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And A Child Shall Lead Them

*How 11 Year-old Activist Naomi Wadler
is Changing the World*



11-year-old activist Naomi Wadler is making a big impact on the national dialogue surrounding gun violence and young Black girls. She believes that adults need to listen to young people. “They see the world through a different set of eyes”, she said.

By Marion Hercyl
Data News Weekly Contributors

On March 24, the –year-old fifth-grader was onstage speaking at the March for Our Lives in Washington, D.C. During her three-minute speech, she spoke decisively about the lack of sustained media attention that

Black women and girls receive when they are impacted by gun violence. “I represent the African-American women who are victims of gun violence, who are simply statistics instead of vibrant, beautiful girls full of potential,” she said. “I am here to say never again for those girls too.” Her speech was quickly circulated online, earning

her fans like Sen. Kamala Harris, Shonda Rhimes, Tessa Thompson and Ellen DeGeneres. In the weeks following her launch into the national conversation, she says the whole experience has been “weird,” but was still ready to use her new platform to give journalists some strong advice. “The media can pay attention; I feel that a lot of

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them are very ignorant," she said, stressing that this ignorance is particularly clear when it comes to white journalists perpetuation racial stereotypes about Black and brown people. "It's the racial imbalance in the reporting that starts a chain reaction where then, other people start to believe that."

Wadler is certainly extraordinary. The fifth-grader first made headlines when she and classmate Carter Anderson planned a walk-out at their elementary school in Alexandria, VA, in the wake of the Parkland shooting in February. On March 14, more than 60 students joined Wadler and Anderson in an 18-minute protest – one minute for each victim of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, and an extra minute for Courtlin Arrington, a 17-year-old Black high school student shot and killed in an Alabama classroom days earlier.

But Wadler is also still a kid. She giggles over the phone, does her interviews with her mother nearby, and has big, beautiful dreams not yet encumbered by the cynicism that so often accompanies getting older.

At Tina Brown's Women in the World Summit on Saturday, she reiterated the power young people hold. "I'm not an 11-year-old girl who they can just hug and kiss," she said. "I can deliver a message."

During a phone interview ahead of the summit, Wadler spoke with reporters about her newly expansive platform, her hopes for the future, and her advice for us adults – especial adult journalists. Us old folks, often forget just how smart kids are in general – and how thoughtful, knowledgeable and opinionated we might have been at 9 or 11 or 15.

As Wadler explained, it's on adults to check ourselves, step back and listen to young people. "They see the world through a different set of eyes", she said.

When asked how does it feel to have so many adults obsessed with her right now, Wadler answered, "I

“I hope by the time I’m your age, we would have educated our children ... on today’s issues and we wouldn’t have kept them in a bubble.”

- Naomi Wadler

live in my house and I have my two dogs and my sister who I fight with and my mom who picks out dresses with me – and people don’t know who I am, and now they do. So it’s a little weird?” That being said, she is well known now and is considered an activist. But for an 11-year-old, wise beyond her years, she said she really hadn’t thought about it. “I feel like I’m just standing up for what’s right. I’m not really, like, ‘Ah, I’m an activist’, I’m just making the change. I’m not going onto the streets of D.C. and screaming for my causes.”

In the interview, Naomi was asked about her involvement in the “March for Our Lives” rally where she delivered her now famous speech, and why the message she really wanted to drive home to people was the African-American girls, whose stories don’t make the front page of national newspapers. She answered, “Because, I mean, it’s my story. I don’t think that a white girl could have gotten up there and explained how this was unjust and how this is unfair and that she felt so bad. Because she hasn’t lived it, she doesn’t know what it’s like. So I think it was my story so it was a lot easier for me to put into words.”

Naomi continues to take her message to the public. In a recent appearance on the Ellen Show where she continued to discuss the role of young people, and took the opportunity to again, advocate for young Black girls. When asked what she wanted her peers to take away from seeing her in such public profiles, she said, “I hope that girls, especially Black girls, realize that they have worth, and they can do whatever they want to do. And they’re not restricted by the lines of poverty or racism, and they can do as much and more than I’ve amounted to.” She continued, “They can give speeches, they can become activists if they choose to identify that way. They can read books, they can empower girls. They should know that they’re worth something. They’re not worthless and they can make a difference too.”



In a recent appearance on the Ellen Show Naomi continued to discuss the role of young people, and took the opportunity to again, advocate for the safety of young Black girls in this society.

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ESSA Demands Full Transparency on K-12 Educational Funding

By Lauren Poteat
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Public school systems throughout the nation will now be required to be a lot more transparent when it comes to school funding.

According to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2015, all public schools nationwide, will be required to give fully-detailed reports on how and where they spend institutional funding.

The ESSA reporting requirement for school funding begins in December 2019, and supporters of the rule, including the NAACP, believe it will help to encourage greater educational equity, particularly among schools serving large numbers of Black and Hispanic students in low-income neighborhoods.

"We need more equitable and adequate funding for all schools serving students of color," said Victor Goode, the education director for the NAACP. "Why? Because education funding has been inadequate and unequal for students of color for hundreds of years. Second, privatization forces are working to



The Every Student Succeeds Act, President Obama's education law, calls for transparency in school funding. (Pexels.com)

eliminate our public schools and, with it, transparency, public accountability and access to all."

Goode said that ESSA requires

a breakdown of how student need is met with a focus on equity over equal distribution for funding.

Goode continued: "That explains

the reason behind the school-by-school, per pupil spending report. This kind of public transparency is a good thing and can help provide more meaningful parental and community engagement, which is also essential to accountability and achieving educational equity."

According to the Brookings Institution, a nonprofit public policy organization, based in Washington, D.C., that conducts research on solving societal problems locally, nationwide and globally, to date minority students are still far more less likely than White students to have adequate school resources.

In addition, the Brookings Institution reported that schools with predominantly Black and Hispanic children, on average, are nearly twice as large as White schools—reaching an estimated 3,000 students or more in most cities, with lower-quality curriculum offerings and less qualified teachers (in terms of levels of education, certification, and training in the fields they teach), all of which George H. Lambert, Jr., president and CEO of the Greater Washington Urban League, believes can be rectified through adequate funding.

"Through the availability of [ESSA] data, Black and [Hispanic] educators can begin to prove that Black and [Hispanic] students suffer from funding disparities and the

lack of teachers in the classroom who look like them or represent their perspective," Lambert said. "We need better, more transparent data on school funding. The availability of such data and our ability to access it forces greater urgency on what is, arguably the most important issue of our time."

Lambert said that any discussion on educational equity should acknowledge the enormous achievement gaps that still plague Black and Hispanic students.

"If these gaps aren't closed, our community doesn't have much of a future," Lambert said. "Even though high school graduation rates are better now than 30 years ago, we still face a situation where more than a quarter of Black students, for example, are dropping out. Most Black students in the largest U.S. cities are attending schools with high concentrations of poverty. Over half of our young, Black men are either dropping out or finishing K-12 late, hence 1 in 3 end up trapped in some fashion in the criminal justice system."

Despite high approval from many civil rights organizations, school district administrators, like Robert Lowry, the deputy director of the New York State Council of School Superintendents still believe that the new law might shine light on imbalanced revenue and create the perception that some students are being shortchanged, even when this may not be the case.

"We question whether the state officials would even have the expertise and the capacity to evaluate spending levels between schools," Lowry told Education Week.

Though Lowry's concerns may be valid, Lambert believes that full transparency is a plus.

"This is a good way to learn about flaws in the system and how those flaws are aggravated by a lack of Black and [Hispanic] expertise and perspective in the curriculum, the classroom and the leadership office," Lambert said. "We can also find out if school districts with a larger number of Black and [Hispanic] educators are experiencing high levels of funding disparities and uneven attention from policy-makers."

Learn more about the Every Student Succeeds Act at www.nnpa.org/essa.



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Scholar Links Mardi Gras Indian Traditions Back to Africa

By Temitayo Odulaja
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Mardi Gras Indians are a mainstay in the City of New Orleans that has shaped the community for centuries. However, their origin still remains somewhat faintly understood. On April 12, 2018, Jeroen Dewulf, a scholar in Dutch and German studies clarified the roots and origins of the Mardi Gras Indians at a lecture at Dillard University's library.

"The media elements converge into the use of feathers," said Dewulf, an Associate Professor at the University of California-Berkeley. The Transatlantic Slave Trade not only brought African slaves to the Americas and the Caribbean archipelago, but their cultures.

"They had a big impact on us," he said of Africans who was brought forcibly to the new world. At the height of the slave trade, Angola was a politically and militarily powerful nation, now located today in Central Africa. The Angola Civilization, according to his research, captivated the European Slave Traders, due to their rich and blossoming culture. But it was soon undermined as slave masters took advantage of these civilizations and secured their able bodied and agile men as slaves to work on plantations and build factories in the Americas.

"The kingdom was primarily Northwest in what we call today Angola," he said.

"They were a very powerful nation that played a part in the Transatlantic Slave Trade," he said.

As a result of the nation's stature, the Europeans transported a high population of slaves from the nation, Dewulf said.

"Forty percent of the slaves that came to the Americas came from the region of Angola," he said.

Some of the cultural practices and customs the Mardi Gras Indians developed, can be traced back to early arrivals to the Americas. One such custom is the Sanga Mento Dance, which was highly respected by their people and prac-



Jeroen Dewulf shares an image of ancient Congolese men and women during his lecture on April 12, 2018. (Photo by Temitayo Odulaja)

ticed continually.

"I discovered the Sanga Mento, it was extremely popular, the highlight of celebrations in the kingdom of Congo," he said. The dance, Dewulf said, is an indication of agility and masculine personality.

"It was a dance whereby you act as a warrior," he said.

The dance was a form of storytelling and evidence of a warrior-like strength was what performers opted to portray in public.

"You show what a great warrior you are and tell stories, the story about your leaders, and act out all the great victories they had accomplished," he said.

"Being a warrior meant that you had to be agile, mobile and quick," he said.

In terms of costumes, Dewulf compared fancy and showy feathers that the Native Indians, especially the warriors and chiefs, would wear on their heads and decorate their clothing with. DeWulf said his research indicates that the Native-American Culture's use of feathers actually had origins from Africa.

"The king is elected, and the warriors today are dressed in lots of feathers, and the media converge into the use of feathers," he said.

He noted that his research suggests that the feathers worn by the Native Americans is wrongly be-

lieved by various academics and anthropologists, to have arisen from the Native Indian Culture. However, according to Dewulf, they stemmed from the African Civilization.

"Brazilian Anthropologists confuse the use of feathers," he said.

He stressed that Africa is the "fountainhead" that influenced the Caribbean Culture, as well the Americas in general.

"I actually believe that it is a much deeper history than people think," said Daud Watts, who teaches Africana Studies and History and attended the event.

Watts said it was important to educate and share on the origins of the use of feathers, and to dispel the concept that the use of feathers traces back to the Native Indians.

"Cuba, Haiti, these places have the same rhythm, the same tradition," he said. Watts suggested there may be a common link in cul-


ture and customs that can be traced back to the African Continent.

Dewulf shared with the audience a documentary that displayed the Sanga Mento Dance, a dance between forces of "good and evil." He also mentioned how much the African Tradition has "pervaded" and affected the nation today. Audience members said that the session helped add to scholarship on the true origin of the Mardi Gras Indians.

"I learnt of the origins of the Mardi Gras Indian Tradition, and he has added to the knowledge about the Mardi Gras Tradition," said Fred-dye Hill, a public scholar who has written on music and traditions of New Orleans Congo Square.

"I am impressed by the evidence that he presented to support his arguments," she said.

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Introducing The Data Strut Award



Models just wanna have fun! Model and runway coach Iyanni Davis gets a kick out of her fabulous model life. Iyanni was the recipient of the first Data Strut Model Shoot. Clothing by: Kay's Boutique 5419 Magazine St, New Orleans, LA 70115, shop the look!



Delaney George
Columnist

It is no secret that the world of fashion in the south is limited to certain places and creative outlets. In addition to those limitations, a beneficial platform for younger Black models are slim to none. In honor of the fashion culture in New Orleans and promotion of diversity in the fashion world, it is Data News Weekly's pleasure to announce the launch of the Data Strut Award.

The Data Strut Award is a prestigious

honor bestowed upon the model who shows the most grace, style, and etiquette on the runway.

Models from various partnered fashion shows across the metro area will have the opportunity to win the physical award, a free photo shoot, and a feature article highlighting their talents and crafts.

This award was created in hopes of giving not only the models and design-

ers a platform, but the fashion industry of New Orleans a platform.

Data News Weekly's Fashion Show partnerships are open to the public and will be considered on a first come first serve basis. There will be 8 awards given per year at local fashion shows, and 8 Data Strut Award features. To have your show or event considered or for all other inquiries please contact Delaney George at delinke@yahoo.com

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2018 French Quarter Festival Highlights

Photos by Kichea S. Burt &
Ellen Rosenberg
Data News Weekly Contributors

Nothing can stop the French Quarter Fest. The weather and an oil spill conspired to pull the plug on one of the most anticipated events of the year, but in the spirit of New Orleans, on Sunday the Fest rose up, the people showed up, and the music and food flowed to the delight of the crowds. We congratulate the French Quarter Fest on celebrating 35 years, and are already looking forward to next year. Of course, rain or shine, Data was there!!!



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

Will HUD Secretary Ben Carson Enforce the Fair Housing Act?



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

The Fair Housing Act was passed a week after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. Presi-

dent Lyndon Johnson encouraged Congress to pass the legislation as a tribute to the slain civil rights leader, who, along with several civil rights organizations (including the NAACP), strongly supported the act. African American veteran's organizations (including the American GI Forum) were especially passionate about the legislation, especially since Vietnam veterans were among those experiencing severe housing discrimination. Senator Ed Brooke (R-Mass.), the only African American in the Sen-

ate at the time, along with his Massachusetts colleague, Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.) was especially focused on the legislation.

The Fair Housing Act is also known as Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (which was later amended in 1988) prevents discrimination in the sale, rental, financing, and advertising of housing because of race, color, religion, disability, family status, and national origin. But with the severe wealth inequality in our nation, there are still major gaps between homeownership by

race; African American households were more heavily impacted by the Great Recession than any other racial group. Between 2004 and 2016, every group experienced a decline in homeownership, but while Whites experienced a 4.1 percent decline, African American households experienced a 7 percent decline, dropping from nearly half (49 percent) of Black households owning homes to just 41.9 percent. Meanwhile, White homeownership remained over 70 percent. As much as a third of African American

wealth was wiped out by the Great Recession, and this is partly due to discrimination in banking, including the ways that some banks aggressively pushed subprime loans on African Americans, even those who qualified for traditional loans.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is the federal agency that is responsible for enforcing the Fair Housing Act, as well as providing rental assistance, public housing, and housing

Commentary, Continued
on page 10.

Go Vote! Somebody Paid the Price!



Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Newswire Contributor

All you have to do is crack open a history book, or sit with one of our experienced elders, and you will learn about the many sacrifices made by people of all races in order to ensure Black people obtained the uninhibited right to vote.

No other group of people in America have benefited more from the sacrifices made by so many people who fought, bled and died fighting for our freedom and the right to vote, as Black people have.

The freedom Black Americans experience today came with a significant price tag attached to it, and that freedom has definitely not been free. So much blood has been shed, and so many lives have been lost—all for our freedom and for the precious right to vote.

In fact, if you add up the number of Americans who died in World War I, World War II, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, all of the wars with the Indians, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War and the Korean War, that number would not be as large as the total number of people who died alone in the Civil War fighting to end slavery.

After the Civil War, many Whites

migrated from the North to the South in order to help Black people thrive in the new Reconstruction governments. Many of those White abolitionists ran for political office and won. Several Black men were also elected to the U.S. Congress and the South even elected some Black senators. These political gains and the progress made by Black people, as a result of the Reconstruction governments in the South, angered many Southern Whites.

Confederate Army supporters like Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and others, made up in their minds that if they wanted to re-establish control and dominance over Black people in this country, then they would have to stop Black men from voting by any means necessary.

Nathan Bedford Forrest and several of his colleagues helped form the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), where he served as the first Grand Wizard. The Klan wore white robes and pretended to be the ghosts of dead Confederate soldiers in order to strike fear into the hearts of anyone, they encountered. Members of the Klan did not want to be recognized, so they wore hoods to cover their faces, primarily, because many of the members of the Klan were prominent citizens and local authority figures.

At night, the Klan would hang signs warning Black people not to vote and threatened to kill any Black man who voted. To further frighten Black voters, the Klan would gather together in their costumes and place a large wooden

cross in front of a Black man's home and set it on fire. This served as a warning to any Black man who decided to vote in the next election. If a Black man defied the Klan and refused to adhere to their warning, he was lynched from a tree so everyone in the city would see him and have second thoughts about attempting to vote in future elections.

The Klan quickly grew across all Southern states and Black people were vulnerable to this heinous activity and their vicious attacks. Due to the constant harassment and brutal killings by the Klan, Blacks began to slowly dismiss voting. As a result, Black people began losing political representation, as well as the political advancements they gained during Reconstruction. As time progressed, future generations of White Americans began to slowly forget the struggles of Black people and were not as vocal or as dedicated to the plight of Black people in the South as they had been in the past.

If you fast-forward in the history books, you can see that Black voter intimidation and Black voter disenfranchisement continued well beyond the blatant actions of the Klan. State governments in the South joined the party and began passing sweeping new sets of laws called "Jim Crow" and those laws were designed to separate White people from Black people.

Blacks could not eat in the same restaurants as Whites; there were separate schools for Black and White children; Blacks could not drink water from the same fountains as Whites; Blacks had to sit in the back of the buses, whereas

Whites could sit up front; and Blacks could not ride in the same carriages as Whites on the trains.

All in all, this blatant form of voting disenfranchisement has significantly impacted the well-being and livelihood of Black people for centuries.

So, why has it been so important for other people to make it difficult for Black people to vote?

The reason, to me, is quite simple. Those who seek to disenfranchise Black people from the voting process know exactly how important voting is. Those who seek to disenfranchise Black people relative to the voting process know the profound impact that it has at every level of government—local, state, and national.

More importantly, those who seek to disenfranchise Black people from the voting process know that voting is so powerful that those in political positions of power are able to direct necessary and critical resources to select areas. They are also able to ensure that select people are appointed to key positions.

Nearly everything that impacts our daily lives, in some way, is influenced by an elected official or someone who is appointed by them. These elected officials draft policy, introduce legislation, and vote on bills, that eventually become laws.

Whether voting for the judge, who has the power to sentence your loved one to a lengthy prison sentence or voting for the judge who has the power to determine child support payments and visitation rights through the family court—one or more of these elected officials will impact your life in some shape, form

or fashion throughout your lifetime. Every elected official yields power and some level of influence that we as Black people should never ignore or take for granted.

It doesn't matter whether you believe your vote matters or not—and it most certainly does—you will have to adhere to any law voted on by those who've been elected to represent you. There is absolutely no level of complaining or reactionary response that will change that.

There are no acceptable excuses when it comes to voting. Either you do it or you reap the consequences. Engaged citizens must seek to understand politics if they wish to better understand the impact of the laws and decisions that politics produce.

I can only wonder, however, if many of our political martyrs, who sacrificed their very lives for the right to vote that we should all appreciate today, are flipping over in their graves as they look upon much of our squandered voting potential and overwhelming collective political apathy.

Maybe this election cycle will prove to be different, however. At least I hope it will.

Jeffrey L. Boney serves as Associate Editor and is an award-winning journalist for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. Jeffrey has been a frequent contributor on "The Nancy Grace Show" and "Primetime Justice with Ashleigh Banfield." Jeffrey is a radio personality and a dynamic, international speaker, experienced entrepreneur, business development strategist and Founder/CEO of the Texas Business Alliance. If you would like to request Jeffrey as a speaker, you can reach him at jboney1@forwardtimes.com. Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @real-talkjunkies.

Spiritually Speaking

Paul Hit the Bullseye



James Washington
Guest Columnist

I remember reviewing the letters of Paul in Bible study. In doing so, I was constantly reminded that one cannot look at Paul without really seeing Jesus' amazing handiwork.

Now you need to know that I think Paul is an awesome person, when it comes to the story of his life.

I haven't found a biography or autobiography of anyone in or outside of "The Good Book," who comes close to my admiration for Paul; Jesus notwithstanding.

Because the two are so closely

associated with one another, I can't help but consider the impact of this tandem on human history. Just in case someone wants to debate me on this by bringing up the lives of the 12 apostles, I have considered them as well as the prophets and I'm just one of those who is in awe of Paul.

A very large part of the Bible is devoted to Paul's building of the early church at a time when who you worshipped was a life and death decision.

Paul himself says, in his letters to the church in Corinth, that there was indeed a point to his suffering and persecution and that the basis for most, if not all, of what he went through was a byproduct of his faith in Jesus Christ.

"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I (Paul) will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on

me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.'" —2 Corinthians 12:8-10.

This kind of thinking and belief led to the eventual proliferation of the church, worldwide. It also makes the point of how the lives of so few have impacted and influenced so many in the world then, and the world as we know it today.

Forgive me if I find this a rather fascinating fact. Paul is who he is, because of his unique one on one encounter with Christ. That encounter changed him and ultimately the world in which we live. If that be true, then our individual encounters with Christ should also have a profound effect on us and the world in which we currently live.

It is not unusual for new Christians to be attacked by old friends. It is also not unusual for new Christians to fall victim to the attacks of

the world, since it is in the world where Satan has some sway.

I think Paul's good news is that there is a place of refuge when the attack comes. He uses himself as a very good example to follow.

If I surrender my weaknesses to the power of Christ and subjugate my will to that of the Lord's will, then I become empowered to deal with whatever is thrown my way.

Life, the Christian life, is funny that way. It places what I have described as a bullseye on your back, designed to distinguish you from those nonbelievers around you.

Your faith also sets you up and apart to do great things in the name of Jesus Christ, my personal Lord and Savior.

I guess what I'm really saying is that when the going gets extremely tough, check the human being Paul.

Like Christ he's been through and has experienced the worst that life has to offer. But because of his

belief system, he also experienced the best of God's promises.

Reviewing Paul's letters to the church in Corinth is like a refresher course and I just wanted to let you know where I go during difficult times. You might also find some answers there.

The point I'm trying to make is that in the eyes of God, one's weaknesses are welcomed opportunities for God to show up and show out.

Have you ever wondered why those who have been through so much are able to stand so strong and witness for Christ? Reexamine the reality of God's grace and you just might get your answer.

May God bless and keep you always.

James Washington is a father, husband, Christian and writer. James is also the owner and publisher of the multimedia company The Dallas Weekly. You can follow James on Twitter at @JAWS_215.

Why Does Breast Cancer Kill More Black Women?

By Black Health Matters

Black and white women get breast cancer at about the same rate, but we are more likely to die from it. This isn't new information; it's been this way for years, worsening over time. In fact, by 2012, death rates in black women were 42 percent higher than those in white women.

The disparity has researchers puzzling over one question: Why?

A woman's biology—and lifestyle factors such as physical activity and being sedentary—all play a role, said Cher Dallal, an assistant professor at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health.

But "there has been little research done in this area," she said, "particularly among black breast cancer survivors."

It's why she's studying biobehavioral links, the relationship between a woman's activity level and her biological makeup, and fo-



cusing on how these connections play out in white women and black women who have survived breast cancer.

With support from a five-year American Cancer Society grant, Dallal is currently recruiting 100 black and white breast cancer survivors. For seven days,

the recruits will wear a Fitbit-style device to measure how much they move and how often they are couch potatoes. They will also provide blood samples, which Dallal will analyze to look for differences in molecules involved in key biological processes and which give a snapshot of

overall health. This is known as metabolomic information.

Dallal's mission: to find out if higher levels of physical activity among breast cancer survivors are associated with differences in their metabolomic information, with an emphasis on the potential differences in these associations between black and white breast cancer survivors.

"Once we have this data, we'll start looking for patterns," Dallal said. "In addition to the metabolomics data, accelerometers allow us to measure a range of physical activity, including light and moderate activities. We'll be able to look at time spent in active and sedentary behaviors and how these behaviors may be associated with various metabolites across multiple biological pathways."

If, for example, Dallal and her team find breast cancer survivors are more likely to walk—and this type of activity is associated with more favorable metabolomic in-

formation—it could help develop strategies for improving breast cancer survival.

The researchers will also gather data about participants' socioeconomic status, where they live, their weight and their diet, as well as information about tumor type.

"With this information, our hope is that we will better understand physical activity and sedentary behaviors among breast cancer survivors and whether these behaviors influence biological profiles," she said. "From there, we can inform strategies to help breast cancer survivors improve their prognosis and ultimately to reduce the observed racial differences in breast cancer survival."

For more information on this topic and health from A-Z, visit www.blackhealthmatters.com

WWL-TV Reporter Sheba Turk Opens Up on Her Career Life

By Temitayo Odulaja
Data News Weekly
Contributor

To mark the final Brain Food Series for the academic year at Dillard University, WWL-TV Anchor, Sheba Turk, detailed her life experiences and her journey to becoming a reporter. Turk shared from her newly published book, "Off Air: My Journey to the Anchor Desk," which offers advice on how to overcome life's obstacles and to establish one's "own brand." In the spirit of playing it forward, Turk allowed her mentee, Tassion Lott-Minor, a Senior Mass Communication Student at Dillard, to host the event. Turk told the audience that it was her passion that helped her to secure a position as an anchor.

"I loved acting in high school and I think it helped me in this job, as there is a lot of acting," said Turk, a native of New Orleans, who started off as the associate producer of the morning news for WWL-TV. She recently moved from associate producer to anchor of her own show "The 504," named after the New Orleans area code. Turk shared important aspects of her life, as she was raised by caring parents who helped her to secure a quality education.

"I had the most loving parents who would sacrifice anything for me," she said.

Turk graduated from St. Mary's



WWL-TV Anchor, Sheba Turk, detailed her life experiences and her journey to becoming a reporter and excerpts from her new book during the final Brain Food Series at Dillard University. Photo by Temitayo Odulaja

Dominican High School, in New Orleans. She then continued her higher education at New York University. However, her college education in the Big Apple was cut short, as she was unable to continue schooling at the university, due to the cost of tuition.

"I owed \$26,000 when I got kicked out," she said. She was then forced to relocate back to New Orleans, after which she enrolled at the University of New Orleans. Thanks to scholarship aid, personal savings, and support from her parents she completed college back home.

Turk didn't start out in the me-

dia. She enrolled as a Pre-Medicine student, but later discovered that the coursework did not suit her.

"I had to take calculus and found that it was not for me," she said. So, she had to follow the path that worked well with her. She decided to pursue English and wound up an English major.

"For me it was very strategic, and I always loved writing," she said.

She then decided to go into journalism as a profession, due to her love for writing. However, when she received her first job at age 24 as a traffic reporter for WWL-TV, she discovered that journalism was

not what she expected; as she had taken up the position of a reporter, solely due to her love for writing.

"I really did not want to do this, and I could not handle the pressure," she said. Eventually, she learned the ropes and rules of journalism and stuck with it.

"I am learning to know my worth," she said. She further encouraged the audience to change themselves into what they desire to become. For Turk, this is "one of the keys to being successful."

"You can force yourself to be anything, it is just about how much effort you put into it," she said.

Although she is well-known in

front the camera, Turk said initially it wasn't her plan.

"I never dreamed of being on TV," she said. "The TV is just a part of my job," she said.

She later stated that things will happen that will discourage someone from following their passion, but as a word of encouragement, she advised the audience to remain positive and endure life's hardships.

"Real life will come in and hit you hard," she said. "I would say explore and be open and be okay with changing your mind," she said.

Although she has a lot to say, as a professional she has learned to measure what she shares with her viewers.

"Life is an interview and I am an opinionated person, but you have to keep that to yourself," she said.

The viewers expect the media to present the facts and be transparent about bias said Norwood Sears, Dillard's webmaster, who attended the event.

"Bias should just be destroyed, fact is fact," he said.

Dillard officials said Turk's journey was important because it allowed students to see how a hometown girl went on to achieve success.

"She gave real good advice, practical advice and she is a young person giving advice to young people," said Marc Barnes, Dillard's Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

vouchers for those who cannot afford housing on their incomes. Our 45th president had proposed deep cuts in the HUD budget, but the budget that was passed on March 23, 2018, just hours before the government was scheduled to shut down, actually adds money to the HUD budget, especially in the rental assistance and public housing capital funds program. Still, cuts are scheduled for the next fiscal year, and the issue of non-discriminatory and affordable housing remains a pressing one.

But will HUD Secretary Ben Carson enforce the Fair Housing Act and effectively administer an agency that can make a difference in the quality of life for low-income people? One has to raise the ques-

tion, especially as Dr. Carson seems to want to spend more time looking for a \$30,000 dining table than administering his agency. Trump's pick of Carson to administer the agency was a strange one, given that Carson's only qualification for running one of the government's largest agencies seems to be that his mom avoided public housing because of its "dangers." Trump does not seem to be high on finding qualified people to run HUD. For example, Lynne Patton, the HUD administrator for Region II, which includes New York and New Jersey, was Eric Trump's wedding planner.

It may seem snarky to point out things that some would call "minor," and both Patton and Carson will, perhaps, grow into their roles. They have to; their work makes a difference in the quality of life, and the quality of housing, for millions

of Americans. And, there is no evidence that Carson has spearheaded innovative programs (wait – did I write Carson and "innovative programs" in the same sentence?) to close the homeownership gap or to help African American families recover from the ravages of the Great Recession.

Furthermore, while this has little to do with Carson, the effort to roll back Dodd-Frank reforms and the evisceration of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau strips power from consumers, especially those of low and moderate incomes. By making it more difficult to file class action lawsuits, individuals who experience banking discrimination are handicapped in their ability to fight back. Carson, singing from the "45" playbook, when he opens up his mouth at all, is not likely to be an effective advocate for

the people he has frequently disdained.

Indeed, though he has thrown his wife, Candy, under the bus on the matter of the dining table, he is no different from other cabinet officials who have a "let them eat cake" attitude toward those they serve. First class travel, high-end furniture, and chicanery are the name of the "45" cabinet game. Fifty years after the passage of the Fair Housing Act as a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., it is not clear that the current HUD Secretary will be a warrior in the fight against housing discrimination.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at Amazon.com and at www.juliannemalveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.



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Trump's Anxiety Hits New High with Michael Cohen's Time in the Spotlight

FBI Raid on Personal Attorney Adds More Danger in President's Legal Minefield

Data Staff Reports

President Donald Trump and his allies have hit a new level of anxiety after the raid on his personal attorney's office, fearful of deeper exposure for Trump, his inner circle and his adult children — and more than concerned that they don't know exactly what is in those records and electronic devices seized last week.

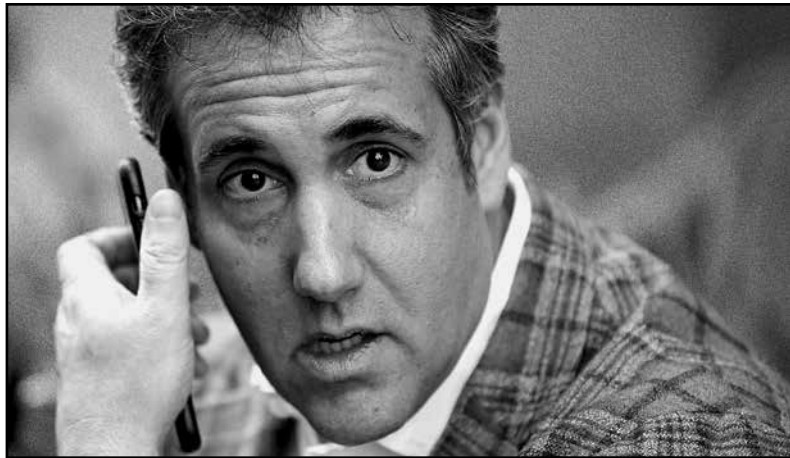
There is also some worry that Michael Cohen, the self-described legal fixer who helped make bad stories go away and took a leading role in Trump Organization projects in foreign outposts, may strike a deal with prosecutors out of concern about his own prospects.

"I think it's a huge minefield for Donald Trump and the Trump Organization," said trial attorney Joseph Cammarata, who represented Paula Jones in her sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton. "I think this is on its own track and this train is coming down the track with brute force."

The wild legal show continued to play out Monday, at a court hearing in New York before a federal judge who is considering what to do with the material that the FBI seized from Cohen. The scene was punctuated by dramatic entrances and revelations. Stormy Daniels — the porn actress who alleged she had a sexual affair with the president — made an appearance, stumbling on her high heels as she was swarmed by press. Cohen was forced to reveal that another one of his clients is Fox News host Sean Hannity, a high-profile confidant of the president.

Trump left the White House for Florida, for a two-day summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the president's Mar-a-Lago estate. Advisers are hoping the meeting will draw attention from the legal tempest in Washington and New York.

On the trip south, White House



A federal raid, carried out a week ago in New York City on longtime Trump "fixer" Michael Cohen, sought bank records, information on Cohen's dealing in the taxi industry and Cohen's communications with the Trump campaign including information on payments he made in 2016 to former Playboy model Karen McDougall and to adult actress Stormy Daniels, both of whom allege relationships with Trump.

spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders sought to put distance between Trump and Cohen, saying: "I believe they've still got some ongoing things, but the president has a large number of attorneys, as you know."

The federal raid, carried out a week ago in New York City, sought bank records, information on Cohen's dealing in the taxi industry, Cohen's communications with the Trump campaign and information on payments he made in 2016 to former Playboy model Karen McDougall and to Daniels, both of whom allege relationships with Trump, people familiar with the raid told the Associated Press. The court proceedings Monday dealt with who gets to look at Cohen's seized documents and devices before they are turned over to prosecutors.

Though Cohen once said he "would take a bullet" for Trump, he is aware of the possible outcome — including potential prison time — and has expressed worry about his family, said a person who has spoken to the lawyer in recent days but is not authorized to discuss private conversations. Cohen has not been charged with anything.

Trump's moods have grown

ity to discuss private conversations.

"I agree with the consensus forming that it's very dangerous for the president, probably the most serious thing yet," said Sol Wisenberg, a defense attorney who was a deputy independent counsel during the Starr special counsel investigation into Clinton. "Even if you shut Mueller down some way, how do you shut down the Southern District (federal court)?"

Trump's anger at the probe has intensified, with him musing publicly about firing Mueller and the man who authorized the probe, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. Those around Trump have hoped that this week's visit to Mar-a-Lago, where he is generally happier, along with the tightly scheduled summit with Abe, would somewhat distract him from Cohen and from Comey's ongoing publicity tour.

Cohen has long been a key power center in the Trump Organization and a fixture along the edges of Trump's nascent political life. In Cohen's own estimation, he is Trump's Ray Donovan, the bruising television character who takes whatever steps are needed to fix problems for the tycoon he serves.

He has regularly threatened lawsuits against those who pose a challenge to Trump. He has berated reporters for writing unflattering words about his boss. He has worked with tabloids, including the National Enquirer, to kill unfavorable stories about Trump. He has said he used a home-equity loan to finance a \$130,000 payment to Daniels in the final days of the 2016 campaign and did so without Trump's knowledge.

The president has consistently denied a relationship with Daniels, who claims the two had sex not long after first lady Melania Trump gave birth to the couple's son Barron. He has also pushed back against other claims from women.

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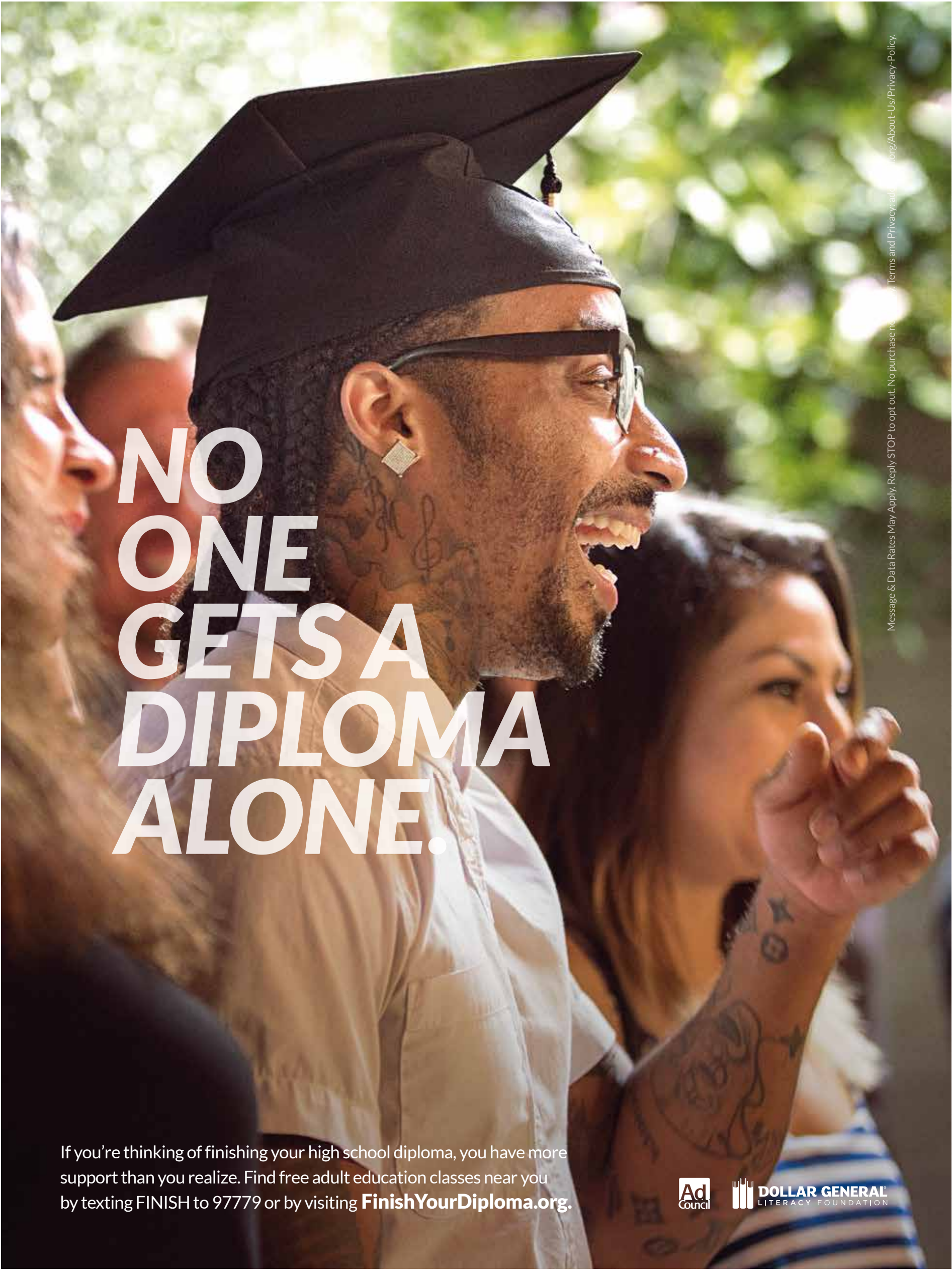
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