits, and business and civic leaders to the table to distribute the responsibility for educational equity across the system.

Erika McConduit, president and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana

Families trying to enroll their children in a charter school wait in line for hours to get a number that will enable them to return the next day and keep their place in line. (photo courtesy of NPR)

New Orleans Schools

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Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly: “The People’s Paper, is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 3 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

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*Includes all 15% models and Incentivized. Offer includes purchase cash and price reduction below MSRP. Not available with special financing, lease and some other offers. Take delivery by 1/2/18. See participating dealer for details. ©2017 General Motors. All rights reserved. Buick® Encore® Envision® Enclave®