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"The People's Paper"

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



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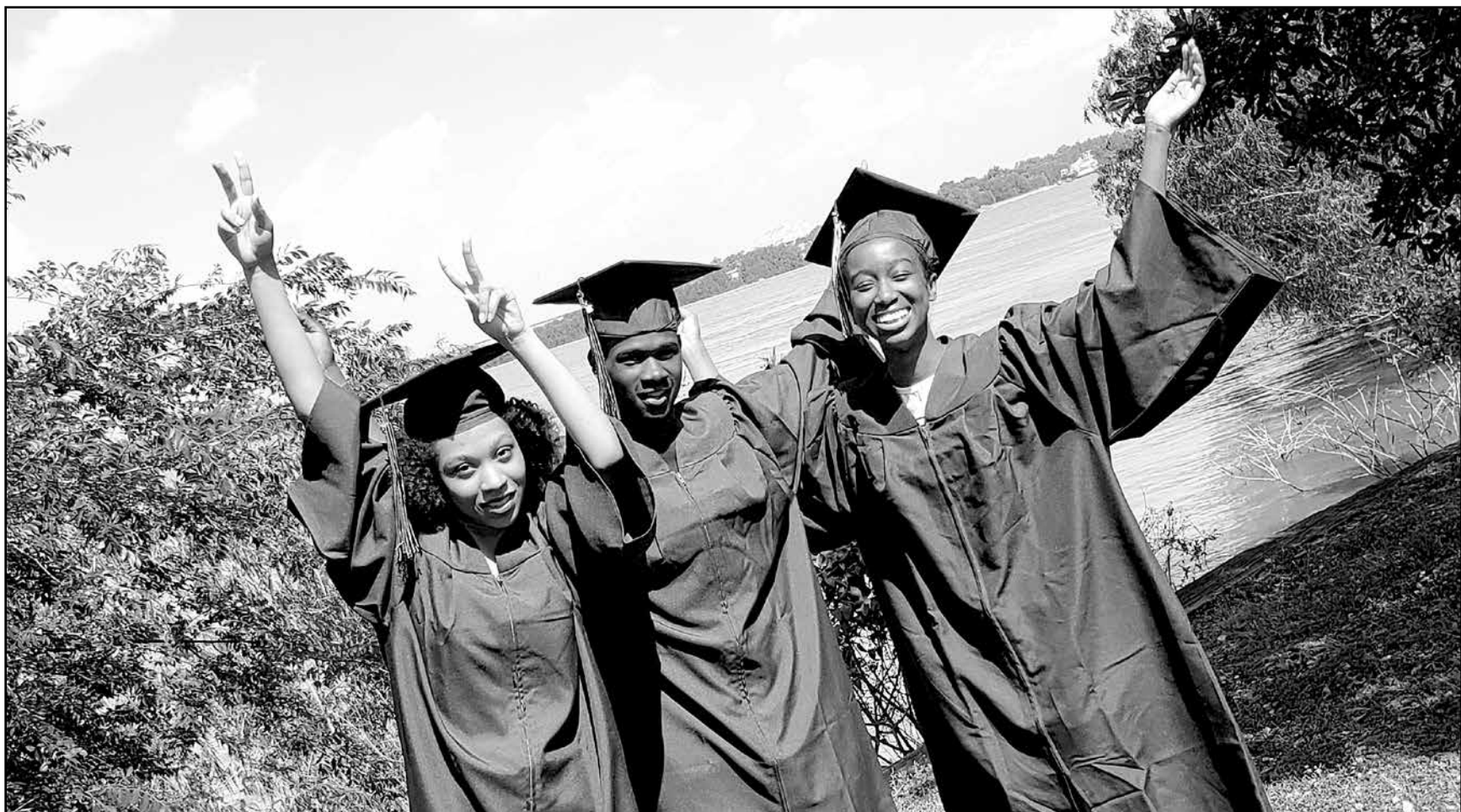
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Inspiration for the Next Generation

*International High School of New Orleans
Students and their Quest for Greatness*



Celebrating their graduation are (left to right) Tarrielle Strader, Darrin Francois and Grace Clark, graduates of the International High School of New Orleans.

By Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

Education and Success in Post-Katrina New Orleans

In Post-Katrina New Orleans, the educational system is being reformed where the rates of success are

as of today mixed. For all know we there is a correlation between educational attainment and success in life and education is the bridge to a better quality of life. When we look at African-American young people through the distorted lens of the mainstream media one can see on a daily basis negative images of young Black people leaving one with a pessimistic view of where those who would lead the City in the future come from.

Dispelling Myths

The fact is these are more myths than facts in these cases as most young people even those who have less resources do not commit crime. Additionally, parents across the economic strata care about their kids and value education. In educational circles there's been much talk concerning the achievement gap along racial and economic lines; but I would argue that the real

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problem is the aspiration gap and because of historical barriers some suffer from the affliction of low or limited aspirations. This is something that could be remedied with the right resources and support systems in place where all students can thrive and reach their full potential regardless of their zip code.

International High School of New Orleans and their Commitment to Excellence

This is something that The International High School of New Orleans is doing; taking kids and helping them aspire to reach higher.

The story of Darrin Francois, a student at the school who recently made National News for being accepted into at the time of the stories 83 universities. I thought the coverage was great but felt that this incredible accomplishment needed to be told by Data News Weekly. That we as the "People's Paper" should celebrate this young man and his great accomplishment.

I then reached out to the school's CEO/Head of School, Sean Wilson and the Principal, Adierah Berger. During our conversation, Ms. Berger informed me there are many high achieving students at the school and I should talk to some of them as well.

On the day I went to the school that's located on Carondelet Street in downtown New Orleans I heard the clanking sounds of the St. Charles Streetcar in the background. I entered the building and sat in the office eventually being led into a room by Ms. Berger where I met Darrin Francois and two other students Grace Clark and Tarrielle Strader. Little did I know at the time that I would find myself during this interview beaming with pride, fighting back tears of joy and thinking that our future as a people is bright as I spoke with these intelligent, ambitious and thoughtful young people.

Preparing for greatness

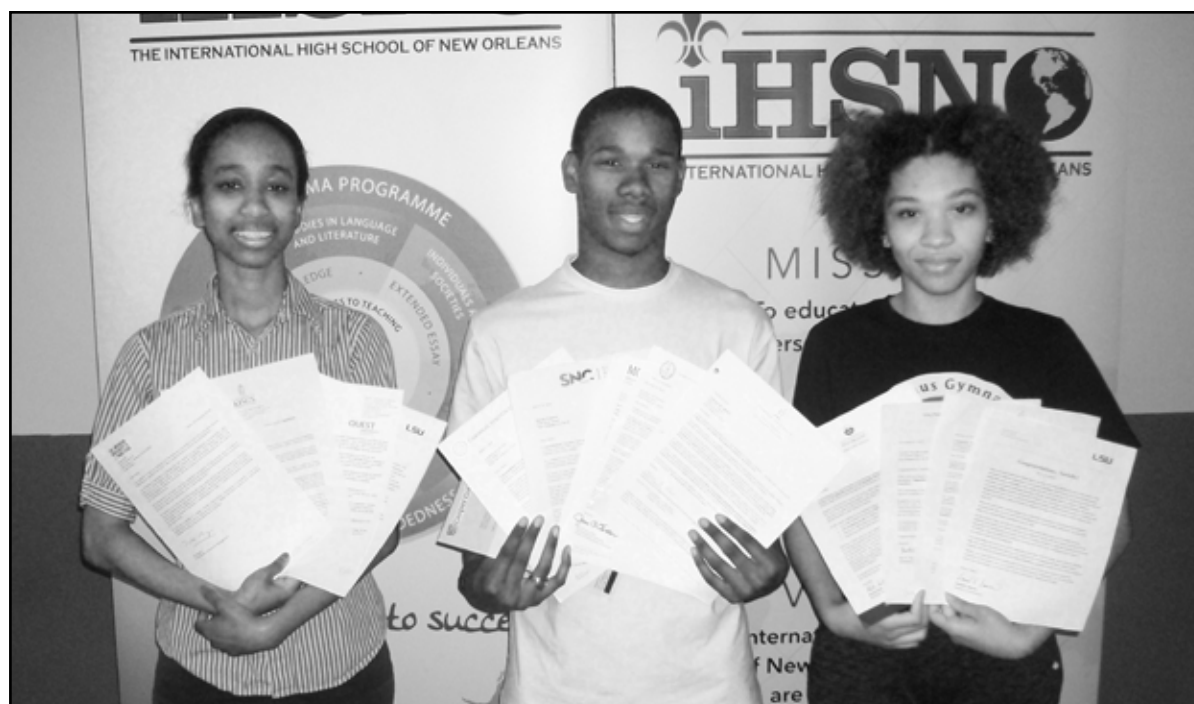
As I began to talk with the three young people seated in a room with several long tables armed with binders full of acceptance letters from colleges spanning all regions in the U.S. and also Canada and Europe.

The group all knew each other from honors classes and their years together at the school. There is an obvious camaraderie among the group as they laugh, smile and sometimes interject their thoughts about the questions I ask. This is less of an interview in the formal sense and more of a conversation.

Tarrielle, who came to the school after her family moved from Missouri, begins with a mix of shyness and confidence as she begins turning the pages of her binder saying she's been accepted into 23 colleges,



The graduates beamed with pride during their interview with Data News Weekly Editor, Edwin Buggage (2nd from right).



Grace Clark, Darrin Francois and Tarrielle Strader, graduates of the International High School of New Orleans hold some of the many acceptance letters each of them received from colleges and universities throughout the country.

es, "UNO, LSU, Missouri Western, Milsaps, Tuskegee," naming a few of the schools she's been accepted into. "The schools I applied to are ones that I mostly checked out for the majors I am interested in and that is Business Administration or Mechanical Engineering."

Grace is seated in the middle of the Tarrielle and Darrin, she is the most talkative of the group. She is articulate and thoughtful. "I was accepted into 23 schools 24 if you count a program I was accepted into for computer science." She then begins speaking of some of the colleges she's received acceptance letters from. "The top colleges I am considering are LSU, University of Kings which is in Canada and The American University of Paris in France." She is interested in studying either Computer Science or Experimental or Organizational Psychology, and full of ambition believes she may

pursue them both.

Darrin is a young man who is soft spoken, and his words are few and measured for maximum impact. At the time of the interview the number of his college acceptance letters had risen from 83 to 90. His tone was one of humility, but one whose confidence rang through as he's embracing his amazing accomplishment that bring him all this attention. "It feels surreal, I just began applying to schools and I did not expect to get accepted into all of them." With a binder that looks like a semester full of study notes he has been accepted into schools ranging from HBCU's like Tuskegee, Benedict and Morehouse to schools across the nation such as Eastern Michigan, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, University of Maine, Farmington. He will be graduating in the top 10 of his class and plan to study Political Science

with a minor in Criminal justice, speaking of his long-term career goals he says, "I want to be a judge. I see myself fixing things and making order."

Expanding the Lenses of Possibility

The school and its team led by the vision of the School's CEO, Sean Wilson and the Principal, Adierah Berger and a dedicated staff offering support including study trips abroad that gives them experiences that expands their lenses of possibility for their lives. "We do have a good amount of foreign exchange students that come here from countries in Latin America and Asia, we have a diverse student population including teachers and staff members from Morocco and China and Europe who talk about their experiences," says Grace of the benefits

of attending The International High School of New Orleans. "It gets you interested and you see the differences and you make friends with people from other countries and you keep in touch with them. Because of this, you become interested in life outside New Orleans. This schools makes you curious about it and you begin to reach out to embrace it on your own."

It Takes a Village

We talk about how their families feel about their great accomplishments. All of them say that their families are happy for them and have always supported them throughout their lives. And as the hopes of most parents to push their kids to greater success theirs are examples of this.

"My mom is very happy for me especially since I have two older brothers and only one of them went to college. She is glad that I am able to have the experience or actually be able to get accepted into a bunch of universities. My family is very supportive, not just my Mom, but my extended family and so many others who have helped me along the way," states Tarrielle.

"My Mom is one of those bragging mothers, so when I got into these schools she was like I expected that" Grace says with a laugh. "She expected it from me and I expected it from myself. They have a lot of faith in me sometimes more than I have in myself."

She says of continuing to reach higher and the support she gets from her family, "I have one older brother and he went to a technical college, so he has a degree in Carpentry and my Mom has been to only 2-year university, so I am the first one in my family to go to a four-year college. They want me to continue to grow; they encourage me despite some of the financial challenges of going to some of the schools I've been accepted to, saying why don't you go to Paris for college. They want me to branch out and come back with new experiences. I feel like a bird being pushed out of the nest."

Darrin says of the support of his family, "I have always been supported by my family and they want me to grow and my Mom and all those around me are proud, so I want to continue to grow and be a better person not just for myself but for society, and that is why I want to study Political Science and become a Judge. I want to be able to contribute in a positive way giving the same kind of support that's been given to me."

9 Arrested During Intensifying Protests at Louisiana Capitol, Poor People's Campaign

Poor People, Clergy, Advocates Demand Immediate Restoration of the Voting Rights Act, End to Racist Gerrymandering, Reversal of State Laws that Prevent Municipalities from Raising Wages



The action in Louisiana is one of three dozen nationwide, including a major protest at the U S Capitol in Washington, D C , that was led by Revs William Barber and Liz Theoharis, the two co-chairs of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. Poor People's Campaign will be engaging in non-violent direct action every Monday through June 18th.

Data Staff Reports

Baton Rouge, LA— A week after the Historic Reignition of the Poor People's Campaign, poor people, clergy and advocates intensified a six-week season of nonviolent direct action by marching from the Louisiana statehouse and blocking traffic to demand elected officials

that directly harm poor people, especially women, children, LG-BTQIA people, and those with disabilities, as the chamber was considering a budget that slashed funding for Medicaid, food stamps and other essential services.

"The reality that they've taken food out of the mouths of people who are starving and need it to survive is immoral," said arrestee Ken Broussard of Lafayette." The agenda to keep cutting and not find permanent revenue sources is immoral. It puts an unfair burden on the people of the state while corporations are benefitting and not carrying their share."

The focus of protests across the country today was systemic racism, poverty and voter suppression. Protesters called for the immediate restoration of the Voting Rights Act, an end to racist gerrymandering and the reversal of state laws that prevent municipalities from raising wages.

"I went out today because I am tired of seeing people in our country suffering due to greed," said Baton Rouge protester Jasmine Bogue. "We have more than enough resources to help the folks in our state, but instead we spend so much money on prisons that do not rehabilitate, high rises that people cannot afford to buy, and giving tax cuts to the wealthiest businesses that create fake job growth. I am tired of hearing we do not have enough money and I want to do something that was nonviolent but that got the attention of those in power. It's time that the people of our state, of our country, to come together as one and do something to get the government to work for us. And I am glad we can do this under the umbrella of Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy."

All of the protesters have now been released. The Poor People's Campaign will be engaging in non-violent direct action every Monday through June 18th.

take immediate steps to confront systemic racism and poverty. Nine protesters from across the state were arrested.

"It's unfortunate that we haven't made any progress since Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign. In fact, we've taken a few steps back," said arrestee Harold John of New Orleans. "The rich have gotten richer; the poor have gotten poorer. I think poor people are feeling that no one cares about them, so I think it's incumbent on those of us who do have a platform to speak up on their behalf."

The action in Louisiana is one of three dozen nationwide, including a major protest at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., that was led by Revs. William Barber and Liz Theoharis, the two co-chairs of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival. It marks the second consecutive Monday that protesters have marched on the Louisiana Capitol. Last week, dozens of protesters took to the Senate floor to protest immoral state and federal policies

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Big Chief Keelian “Dump” Boyd Young Maasai Hunters

By: Glenn Jones
Data News Weekly
Contributor

TRIBAL TIMELINE: Present- 2018
Big Chief Keelian “Dump” Boyd

“The Hat Man”

In the soon to come but not yet available Black Masking Dictionary, “The Hat Man” – A person that constructs crowns for/with Black Masking Indians, Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs as well as Carnival Krewes.

Big Chief Keelian “Dump” Boyd is the answer to the question, what happens when “Your” chiefs’ favorite hook-up man starts his own Tribe? Well one thing will be for sure, his tribe will be extremely “Pretty”, intricate and something never seen before. I asked Chief who taught him or handed down “The Hat Man” tradition to him? He says it wasn’t one person, it was an accumulation of experiences and art classes and he created something of his own. Chief Dump says, “it’s like a bad Smokey (Robinson) record and I just said let me add some bad guitar licks to it!” Big Chief credits old friend/mentor and colleague instructor and sculptor, Ahk Phan as a person that showed him what was possible with his hands and art. Mamma Furu, Coach and the Louis Armstrong Development Program gave him discipline. From the ages of 8 to 12 he says he learned how to be a young man and how to be humble and to accept things for what they were worth. When Chief got older and he started truly considering art he looked at Monet for his work with flowers and lilies, bayous and pads of natural settings. “Then I started to look into my own people. I did a little research on Jean Michel Basquiat and the history of him and I felt like it was so awesome, I felt like I was so him



Big Chief Keelian “Dump” Boyd Young Maasai Hunters

and I didn’t feel like it he wasn’t finished doing what he had to do, so I wanted to finish what started, but in my own way.” “I’m at my freest state, I’m in my Garage/studio creating what nobody can stop me from creating. Nobody can tell me what color to wear, nobody can tell me what beads to choose, nobody can tell me where I can go for the beads, and no one can beat me for what I’m wearing. You respect me for who I am on that day. I wish our government saw it that way; we would be in a better place. There is a lot of sacrifices we make to do this, and I’m not going to say it’s for nothing because it’s for my people. The greatest thing about being a Mardi Gras Indian, the greatest thing about being a Black Masking Indian is that it’s Black. It’s not Bacchus, it’s not Rex, it’s not Zulu, it’s not Orpheus it’s not any of that it’s Black its....us, it’s what they didn’t want us to enjoy with them. The Mardi Gras part I can leave out, but as a Carnival Indian, I can accept being called

more than Mardi Gras because of the history.”

Chief says he received the name Young Maasai Hunters from Big Chief Shaka Zulu of Golden Feather Tribe. Chief first masked in 1996 as a Spy Boy for Monogram Hunters under Big Chief Tyronne “Pie” Stevenson. Chief Dump Respects the game (mentorship) he received from Monogram Hunters. As He says “That’s the only Chief I know, these people are really still indigenous to what they do, and that’s us. We are still indigenous to what we do. A lot of things we do are still secretive, a lot of things we do are still precious, and I don’t want to release that. Because it’s still for us, everything else is for everybody. Rap is for everybody; hip-hop is for everybody. That wasn’t for everyone at one point. But a dollar sign changed a lot for a lot, but we still have set backs and deal with life! We still have that structure that can’t be conquered so we are Invictus!”

I asked Chief after 12 years of masking what made him think he was ready to bring his own tribe out in the tricentennial of the City and what was the feeling that morning coming out? Chief says “I pretty much was prepared, because I did so much for young kids, I did so much to help a lot of people in the neighborhood, not only my neighborhood. I have helped guys from uptown and guy’s downtown in the 9th Ward. I’ve held plums and I’ve held feathers know what I’m saying.” When you have touched every aspect of the Black Masking World its only right you become what you’re supposed to become. I didn’t take this; I was given this by Big Chief Tyronne “Pie” Stevenson my cousin.”

Although Chief Keelian” Dump” Boyd Tribe just came out this year, his family name of Louis Dolliole is both prestigious and large in members, arrived in Spanish Louisiana in early 1700” s dating back before the Louisiana Purchase. Louis Dolliole son Jean Louis is recorded as one of the major builders of the French Quarters. I asked Chief, having so much invested in this culture; what do you feel when you sing in your suit?

“I love it, I love it, because I’m not just singing for me. I’m singing for every entity of a Mardi Gras Indian, every entity of a Black Masking Indian, every entity of a slave, a creole man, an old Black man, I’m singing for my people.” Our songs are spiritual in a million and one ways” Because they can be so encouraging and so uplifting. They are not all about oh I’m going uptown and kill this Chief. No, we are going to make peace with that Chief uptown, because it’s about unification.”

This was an enlightening interview that, again we could not fit all in this article. Please go to Bnola.net for video interviews with more info and content!

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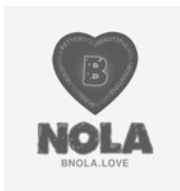
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Hair Fashion

Less Isn't More Anymore!



Delaney George
Columnist

In today's world of Fashion, you can't go a second without seeing a highlighter colored wig and weave down to the floor. Influencers like Nicki Minaj and Lil Kim were some of the first ladies to go above and beyond when it comes to hair. There is no such thing as "subtle" hair colors or "appropriate" hair lengths anymore, now hair is a personal statement done in your way.

Wigs today are more common now then they were during the Motown era. From the older generations to the millennials today, there is no shame in those who wear wigs. In fact, the wig making industry today is bigger than ever, shifting the way people wear and view their natural hair. Some wigs are short, long, yellow, purple, anything that their real hair isn't. Wigs are giving people more diversity and ease of style change in fashion.

Although wigs have led more people to refrain from getting hair sewn-in, weaves today have also become personal fashion statements. Some weaves are now being made and sewn-in the heads of women to surpass or equal up to their height. The mentality in hair today, is to go big or go home, and many women have purchased weaves of every color in the rainbow and in any inch. The style of these weaves is always unique and hard to turn away from.

Are you a hair extraordinaire? Are you daring enough to rock any of these styles? Let us know your thoughts by emailing Deinkey@Yahoo.com



Nicki Minaj poses with her iconic ankle length styled hair.



@therealkeysister wears a wavy blue sew-in paired with a golden body con ensemble.



@therealkeysister rocks an edgy blue straight wig for her photoshoot.

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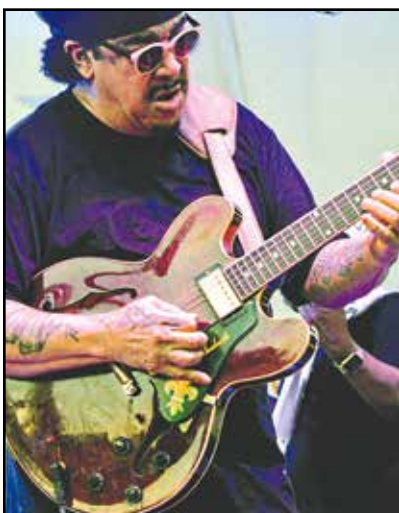
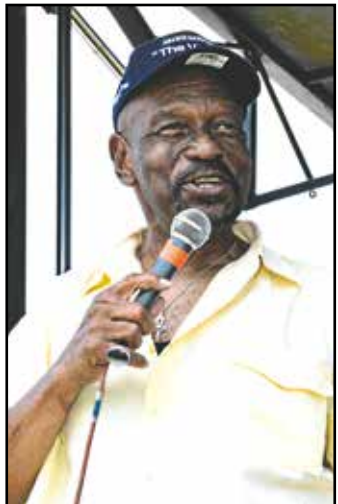
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The Bayou Boogaloo Festival 2018

By Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

It almost didn't happen as a pop up storm turned very serious; collapsing stages, tearing apart vendor tents, damaging food booths and turning over Port-A-Potty's, just an hour or so before the festival was scheduled to start on Friday evening. The festival's opening had to be delayed until the next day and crews worked late into Friday night to rebuild stages and vendor tents, food booths, etc. with help from volunteers from the neighborhood.

Amazingly the music started as scheduled Saturday morning. As musicians burned up the stages along the banks of Bayou St John, in record breaking heat, many audience members listened as they floated along or swam in the bayou. The Bayou Boogaloo Festival was a sight to see and we are so glad that Data was there!!!



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

To Be Equal

Diane Nash

A Civil Rights Icon Celebrates her 80th Birthday



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

ernment, representing the President and the Attorney General, talking to a student at Fisk University, and she, in a very quiet but strong way, gave me a lecture." – former Assistant to the Attorney General John Seigenthaler, on trying to talk Diane Nash out of the Freedom Rides in 1961.

Happy birthday to Diane Nash.

Women have always been the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, at every point in our history, but many never seem to garner the acclaim they deserve. Diane Nash, who turned 80 this week, has been a leader among leaders.

Unlike many African Americans of her generation, Nash as a child in Chicago was seldom confronted with the depth and breadth of segregation's brutality. She has said her family rarely spoke about racism when she was young, and her first real encounter with serious

prejudice was her rejection from a modeling school that did not accept Black students.

"I had never traveled to the south at that time," she told an interviewer for the PBS documentary Eyes on the Prize. "And I didn't have an emotional relationship to segregation."

Her arrival as a at Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, as a transfer student from Howard, changed all that.

"When I actually went south and saw signs that said "white" and "colored" and I actually could not drink out of that water fountain or go to that ladies' room, I had a real emotional reaction to that," she said.

It would have been easy for Nash to retreat back to Chicago, back to her comfortable middle-class life and loving family. But she chose to confront injustice head-on.

She quickly discovered James

Lawson, who was then the southern director for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) and was conducting non-violence workshops in a church basement.

In 1960, at age 22, she led the Nashville Sit-Ins, aimed at desegregating lunch counters. A few months later, she helped coordinate the Freedom Rides, riding interstate buses into the south to challenge the southern states' failure to enforce a desegregation ruling by the Supreme Court.

She would be jailed dozens of times over the years – once while pregnant and facing the possibility of giving birth in prison. She and her then-husband James Bevel initiated the Selma to Montgomery Marches, credited with spurring passage of the Voting Rights Act.

She and Bevel soon turned their efforts toward protesting the war in Vietnam. She had her passport

revoked after traveling to Moscow, Peking and Hanoi, where she participated in an interview with North Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh.

Though she often is described as the only woman within Martin Luther King's inner circle, she told a local television interviewer in 2016 she never considered King her leader. "I always considered myself at his side and I considered him at my side," she said. "I was going to do what the spirit told me to do. So if I had a leader, that was my leader."

Marc H. Morial is President & CEO of the National Urban League and former Mayor of the City of New Orleans. Connect with the National Urban League: Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalUrbanLeague>, Twitter: <https://twitter.com/naturbanleague> or on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/naturbanleague>. Visit NUL.org for more information.

Graduation is Just the First Hurdle



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

College commencement exercise.

All across the nation, families are gathering, people are celebrating and graduations are being hailed as an occasion of joy.

However, despite these many festivities, if you are a Black American who graduated from the University of Florida (UF), your achievements may have been marred by the horrible memory of faculty marshals physically pushing you off of the stage, after you decided to celebrate your Black Greek (fraternity) pride, with the execution of a few "steps."

More than 20 students were assaulted by the unidentified faculty member (although some say he is a chemistry lecturer), who is now on paid leave.

Why would the university continue to pay someone who seems to have differentially attacked Black students, as apparently no White students were assaulted or pushed off of the stage?

This lecturer is a menace to society and college students, who should not be exposed to his racism, either on stage or in a classroom.

According to The New York Times, UF President W. Kent Fuchs apologized to the affected students and left a personal message of apol-

ogy on Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity member Oliver Telusma's voice-mail, due to the incident.

However, from where I sit, President Fuchs should track that student down along with all of the others and visit them face-to-face.

The UF incident reminds Black students that graduation is but one of the many hurdles they must clear.

Every day, every single day, they face the possibility of pernicious racism, differential treatment, and the threat of law enforcement to compel compliance with the most foolish of laws and norms, spoken or unspoken.

That's why Holly Hylton, the White woman who managed a Philadelphia Starbucks, felt free to call the police on two Black men after they had been seated, without ordering anything.

That's why a hysterical White female bigot, called the police on a Black man, who was barbecuing in a public park in Oakland, California, where barbecuing is customary.

That's why the police were called on three Black women (and a White man), because they failed to wave or smile when they exited an Airbnb in Rialto, California, and were detained for 45 minutes de-

spite possessing proof that they had reserved their space.

That's why the police wrestled a 25-year-old Black woman to the ground (exposing her bare breasts) in an Alabama Waffle House, after she asked for plastic cutlery and an ignorant employee reportedly said "she did not know her place," and the beat goes on and on and on.

The police are too often called to put Black people in their place, to force them to comply, to reinforce the tenet of White supremacy; the notion that when we see a White person, we must shuck and jive and smile. So-called law enforcement officers become servants of racism, who want us in our place.

I want the graduates to know that their place is everywhere.

Class of 2018, your place is in that Starbucks at the table, order or not. Your place is in that Waffle House, getting the utensils you requested. Your place is at the lake in Oakland, burning those bones on your grill. Your place is on that stage at UF.

Resistance has a high price. Who wants to go to jail and end up, like Sandra Bland, whose mysterious death in Texas still has not been solved? Who wants to be handcuffed, humiliated, exposed, and maligned, just for asking a

simple question?

Starbucks will close thousands of stores to the tune of millions of dollars for unconscious bias training. But who will train these biased police officers and the racists who call them, because their feelings are bruised when no one waves at them?

The Class of 2018 will learn, as have millions of other Black Americans, that racism is alive and well.

They've cleared a hurdle with graduation, but even as some cross the stage, they are being reminded that there are many more hurdles to clear, to survive in our unfortunately racist nation.

Perhaps though, the Class of 2018, will be among those to dismantle the racist hurdles.

Perhaps in the process of clearing other hurdles (graduate and professional school, marriage and children, artificial intelligence and gentrification), they will also find the wherewithal to eliminate racial barriers to success.

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.juliannealveaux.com. Follow Dr. Malveaux on Twitter @drjlastword.

Black Workers Lag behind Whites in the Energy Sector

By Freddie Allen
Editor in Chief, NNPA
Newswire/Black Press USA

Energy jobs are growing faster than the national average and energy-related sectors are less diverse than the national workforce, according to the 2018 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER).

"The nation's energy sector employed 6.5 million Americans in 2017, up 133,000 jobs from the year prior," a press release about the report noted. "This two percent growth rate exceeded the national average of 1.7 percent. Jobs in the energy sectors accounted for nearly 7 percent of all new jobs nationwide in 2017."

National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) and the Energy Futures Initiative (EFI) released the report last week. NASEO is the only national non-profit association for the governor-designated energy officials from each of the 56 states and territories, according to the group's website. EFI provides policymakers, industry leaders, NGOs with data driven, unbiased policy recommendations, "to advance a cleaner, safer, more affordable and more secure energy future."

The report said that the companies surveyed anticipate roughly



According to the 2018 U.S. Energy and Employment Report (USEER), Black workers hold 5-9 percent of the jobs in energy-related sectors, a rate that is much lower than the 12 percent share of the national workforce held by Black workers. (Pexels.com)

6.2 percent employment growth for 2018.

Despite the positive growth trends, ethnic and racial minorities account for a smaller share of the workforce in the energy-related sectors than their corresponding national averages, the report said. Hispanic or Latino workers account for 10-19 percent of the labor force in energy-related sectors, compared to 17 percent in the overall economy. Black workers hold 5-9 percent of the jobs in energy-related sectors and account for 12 per-

cent of the national workforce.

The USEER examines four sectors of the energy economy: Electric Power Generation and Fuels; Transmission, Distribution, and Storage; Energy Efficiency; and Motor Vehicles.

Blacks account for 9 percent of the electric power generation workforce (76,985) compared to White workers who hold 70 percent of

the electric power generation jobs (615,696).

Blacks workers account for 5 percent of the Fuels workforce (53,488) and Whites account for 84 percent of the Fuels workforce (903,045).

African Americans account for 8 percent of the energy efficiency workforce (176,303) compared to White workers that hold 78 percent of the jobs in that sector (1,748,399).

Blacks hold 180,031 of the jobs in the Motor Vehicles sector accounting for 8 percent of the workforce compared to White workers who hold 1,832,239 of the jobs and 78 percent of the Motor Vehicles workforce.

"The USEER has proven to be an important tool for state energy officials, who will use this unique set of 'all of the above' energy jobs data to inform policy development and planning," said David Terry, the executive director of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), in a press release about the report.

During a presentation about the report on Capitol Hill, Ernest J. Moniz, the former Energy Secretary under President Barack

Obama, called the report a foundation for state governments, non-profit organizations and businesses to analyze the data and develop policy proposals.

Moniz, who is also the president and CEO of EFI, noted that although many industry leaders expressed concerns about hiring challenges in a very tight labor market, there were still opportunities to recruit and train people to fill jobs. The former energy secretary added that apprentice programs prosper when there are partnerships between state agencies and labor union groups; pre-apprenticeship programs can also aid in addressing some of the diversity issues found in the energy industry today.

"The competitiveness of this sector is important," Moniz said. "We know that the definition of full employment does not mean that there aren't people who are available, with appropriate training, to come in to the jobs."

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Orleans Parish School Board Completes Final Unification Milestone

Passage lauded by School Board, Urban League and School Leaders

This week, the Orleans Parish School Board (OPSB) voted to pass revised policies for Charter School Evaluation and Accountability to align with the launch of the Charter School Accountability Framework. That was the final milestone in the District's Unification Plan whereby July 1st all remaining Recovery School District (RSD) Charter Schools join OPSB and local governance.

The Framework outlines the expectations the district has for charter schools and operators in New Orleans as well as the processes the district will use to track and evaluate school performance, both annually and at the point of renewal. The Framework allows the OPSB to hold charter schools to rigorous and transparent standards that promote excellence and provide incentives for continued progress towards outcomes that best serve students.

"This Framework is the culmination of a multi-year, public process that will result in more transparency and accountability across the board," said OPSB Superintendent Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr. "This is a big moment. We're heading in the right direction, but there is so much work to do as we seek to provide an outstanding education for every child, at every school, every day."

Developed with input from city-wide community members, residents and educators as well as the Louisiana Department of Education, the Framework lays out four ways in which it will hold charter schools accountable. They include holding schools to rigorous standards, implementing effective oversight systems, encouraging trans-



Pictured above is the seven-member OPSB Board that will oversee the unification of schools in New Orleans. The board was charged with a unique and challenging task of shaping the long-term vision for OPSB and Public Education in New Orleans. John A. Brown, Sr. serves as President and Leslie Ellison as Vice-President.

parency with schools and sharing information with the public. The Framework also clearly spells out guidelines for charter renewals and extensions.

"The Framework represents both ingenuity and compromise, where we hold our schools accountable for meeting the needs of all students while also streamlining critical district functions, such as facility planning, enrollment, student services, community engagement and new school development. The CSAF lays a strong foundation for the future," said Orleans Parish School Board President, John A. Brown, Sr. "This sort of important reform work hardly ever captures

the headlines, but it is really important as we seek to continuously improve our dynamic system of schools."

In revising standards and systems, the Charter School Accountability Framework ensures the OPSB is prepared to oversee school quality under a unified system.

"This Framework reflects the wisdom offered by the people of New Orleans through hours of hearings, town halls and focus groups with families, students, school leaders, teachers and community advocates," said Orleans Parish School Board Vice-President, Leslie Ellison. "Dr. Lewis and his whole team have done a great job throughout

this important process."

"The process to ensure that our children attend high quality schools starts with a fair, yet rigorous accountability system," said Erika McConduit, CEO of the Urban League. "The steps taken by the OPSB to include advocacy groups, school leaders, and parent organizations in the formation of the framework evidences the collaborative spirit needed to move our district forward."

"I appreciate the time and the diligence that the Orleans Parish School Board Administration took in building its Charter Schools Performance Framework," said Mickey Landry, Executive Director of Choice Foundation. "Most impor-

tantly, the administration actively included practitioners in the formulation of the Framework, and they actually listened to those who live in Louisiana's strict accountability system every day. I commend the OPSB Administration for its work on this important piece of policy."

"The Charter School Accountability Framework is clear and fair," said Josh Densen, Founder and Executive Director of Bricolage Academy. "Thanks to the CSAF schools know how they will be reviewed and evaluated, families will have easy access to important information about their child's school and the public will have the transparency needed to understand how OPSB supports and intervenes in school performance. The CSAF is a welcomed addition to the unifying New Orleans School System."

"I deeply value having the opportunity to work in partnership with the OPSB and CMO Leaders on the CSAF," said Michelle Blouin-Williams, CEO of New Beginnings Schools Foundation. "This transparent process strengthened my confidence in this important work that we are all doing to assure every child has access to a high-quality education throughout our beloved City."

For more information about the Orleans Parish School Boards Charter School Accountability Framework, visit <https://goo.gl/PneQL7>.

The OPSB currently oversees 41 schools, including 37 charter schools, and one educational program for students in secure care facilities. In July 2018 all public schools in New Orleans will again be under the jurisdiction of the OPSB.

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

Black Excellence

One of the most disappointing things that happens in the Black community sometimes is the self-inflicted wounds of low expectations or putting limitations on what you can do. That the psychological shackles are sometimes still there, and some do not believe they can spread their wings and soar with the eagles.

"I don't like bosses or being average. I like ideas of what it means to being different because it defies what it means to be a girl, or from New Orleans or people in the

south," says Grace. "People sometimes ask why do I need to leave the country or go to different schools why wouldn't I have options."

As a young Black Male there's bias and prejudices that exists, but today what was once a mountain to climb, is now only a speedbump to success as evidenced by Darrin and many young men like him. Explaining this fact, he says, "They don't see men of color pushing themselves to be better, they see them on the streets on the corner being locked up or dead in the grave. There are a lot of young males like

myself who strive for greatness. My friend Sylvester he is a great Fashion Designer made his own tux. And so many others who listen to their parents getting good grades and having goals. I appreciate the attention that has been given to me but there are a lot of other Black males that are doing the right things and are destined for greatness."

While Darrin is talking Grace adds, "Black excellence is my favorite type of excellence. I love to see Black people do things that are not normal. I love to see them do things that are not standard and do things people don't expect us to do. It makes me so happy that

my people are doing great things. It disappoints me that my people sometimes do the bare minimum and not because they can't do better, but because they don't try. We can achieve everything anyone else can and you don't have to stay where people see you. That is what I hope my classmates and I can inspire in others."

Graduation Day and the Next Chapter

This is a milestone for these talented young people and when asked how they will feel as they put on their cap and gowns and walk across the stage how they think

they will feel on their big day. Tarielle, tears up and says, I will cry, "It will be a bittersweet and joyful moment. I have accomplished a lot in my few years of living and this to date is my greatest accomplishment of what I hope will be many more. My family is coming, my brothers who I have not seen in a while are coming with their families and it's going to be amazing and I am going to cry."

Grace chimes in saying, "I have pre-cried and will cry at the ceremony. It will be happiness and bitter sadness we have going through

Cover Story, Continued on page 11.

Trump Talks Impeachment, Criticizes Maxine Waters in Michigan Speech

By Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

President Donald Trump continued his attacks on Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) during a campaign-style rally in Michigan.

The rally in Washington Township, Michigan was scheduled to counter the White House Correspondents' Dinner, which Trump skipped for the second year in a row.

During his speech, Trump addressed the upcoming November 6 midterm elections less than 180 days away.

"We have to keep the House, because if you listen to Maxine Waters—she goes around saying, 'We will impeach him. We will impeach him,'" Trump said at the rally. "Then people said, 'But he hasn't done anything wrong.'"

Trump continued, mimicking Waters: "Oh, that doesn't matter, we will impeach the president..."

A sitting president bringing up the possibility of his own impeachment, as a way of igniting political support, may be a first in U.S. history. The Republican Party is slowly



President Donald Trump (left) recently said that Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) had a "very low IQ." (Wikimedia Commons)

turning away from marketing the tax cut deal Trump signed months ago. Many political insiders say the tax cut has not been the bonanza Republicans hoped for and that the tax cuts won't be enough to drive voters to the polls.

Trump urged the Washington Township audience to go out and vote during the midterms.

"We cannot be complacent. We

have got to go out, right? We have got to go out...we've got to fight like hell and we have got to win the House and we've got to win the Senate," Trump said. "I think we are going to do great in the Senate and I think we're going to do great in the House, because the economy is so good."

Trump attacked Waters (D-Calif.), in March saying that she had

"a very low IQ."

In the past, Republicans have used negative marketing around the views and image of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, as a way to get their base excited. Now, Trump is turning Waters into a routing object of criticism.

But will it work?

What are the chances that a voter in Michigan will be thinking about a member of Congress from California as they cast their ballot in a local, state or congressional race?

Waters, who has been in Congress since 1991, was recently named to the TIME 100 list as a top influencer. In the age of Trump, the longtime member of Congress has witnessed a resurgence in the interest in her work on Capitol Hill, especially among millennials.

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Cover Story/ Continued
from page 10.

helping each other for moral support because most of us takes honors classes together. We all made it together and for my family to be there for 18 years of my life it's going to be amazing. Some of my classmates I may never see again, but I am going to be happy because I know we are all moving

on to do bigger and better things with our lives."

Darrin echoes that it will be a bitter sweet moment. "I am going to be happy and sad because I am graduating with my best friend and she is going to stay in Louisiana to go to school and I probably will not. I am excited thinking of having people from all over City of New Orleans at my graduation. Me being in the top 10, I might even second-

line," he says as they all laugh.

These young people embody the best of what New Orleans is and they are an inspiration for all of us and it was amazing spending time with them, talking, reflecting and laughing. I beamed pride listening to these young people discuss their lives and aspirations and at some points even shedding a few tears of joy. Leaving this interview, I walked out unto Caron-

delet witnessing the St. Charles streetcar passing and the sounds of the wheels rolling along the rails. I felt at peace inside smiling knowing that as we pass the baton to the next generation that we will be okay as a community with these types of young people leading us. With them at the helm we are destined to do even greater things as they contribute to the City, nation and the world.

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