Bill Cosby Found Guilty on All Charges in Sex Assault Trial
Remains Free on $1 Million Bail
By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A Montgomery County jury last Thursday, found comedian Bill Cosby guilty on all three counts of aggravated indecent assault in the case involving Andrea Constand, a former Temple University employee, who sought career advice and friendship from the entertainer.

The decision came after more than a day of deliberations and after having Cosby’s deposition testimony read back to them.

Cosby, 80, faces up to 30 years in prison.

Bill Cosby will remain on house arrest until he’s sentenced this summer following his conviction on three counts of aggravated indecent sexual assault. He was released on $1 million bail pending sentencing.

District Attorney Kevin Steele asked the judge to remand Cosby, citing his “enormous wealth and means.” “He will flee,” Steele said.

Judge Steven T. O’Neill argued that he doesn’t have
a plane and hasn't missed a courtroom.

“He doesn't have a plane, you a—hole,” Cosby yelled out. “I'm sick of this.”

He did not react to the verdict, even as each of the 12 members of the jury were polled individually.

Cosby’s spokesman Andrew Wyatt said he was disappointed by the verdict.

His attorneys said they plan to appeal, citing numerous improper rulings by O'Neill and a juror who was kept on the panel after he was overheard saying, “he's guilty, we can all go home,” before the trial began.

Judge Steven T. O’Neill ordered Cosby to get written permission from adult probation officials, if he wants to leave his Philadelphia area home to visit his doctor or to meet with lawyers.

Those are the only movements he's allowed, and they must be within a five-county radius of Montgomery County. Cosby has been fitted with a tracking device, so that court officials can monitor him.

“This was a man who had evaded this moment for far too long,” Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele said after the verdict.

Steele said that Cosby had “shown his true colors,” when the legendary actor called the prosecutor an “a—hole” after Steele argued that he should immediately be locked up following the verdict.

O’Neill ruled that Cosby could remain free on the same $1 million bail he posted when he was arraigned in December of 2015.

“We still believe that Mr. Cosby is innocent of these charges,” lead defense attorney Tom Mesereau said. “The fight isn’t over.”

About an hour after the verdict and before Cosby left the courthouse, several of his defense team members huddled, including attorneys Jaya Gupta and Rachael Robinson, both sobbing.

An emotional Andrew Wyatt, Cosby’s chief spokesman, said the trial was reminiscent of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old Mississippi African American whose lynching after he was accused of whistling at a White woman, ignited the Civil Rights Movement.

“This became a public lynching,” Wyatt said. “What Gloria Allred was able to do, she took a salt and pepper shaker. She [shook] out a lot of salt and sprinkled in a little black pepper and the South came east.”

Ebonee Benson, who joined Wyatt on morning television shows after the verdict, said the comparison to Emmett Till is real.

“We can take a look at Emmett Till,” she said. “Since when are all women honest?”

Several television analysts questioned the verdict.

Lawyer and famed CNN legal analyst Joey Jackson, who before the verdict said the case should have been declared a mistrial, said after the decision that Cosby’s team has “many grounds for appeal.” He said he was stunned by the verdict as well as the swiftness in which the jury delivered it.

“Certainly, the prosecution put up vigorous case … but I thought the defense did a significant job of discrediting Andrea Constand giving the jury an indication that there was a number of lies she told over a period of time,” Jackson said.

Jackson continued: “The first trial took them 52 hours and they were hung. This time it took 15 hours and they convict, so here we go. I think the most significant grounds were the five accusers. In the first trial, there was one and when you have five, they just have such prejudicial value and I think it just overwhelmed the jury. That’s probably the biggest point in attempting to get Bill Cosby a new trial.”

Jackson called the issue “significant” and one that might allow Cosby, whose facing 30 years in prison, to remain free through the appeal process.

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Black Love is a Movement for Self Love, Panelists Share.

By Brianna Montgomery
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The State of Black Love is hardly ever discussed, but on April 12, 2018, a panel of experts delved into the topic of intimate relationships among Black people. Touching on the meaning of Black Love and the influence of Black Love in today’s society, the forum was part of a series on the State of Black America held at Xavier University.

“I had a student make a presentation on the young Black girls she mentors in New Orleans and they discussed love as if it should be violent, and they’re talking about love as hurtful, and something you should be ashamed about,” said Tia Smith, an Assistant Professor of Mass Communication, who also teaches Women Studies courses at Xavier.

Smith shared these experiences alongside Brian Turner, an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Xavier who joined Nia Weeks, a Women’s Empowerment Activist for the Greater New Orleans area, and Minister Willie Muhammad an active member of the Muslim Community in New Orleans, to discuss Black Love from multiple perspectives. The panel all shared similar ideas about defining Black Love, with the focus on Black Love building self-love and confidence among African-Americans.

Black Love and self-love were always part of Civil Rights Activism in the past, Turner noted.

“How he promoted Black individuals to love themselves and specified that the way you grow into loving yourself is by growing into knowledge of yourself,” Turner said as he mentioned some of the teachings of Elijah Muhammad, an African-American religious figure, who led the Nation of Islam until his death.

Young people today are exposed to the concept of Black Love specifically through media and how couples portray it online, but parental influence is the thing that children recognize first.

“Being a mother of three girls, I realized that they get a lot of their perception of love through television, things such as music videos and reality TV shows,” Weeks said. “But as their mother, I was able to show them and teach them how to be loved the right way, and how to make themselves happy for who they are,” Weeks said.

However, women are not the only ones influenced through television and music. Young boys are also under the influence of social media. Turner said, for instance, that the Destiny's Child song “I Need A Soldier” features these three beautiful women celebrating a type of love that is considered “gangster,” and the kind of love given by a thug or hoodlum.

“These types of messages are being received by young Black boys and girls showing that their man should be a gangster and telling younger boys that the only way that they can get a beautiful woman is to be a hustler,” Turner said.

Along with movie and television influences, other media sources such as Twitter and Facebook have an influence on how Black Love is portrayed. These social media images are not always based in reality, the panelists said.

“I am not for the cookie cutter type image and depiction of love,” Smith said. “I think it problematizes Black relationships that often call out the Black woman as problematic, without any discussion of the structures of sexism and racism that contribute to the challenging issues that women face. So, I think we should reframe and rethink the narrative of Black Love and Black relationships,” Smith said.

With all the happy pictures and hashtag goals that come with social media posts and videos, it can be easy for couples to get drawn into this false advertisement of Black Love, that steers away from the real hard work of building a foundation, that is needed. Some film representations of Black Love can be examined in popular movies, like most Tyler Perry Films, Smith said. Perry’s work examines Black Love, but his way of portraying it is not always positive.

“Tyler Perry carries the angry Black women name in all his films, where he depicts most of his main African-American female characters as battered and angry,” Smith noted.

The State of Black Love is natural and not only an emotion, but also involves commitment and action by both individuals.

“When you love somebody, you love the brightness of his/her soul and the beauty of their heart,” Weeks said. “You’re not just happy to be with them, you’re happy for being with them.”

Black Love, Continued on page 11.
Derrick T. “Golden Blade” Hulin Golden Blade Tribe

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

“My first Big Chief suit in 2001 till now, Big Chief Golden Blade attests his leadership to the lessons of Chiefs that came before him. In some of our past interviews we speak on the ways this culture can cause a rift in families. In this case we see the beautiful opposite.

Q. What is the difference between beading and beadwork?
A. Running straight lines is beading. When you have details and intricate colors it’s beadwork.
Q. In your time of masking, what’s a lost tradition you feel should come back?
A. The way they meet, the way they play (Indian protocol), and signals. When we use to meet we use to be blocks away from each other and we did that for a reason to stretch the tribe out, so we could communicate with the signals.
Q. You’ve given blood, sweat, tears, and many years to this culture, what has this culture given you?
A. The culture has taught me so much in terms of being a leader amongst men and women, to have compassion in certain aspects, to be stern in certain aspects, to grow to be a man. If you’re around the right people and being taught by the right people it teaches you to be that great leader, that great man to stand on your word, say what you mean, mean what you say, don’t backbite on nothing. It’s gonna come with repercussions but guess what, they will respect your mind better by telling the truth. The Indian Culture has taught me a lot and it don’t owe me anything at the end of the day.
Q. What are your responsibilities as Chief?
A. First and foremost make sure that your Indians respect themselves, each other, and Indians from other tribes. Second of all they must learn the reasons why they want to mask, not just because it’s fun. They have to understand why we do what we do. We’re not just doing it to have a ball. We have to make sure they know the value of signals because when you’re playing Indian you don’t communicate verbally you communicate with your tribe via signals. We have to teach them the songs and the reasons why we’re singing these songs and the meaning behind these songs. Whether it’s a battle cry or respectable song we have reasons. You also have to learn how to thread that needle and sit there and put in the time and dedication to make it come alive. All of it works together, there’s not one part greater than the other. You could have a nice suit and just don’t know what you’re doing and all you’ll be is a manikin.
Q. As a Chief what does singing mean to you in this culture?
A. Your singing is your life, your singing is your years. You sing about your experiences so at that point it doesn’t become a song it becomes your documentary.
Q. What role did this culture play in your relationship with your father?
A. When the Indian thing came about it gave us a chance to work together, we sewed together, we hung together and talked, he’s seen my mistakes and I saw his mistakes, and we basically led off each other. We were in tandem all the way up until about two or three years ago because his eye sight was brought up that way and we hung together and talked, he’s seen my mistakes and I saw his mistakes, and we basically led off each other. Whereas a lot of guys may have a lot of help on these suits, it’s always been me and him, always.
Q. What is the spirit of your Tribe?
A. The spirit of Golden Blades is strictly old school tradition. I was brought up that way and I teach them the same values. I have Indians in my tribe that masked in the 60’s and 70’s. That’s all we know is old school values.
Data News Weekly’s 2nd Data Strut Award winner for the 2018 year was announced at Xavier University’s Spring Fashion Show. Miss Taylor Fields showed the most grace, poise, and style on the runway while modeling in multiple lines in the show. As a new comer in the modeling world, the 21-year-old California native was honored to have received the Data Strut Award.

“It was such a surprise, I just went out there with the utmost confidence and I guess it showed” said Fields.

Field’s interest in the modeling world began when she discovered modeling pictures of her mom. Her mother having given Fields the inspiration to start, provided Taylor the motivation to study the craft of modeling shown in programs like Next Top Model. “I love shows about fashion, and I love how fashion lets you really express yourself. Your walk on the runway really can make your personality shine through, it’s so expressive!” said Fields.

Fields went on to mention greats in the modeling industry such as Naomi Campbell, saying she tries to embody professionals like her on the runway. “Any model making an impact in fashion really inspires me. Being on the runway or on the camera can sometimes make me nervous, especially pictures, but after I practice and see the reaction from the crowd I tell myself, ‘ok ok I got this’” said Fields.

When Taylor isn’t on the runway, she is catering to the things most important to her. Fields enjoys time with family, friends, drawing, and photography. Fields prides herself in helping and inspiring others in any way she can. “My family is the reason I do everything, I love them so much and I love to surround myself with those who truly support me” said Fields.

Fields is currently a rising senior at Xavier University of Louisiana majoring in Psychology with an Art minor. The studious model is driven by balancing her personal and professional goals in life. “After graduation I plan to work within the Criminal Justice System in prisons and with inmates. I would also love to use my Art minor as a therapy outlet” said Fields.

In the future Fields intends on doing more fashion shows and photoshoots. Fields hopes to gain more knowledge on Fashion and land more gigs outside of her school network.

For more information on Fields visit ladatanews.com and browse our gallery for more shots of our 2nd Data Strut Award winner.
2018 Jazz Fest Weekend 1 Brings the Music

Photos by Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

With none of the weather shenanigans that cancelled the first day of the French Quarter Festival, The 49th Annual New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival rolled in with plenty of sunshine, amazing food and an incredible array of musical acts from around with country this past Friday through Sunday. The Fairgrounds was host for the first half of the famed event, with that included Common, Kidd Jordan, Bobby Rush, The Ron Carter Trio, Big Freedia and Big Chief Donald Harrison. One of the standout moments on Saturday was an all-star tribute to the late Fats Domino featuring an all-star array of contributors that included Davell Crawford, Irma Thomas, Jon Batiste and more performing some of Fats' most beloved songs. "The second week will be as great as the first, so of course, Data will see you there!!!
Data Staff Reports

Often times, the best ideas are right in our own back yard. So, why not you? Attention entrepreneurs, Walmart is looking to serve up the big break you've been looking for during Walmart's Open Call scheduled for June 13, 2018 in Bentonville, Arkansas. You can apply now for a chance to secure a seat at a table with one of the company's buyers by visiting walmartjump.com; the deadline is May 4.

Since participating in Open Call last year, our EPA Safer Choice Certified Direct Release product, BOOYAH CLEAN BOAT WASH is on the shelves of more than 900 Walmart stores,” said Harahan, Louisiana-based Mike Wisecarver, owner of BOOYAH CLEAN BOAT WASH. “Walmart recognizes the ingenuity of our line of award winning (2017 First Place – EPA Golf Course Award) marine cleaning products, that are safer for the environment, our customers and their families. This experience has given our product national recognition, and I encourage local entrepreneurs to participate in Open Call.”

“Walmart’s investment in U.S.-manufactured products goes beyond the shell. The investment is also in the entrepreneurs’ dream, and that can be an emotional experience for everyone involved,” said Cindi Marsiglio, Walmart’s vice president of Merchandise Services and U.S. Manufacturing. “By investing in products that support American jobs, we’re able to bring new products to our shelves and new jobs to our communities.”

Attendees at this year’s Open Call could secure deals ranging from a handful of stores in a local market, to supplying hundreds or even thousands of stores, Sam’s Club locations and Walmart.com. The daylong event informs, empowers and encourages all who attend while providing a great networking opportunity for local entrepreneurs.

A brand new batch of products identified during the 2017 Open Call event recently landed on Walmart store shelves, representing the dreams of dozens of entrepreneurs across the country, including:

Louisiana-based business owner Mike Wisecarver pitched BOOYAH CLEAN BOAT WASH at Open Call 2017. His product is now at more than 900 stores. Louisiana’s woman-owned Southern Design secured a deal with Walmart to sell University specific wall art. The unique product caught the eye of buyers with the on trend look and uniqueness.

Orlando residents are beamimg with pride after O’Dang Hummus fulfilled founder Jesse Wolfe’s childhood dream and secured a deal to put their low calorie healthy snack on Walmart shelves. As of today, the O’Dang Hummus products can be found in more than 2,000 stores.

ZollPops CEO, Alina Morse, proves that age is only a number. The 12-year old entrepreneur from Michigan landed her products on the shelves of over 4,500 Walmart locations.

Sleep is essential and Terra Beauty Products Bars showcased their Florida-manufactured Go To Sleep Natural Pillow Mist to buyers, earning the product a trial in 85 stores.

Curries by Nature Simmer Sauces is a Texas-based business that landed a deal to sell its authentic Indian Simmer Sauce in more than 400 stores.

The health & beauty category is testing Sundari, LLC’s Neem Hand Oil in approx. 100 stores. The quality hand oil is manufactured in California.

RedHead Wine of Youngstown, Ohio, is the product of a third generation wine maker who paired perfectly with Walmart during Open Call in 2017, securing a deal to be on the shelves of 150 plus stores.

Room décor takes on a whole new perspective with Decallocs’ Augmented Reality Wall Posters, currently available in 1,000 stores and manufactured in Idaho.
As the U.S. economy recovers from a decade of slow growth, more and more millennials—generally defined as people born between the early 1980s and about 2004—are becoming a significant factor in the real estate market, as they pay off student loans and become established in their professions.

And with more and more millennials hitting peaks within their education, Brooke Cashion, a broker with Allen Tate Realtors and the president of the Winston-Salem Regional Association of Realtors, said that she could see the correlation between education levels and higher real estate investments.

“I work with many, well-educated millennials who are finally working in the professions they trained so comfortably afford.

In addition, Cashion also said that millennials are looking for homes that reflect their lifestyles, that allow them to live among like-minded neighbors, and that offer them the opportunity to be a part of the communities where they live.

“I find that millennials are very empathetic,” Cashion said. “They want to play a role in making their communities better places to live.”

Brian A. Hudson, the executive director and CEO of the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency, agreed with Cashion, that community is very important to millennials.

“They want to live close to where they work, especially when they can obtain a mortgage that is less than the rent they are paying,” Hudson said.

In addition, Hudson said that the hot rental market in the last five years has caused more and more millennials to evaluate the tipping point between paying rent and paying a mortgage.

“Even if they are not sure how long they will be in a certain community, many believe it makes sense to transition from renting to owning, when rent payments equal or exceed mortgage payments,” Cashion said.

However, homeownership is not without obstacles for millennials, with Cashion noting a lack of housing inventory, as one of the major conflicts.

“Recently had a listing that had seven offers only a short time after it went on the market,” Cashion said.

Millennials comprise 30 to 40 percent of Hudson’s client base. Hudson noted that this level of interest is not unusual for quality properties in the current real estate market.

In addition, Hudson also said that another important factor in reaching millennials, is making use of digital media.

“Running magazine and newspaper ads, as we did for years, does not work well with millennials. These days you have to be on Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter and other social media, because that’s what they rely on to get information,” Hudson said.

Christopher G. Cox is the Publisher/Managing Editor of RealeSavvy.com. His monthly column, focusing on community and economic development, appears in the Winston-Salem Chronicle. He also has a monthly radio program that can be heard on WQOB (980 AM) in Winston-Salem. Follow Chris on Twitter @realesavvy.

LA Sec. of State Resigns Amid Sexual Misconduct Scandal

Baton Rouge, LA - As reported by the Associated Press, Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler is leaving his elected position as calls for his resignation have increased amid allegations that the state elections chief, sexually harassed one of his employees.

Schedler announced on Tuesday, that he will be stepping down May 8 from the position he’s held since 2010. He becomes the highest-level public official in Louisiana to be felled by sexual misconduct accusations since the #MeToo movement began.

The Republican previously announced plans to stay until his term ended in January 2020, despite a pending sexual harassment lawsuit against him by an employee.

But the drumbeat for Schessler’s resignation grew louder after the release of sexually themed emails Schedler had sent the woman who sued him. A special election will fill the remainder of Schedler’s term.

Gov. John Bel Edwards in a statement says he believes Schedler made the right decision.

“Given the serious nature of the allegations, in February, I called on Secretary of State Tom Schedler to resign,” Edwards says. “In light of the additional information that has been disclosed, I believe this is the best course of action for Tom, his family, and the state of Louisiana.”
New Orleans, Louisiana — On Thursday, April 26, AT&T announced a contribution of $100,000 to New Orleans-based Camelback Ventures (Camelback) as part of AT&T Aspire, the company’s initiative to help provide access to education and training people need to get and keep good jobs.

At an event held at Camelback’s office in New Orleans, representatives from AT&T and Camelback made remarks about the contribution. Aaron Walker, CEO of Camelback stated, “This contribution from AT&T will make a strong impact on helping our efforts and the entrepreneurs we are working with to advance their goals to become more successful in the future. Thank you to AT&T for its continued commitment to our community, our state and the leaders of tomorrow’s economy.”

Sonia Perez, President of AT&T Louisiana said, “AT&T is pleased this year to continue our support of Camelback and its work because we share the vision of supporting local entrepreneurs who will cultivate jobs and economic growth in the future.”

AT&T’s contribution supports diverse social entrepreneurs by helping fund the infrastructure for the 2018 Fellowship program. AT&T also supported Camelback’s 2017 program bringing AT&T’s total amount contributed to $350,000.

Camelback aims to address the inequities of entrepreneurship by providing coaching, capital, and connections to underrepresented entrepreneurs. The contribution from AT&T supports the group’s mission and efforts.

AT&T invests in education and job training to create a skilled and diverse workforce that powers our company – and our country – for the future. Through the AT&T Aspire initiative, AT&T helps provide access to education and training people need to get and keep good jobs. Since 2008, we’ve committed $400 million to programs to help millions of students in all 50 states and around the world.

AT&T Aspire brings together the power of our network – our employees, our technology and organizations – to connect people to opportunities through education and job training.
“Black Panther” star Chadwick Boseman will deliver the keynote address during Howard University’s 150th Commencement Ceremony at San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, Calif. (Gage Skidmore/Wikimedia Commons)

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Howard University Alumnus Chadwick Boseman, 40, will give the keynote address at the school’s 150th Commencement Ceremony on May 12. The star of the movie “Black Panther” will also be presented with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

“I’m excited to return to the Mecca in celebration of the achievements of our illustrious students,” Boseman said in a statement announcing the keynote address. “Let’s listen, learn and build with one another.”

The movie “Black Panther” has become a worldwide phenomenon. It has now grossed more money than the hit movie “Titanic.” “Black Panther” has now grossed over $1.3 billion worldwide and is the highest-grossing film of 2018. The movie is also currently the third-highest-grossing film ever in the United States and the 10th-highest-grossing film of all time.

Boseman graduated from Howard University and attended the British American Dramatic Academy at Oxford. Boseman can currently be seen starring as T’Challa/Black Panther in Marvel Studios’ “Black Panther” and “Avengers: Infinity War.”

He made his debut in the Marvel Cinematic Universe as the African superhero in Marvel Studios’ “Captain America: Civil War,” in May 2016. Boseman’s breakout performance came in 2013 when he received rave reviews for his portrayal of the legendary Jackie Robinson in Warner Bros’ “42” opposite Harrison Ford. He also portrayed James Brown in Universal Pictures’ “Get on Up.”

“We are extremely pleased that Chadwick Boseman has accepted our invitation to address the class of 2018,” said Howard University Board of Trustees Chair Stacey Mobley. “His words as one who has walked the same halls as our graduates will truly resonate and inspire them to reach for the stars.”

Mobley continued: “It is an incredible honor and privilege for the Howard University community to welcome back home one of its native sons, Chadwick Boseman, to deliver the 2018 commencement address. He has played some of the most iconic African Americans that have transformed history, including Jackie Robinson, James Brown and Howard’s own Thurgood Marshall.”

In a statement about Howard University’s 150th commencement ceremony, Howard President Wayne Frederick said that Boseman’s role in the blockbuster film “Black Panther” reminds us of the excellence found in the African diaspora.

“Howard continues to be a gem that produces the next generation of artist-scholars, humanitarians, scientists, engineers and doctors,” said Frederick. “Mr. Boseman exemplifies the monumental heights and levels Howard graduates can achieve by using the skills and knowledge they acquired at the university.”

This story was originally posted at BlackPressUSA.com. Lauren Victoria Burke is a Congressional Correspondent for the NNPA Newswire. Lauren also works independently as a political analyst and communications strategist. You can reach Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LBurke.

Black Love. Continued from page 4.

will go to the top of the highest mountain and not care who hears it,” Weeks said. “When you marry somebody and right after you say I do, they get into a car accident and they’re paralyzed from the waist down, you will take care of them,” she added.

“That is the essence of real love, she explained, not just words, but actions.
ASSESSING HOUSING OPTIONS

UNDERSTANDING BENEFITS

aarp.org/caregiving
Caregiving Resource Center
Care for your loved one. Care for yourself.