

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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ABCT Performing Arts Summer Camp

It's About Community, Family and Investing in the Youth



Anthony Bean, ABCT Founder and kids from last year's camp pose for a photo on the camp's opening day.

By Edwin Buggage Data News Editor

It is that time of year again where young stars are born. The Anthony Bean Community Theater (ABCT) is again holding its Annual Performance Arts Summer Camp. This year it will be held at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO). The dates of the camp are June 3rd thru August 4th. The camp will run concurrently with the ABCT/NORD Camp from June 3rd to July 12th. ABCT Performance Arts Summer Camp ages range from 7 thru 17 and the ABCT/NORD Camp's ages range from 7-12 years of age. The Anthony Bean Community Theater has become a place known for promoting Black Excellence at every level. It is a camp that offers much more than simply developing kids in the arts, but the whole person; something that keeps many families enrolling their children every summer.

"This is more than a training ground for the arts; it is a safe and nurturing environment where community is emphasized, friendship valued and personal growth

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Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction &	
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Production	
		Pubinator.com	
Edwin Buggage	Mark Veals	Editorial Submissions	
Editor	Darby Farr	datanewseditor@	
Renetta Perry	Timer Wetcom	bellsouth.net	
Managing Editor	Tiger Watson	Advertising Inquiries	
Calla Victoria	Oscar H. Blayton	datanewsad@	
Executive Assistant	Staff Writers	bellsouth.net	
		Distribution	
June Hazeur	r Oliver Thomas	On The Run	
Accounting	Roger Caldwell	Courier Services	

Cover Story

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

celebrated," says ABCT Founder Anthony Bean. Reflecting on the camp and its continued impact he says, "It is the ideal place for children to learn about the arts and develop creative skills, as they discover more about themselves and their world."

All are invited to attend, and no previous theater experience is required. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided on site. Students enrolled in the camp will have special art activities and high-quality, hands-on workshops including theatre, playwriting, performance, production, costuming, lighting and set building.

ABCT: A Place to Learn about and Celebrate New Orleans Culture

Unlike some camps Bean's approach is focused on instilling cultural pride and exposing and producing work that is culturally significant and relevant. "In this camp my goals are to teach the importance of teamwork, civic service, cultural value and the importance of culture," Bean says. This year's camp will culminate with the hit musical play "504". Set in New Orleans four weeks after Hurricane Katrina, the city is under military siege, and a dusk to dawn curfew has been enacted, however, the international press is here to cover the story of the Katrina devastation. Fearing they will not be included in the rebuilding of a new, New Orleans a group of displaced New



Successful actor Jeremiah Craft, a product of Anthony Bean Community Theater.

Orleans youth stage a dance concert on the corner of Orleans and North Claiborne Avenues "under the radar" to bring attention to the violence, crime, homelessness and inhumane living conditions that surround them.

More than 60 young actors, singers, and dancers portray the trials and tribulations that make up their daily lives as they exist in the shadows of New Orleans' rich and powerful. Rap, gospel, jazz, bounce and rock and roll are blended into the moves of their young emotions as they tell their stories of pre and



Mayor LaToya Cantrell embraces ABCT student actors after they presented her with a performance of the musical drama The Me Nobody Knows.



ABCT student actors, left to right: Triston James, Rommel Johnson, Anthony Jones, Raymond Lewis III, LouRian Jiles, Anyaa Scott, Caitlyn Summers and Ariana Scott.



post-Katrina. The dates for the performances of "504" are August 2nd, 3rd and 4th. "I feel this is a great daughter Alivah in the pictures, and way to expose kids to their local history and hope to inspire them and the audience to continue to understand the importance of who we are as African-Americans and our contribution to New Orleans and what makes it unique," says Bean.

It Takes A Village

Parents as well as the participants echo Bean's thoughts on the impact of ABCT's Summer Camp. "This is just what we really need for our children. I can see my little grand-I know she's all into the program," says Rose Vignaud. The community continues to support ABCT and its mission since its beginning nearly two decades ago. "Yes, they do an excellent job," says Lorrie Sandifer, a regular attendee and supporter of ABCT. "I have been attending the theater for years; all the plays are well-organized and very entertaining. I would say to Anthony Bean keep up the great work."



Anthony Jones is 12 years old and has been with ABCT for three years. "Being with Mr. Bean has helped me and many of the other students to become more focused and disciplined. But it is also fun to be onstage entertaining people. The things we learn can not only help us on the stage, but in the classroom and in our lives to become successful adults." Glenn Summers is father to 12-year-old Kaitlyn Summers, he sees the theater has helping his daughter in many ways. "The work of ABCT builds character and confidence in her and the other kids as well. I see

to reach their full potential." ABCT has also found support in the current Mayor LaToya Cantrell. "I am glad to see our present Mayor LaTova Cantrell embrace what we are doing at the theater. I think she gets it, that supporting our youth is important. She is progressive and is a problem-solver and sees that if we are to be a better City and move forward together, then we must invest in our youth," Bean says.

For more information on ABCT Performance Arts Summer Camp call 504.862. PLAY (7529)

the impact it has in helping them in developing and presenting themselves in the quest for excellence. I feel it provides an outlet and is needed in our community where our young people have a place to pursue their passions and dreams



Up-and-coming actor and theater student Anthony Jones.



Data News Weekly Newsmaker

Widespread City Flooding Preludes Start of Hurricane Season

By Data Staff Writers Photo Credit: Tiger Watson

If this past Sunday's Mother's Day flood was a precursor to what we should expect going into Hurricane Season (starting June 1st and ending November 30th) we are in for a long five months. As New Orleanians slept Saturday night/early Sunday morning, more than five inches of rain fell across the City, sometimes falling at a rate of two inches per hour according to the Sewerage and Water Board. As a result, in the following hours widespread flooding ensued, along with an all-toofamiliar scene of flooded cars and businesses along major streets and intersections in New Orleans.

Amid intermittent news coverage, flash flood warnings and persistent emergency cell phone messages, the Sewerage and Water Board revealed that the Station 7 pump, located near City Park, had failed but out of 120 pumps, 115 were working. Entergy New Orleans released a statement Monday saying they were assessing the possibility that lightning strikes caused the pump's malfunction. The City of New Orleans released the following statement: "As we work to continuously improve stormwater management infrastructure, the City and the Sewerage and Water Board will analyze today's rain event and its impact. Using pump station and rain gauge data, drainage surveys, and video analysis, we will work to determine rainwater volume versus drainage capacity and to identify potential opportunities for drainage improvements."

Last week the Mayor announced that an agreement had been reached with state and local lawmakers securing critical infrastructure funding, reportedly upwards of \$200 million over five years, saying that the deal has put us on a "sustainable path to making investments in the basic infrastructure needs of the City." But as business owners waited on the flooded North Claiborne Ave. to get to their once again flooded businesses on Basin St. in the Treme", they took to Social Media to voice their outrage and frustration. "They say if you live in



Sunday's torrential rains caused flooding on Basin Street in the Treme', resulting in business closures on Mother's Day.

New Orleans, stop complaining," one business owner said in his Facebook Page adding, "I love my City, even when my City doesn't love me." Some businesses along Basin Street were still closed for repair at press time.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell said of the flooding, "My administration has been laser-focused on infrastructure as a whole and stormwater management in particular. As we face our issues head-on, we are using data and experience to better live with water."





What is Business Meets Chess & Kids A social project that was created to build real relationships between the youth of New Orleans and the leaders of the business community of this city.

What will happen on May 18th A Business Meets Chess and Kids Tournament involves the use of a unique form of playing called tandem chess. The rules of Tandem Chess is designed to pair business or community leaders with a youth chess player to form teams of two in which they will play against other equally composed teams.

Tournament of playing dem Chess community form teams against other

Date : May 18th Time : 2PM - 4.30 PM



contact us on info@businessmeetschessandkids.com | Ken Mask (504) 908-0337

May 18 - May 24, 2019

State Celebrates Inaugural "HBCU Day" at the Capitol

Story and Photos by Mark Veals Data News Contributor

Students and leaders from Historically Black Colleges and Universities across the State of Louisiana came together for the First Annual "HBCU Day" at the State Capitol on Wednesday, April 24th. Representatives from Southern University in Baton Rouge and Southern University at New Orleans, Dillard University, Xavier University of Louisiana, and Grambling State University were welcomed by the State's HBCU Advisory Council, and the Higher Education Governing Board: the Louisiana Board of Regents. Several university presidents who attended advocated for continued support and additional funding for these institutions that would go a long way to closing the education gap and in turn the wage gap in Louisiana.

"We hope that we'll continue to have these kinds of opportunities, but Louisiana really takes the lead," said Walter Kimbrough, Dillard's



Southern University at Baton Rouge's band and cheerleaders perform on the Capitol steps

and Brown young people of this country, the county doesn't meet its needs, and HBCU's have been and continue to do this for Louisiana and the country," said Reynold Ver-



L to R: Dr. Reynold Verret, President, Xavier University of Louisiana; Dr. Walter Kimbrough, President, Dillard University; Dr. Ray Belton, President-Chancellor, Southern University and A&M College; Dr. David Ponton, Vice President of Student Affairs, Gambling State University; Dr. James Ammons, Executive Vice President/Executive Vice Chancellor, Southern University and A&M College

President. "There's work being done in Mississippi and Alabama but nobody's doing it like this, so we should be proud of what we're doing here," Kimbrough said of the event.

Each school surrounded the rotunda with table displays and giveaways

showcasing their recent accomplishments that captured the attention of visitors to the Capitol and lawmakers alike. To begin the day, a joint press conference in the Governor's Press Room was held to welcome students, alumni, and other guests. The presidents of each respective university also gave remarks on the occasion and brief updates on their campuses.

"If you do not educate the Black

ret, Xavier's President.

HBCU Day at the Capitol was the first of its kind in the state let alone the nation.

The HBCU Advisory Council was formed by Sen. Wesley Bishop through Act. No. 236. Bishop said he rallied together with key higher education leaders to make it a reality. The council is made up of representatives from each HBCU and other governing bodies across the state.

"We have some of our finest academic minds leading the country right here at our HBCUs," said Bishop, a Southern University at New Orleans alumnus.

The event featured HBCU culture and life with a pep rally in the

aders perform on the Capitol steps try," Bishop said. The Regency Reception Hall

<text>

504-245-2323

7300 Downman Road New Orleans 70126 www.theregencyneworleans.com Page 5

afternoon. "HBCUnique" featured

the bands from Southern University in Baton Rouge and Grambling

State University, cheerleaders, and

a Step Show from Black Greek Or-

ganizations. Also, student leaders

from each university gave words

of encouragement and shared how

HBCUs shaped their lives for the

future. The HBCU Advisory Coun-

cil also discussed strategies and ini-

tiatives to advance the missions of their member institutions and how

they can continue to impact the

our HBCUs on steroids," Bishop

said. "We deal with state and local

programs that we tap into all the

resources and the money that's available to make sure we're a

part of these partnerships that are

going on around the entire coun-

"The goal of this was to put

community.



Data News Weekly Data Zone

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Black Excellence

Over a Thousand Receive Degrees from New Orleans HBCUs last Saturday

Staff Writers

Saturday, May 11th was a beautiful day of triumph and achievement as New Orleans' three HBCUs, Dillard, SUNO and Xavier Universities, conferred degrees upon hundreds of graduating seniors as well as many post graduate students. Dr. Carmen J. Walters, SUNO's Commencement Speaker and a proud graduate of SUNO perhaps put it best when she asked degree candidates to look at the floor, then look at the ceiling. "The floor is where you are now; the ceiling is where you are headed," she said.



SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS





XAVIER UNIVERSITY





DILLARD UNIVERSITY





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Data News Weekly Data Zone

May 18 - May 24, 2019

36th Annual Mother's Day Celebration at Audubon Zoo

It was all about family and fun during the 36th annual Mother's Day Celebration presented by Children's Hospital and Touro Infirmary at Audubon Zoo Sunday, May 12, 2019. The families who braved the rain were rewarded with a variety of activities and music by Irma Thomas and Cha Wa.













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

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Real Talk for Real Times...

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Mental Health / Emotional Trauma



Oliver Thomas Consultant, Stream Publicity Group

New Orleans one of the most interesting places in the world, and the tiny southern city with the biggest Big City Problems for a very long time. It's been stated that even when folks thought New Orleans was safe (The Good Ole Days) it was several times more violent than most cities it's size. Simply the Big Easy ain't never been easy for far too many! We do however continue to talk about what we do to get it right. Hire more police, educate our children better, pay our people Living Wages, provide affordable housing, elect the right leaders, diversify our economy, etc. etc... And these conversations have gone on for decades and will continue unless our Citizens and our Business and Political Leaders engage in meaningful dialogue about how we Value our citizens differently!

As someone who has been on both sides of these efforts and past discussions, I can say New Orleans Citizens have never been the primary focus of what we call SUCCESS. The Disparities can widen, wages can be stagnant, crime can continue its Roller Coaster Ride from one decade to the next without much worry as long as Tourism and The Political Status Quo remains in place.

Well what's obvious to me is that Mental Health and Trauma have never been a priority in this State or City. Bobby Jindal may not have helped Mental Health and Trauma in this State, but he hardly destroyed something that was never really a priority anyway. Those jokes we heard as children, "we're gonna send you to Mandeville or the 3rd Floor of Charity"! It's always been a JOKE, and our lack of funding and resources have been laughable at best. Think about it! A history of legislative cuts to Health Care and Educational Institutions. The use of Mass Incarceration, and the Criminal Justice System to, "Detain and House" those in need of Treatment. If this has been our Best Practices when our citizens have needed resources and transformational solutions why would

we be surprised that one may Fly Over the Cuckoo's Nest, but in New Orleans if you're in the Nest you and all your Chicks are destined to stay there.

Floods, Hurricanes, French Quarter Fires, Natural Disasters, Crime, Murder, to the Pumps didn't work, we have been through it all without a real Sanity Check, or someone just asking, "Hey are You Okay"! No, I'm NOT! I have never been okay, my children aren't okay, my economy isn't okay, and you already know that, but you've chosen to ignore me, because you already had places for me: The Prison, the Morgue, the Unemployment Line, your Rearview Mirror. If New Orleans were truly well, we wouldn't lead the Nation and the World in so many Social Ills, but we deal with it cause we've learned to Fun and Festival our way out of any real investments and solutions. The New Orleans Way! Somebody Dies, have a Second Line. Protest Poor Wages have a Second Line. Can't diversify our Economy, have another Festival. Get more people to Vote, Hot Dogs and a Band. High Blood Pressure and Obesity, you get to use their State Food Card to buy more Crawfish more days a week! Real Solutions for a Population who's Physical and Mental Wellness we don't value.

It is obvious there is something amiss in how we do our business, how we govern and how we think, so if we recognize this and know this let's not make Mental Health and Trauma a Trendy Conversation. Let's make FIXING Mental Health and Trauma a Way of Life! OT

Oliver "OT" Thomas otoutreach@ gmail.com (504) 295-0729

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Data News Weekly Health News

May 18 - May 24, 2019

Learn Your Numbers During Stroke Awareness

By Roger Caldwell, NNPA Newswire Contributor

May is National Stroke Awareness Month, and it is very significant to me, because I am a stroke survivor. As a stroke survivor, I consider myself to be a miracle. One of my goals in life is to educate Americans (particularly Black men), that 80% of strokes can be prevented with knowledge and education. Strokes have the potential to be a silent killer, and nearly 85% of all strokes that occur show no warning signs.

Although there are no major warning signs, there are risk factors, diseases, and health issues, which make an individual more susceptible to having a stroke. High blood pressure (hypertension) is the number one cause in the country for a stroke and it can be regulated with medicine, a proper diet, monitoring your blood pressure and a healthy lifestyle. "Healthcare in one of the wealthiest countries on the face of this earth is not a primary focus or concern. In this society, many people are not interested in improving their health. They prefer to take a chance and hope that health issues will resolve themselves. I was not taking care of myself and not taking the necessary steps to correct my health problems. This is a major crisis confronting this country today,"says Roger Caldwell in his book, "The Inspiring Journey of a Stroke Survivor." It is obvious with the recent news of the passing of actor Luke Perry (52), and director John Singleton (51), who both died suddenly of massive strokes, that something is wrong with the healthcare system. Both of these men were very successful,



and if 80% of strokes are preventable, I would have expected these two men to have received the best medical care, but they are gone.

When I had my stroke, I was well aware that I had hypertension, but I was still not taking my prescribed medication. I was walking around with a time bomb. At any time, I knew the bomb could explode but I took a chance. Eventually, it exploded but I lived, and now part of my responsibility is to educate Americans about strokes with a primary focus on African-Americans.

After having my stroke, I was completely paralyzed on the entire right side. I spent the next seven weeks in rehabilitation relearning basic tasks: How to dress myself, how to talk, how to write with my left hand, and how to graduate from a wheelchair to a cane. My efforts paid off, but I did not recover 100%.

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All Americans must know more about stroke prevention and awareness, and they should know their personal numbers as well as their family members' numbers. As a culture and community, Black Americans have the highest incidence of high blood pressure, with 1 out of 2 adults having some form of hypertension. May is stroke awareness month, and it is essential to understand the mechanics of blood pressure and what the numbers represent.

The higher number is the systolic number, and it represents the active portion of blood pressure, when the heart is pumping. This number should be around 120 or lower. The lower number represents the diastolic number, or the passive or resting portion of blood pressure. This number should be around 80 or lower. Know your numbers, take your medication, educate your children, and adult family members, and talk about your health. Visit a physician on a regular basis. Take control of your health, your life depends on it. Remember at any age a person can have a stroke, but as you get older you are more susceptible to having a stroke.

FAST is an acronym that everyone should know when they suspect that someone is having a stroke. The "F" stands for face, and one side of the face droops. The "A" stands for arm and the arm drop's down. The "S" stands for speech, and check for slurred or strange speech. The "T" stands for time, and time is of the essence and call 911. To learn more about strokes contact the American Stroke Association, and go to my YouTube channel and view my documentary: "High Blood Pressure: A State of Emergency in the African-American Community" (https://youtu. be/tiINtiXBLXw).



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Artists Talk the Culture of Haiti in New Orleans Today

Story and Photos by Darby Farr Data News Contributor

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In marking the cultural ties between New Orleans and Haiti, artists from both places celebrated their linkages at the "Haiti Is Us" music and talk event on May 1, 2019 at the Evolve Artspace at the Angela King Art Gallery on Royal Street.

"I went to a festival here [in New Orleans], and I heard people speaking Creole, and I could understand them," said Theodore "Lolo" Beaubrun, Jr. of the Grammy-nominated Haitian Band Boukman Eksperyans. Beaubrun said that visiting New Orleans during Jazz Fest week allowed him to see the many similarities between the city and his native country, from the style of music to the language. Beaubrun said he believes that Haitians and the people of New Orleans need to spark a conversation between each other, because many people are not aware of the direct ties New Orleans has to Haiti.

Lolo Beaubrun and the band's Lead Singer Mimerose "Manzè" Beaubrun have travelled five continents since the 1980s sharing Haiti's culture. They joined Régine Chassagne, who is of Haitian descent, and a musician with the Indie-Rock Band Arcade Fire to talk about cultural traditions. Chas-



sagne is Co-Founder of Krewe du Kanaval in New Orleans. Local musician Damas "FanFan" Louis and Nic Brierre Aziz, the New Orleans Museum of Art Coordinator for Community Engagement joined the conversation that was moderated by Maryse DeJean of WWOZ 90.7 FM.

Lyonel Sanon, a visiting Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from the State University of Haiti in Portau-Prince also participated in the discussion, sharing the insights he plans to take back to New Orleans, after teaching at Xavier University of Louisiana this year as part of the program. Both Xavier and Tulane University co-sponsored the event along with Judge Calvin Johnson, Gabou Mendy, Rick Wilkof and Clara Walmsey.

The event showcased the work of three Haitian Master Metal Sculptors, one of the art forms that originated in Haiti but are still visible in New Orleans metal work, architecture, and artwork when people of African descent came to New Orleans after the Haitian Revolution. It is the rich culture of New Orleans, most of

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which is influenced by other cultures, that drives many people to this vibrant city, said Dr. Gabou Mendy, an Emergency Medicine Specialist and Physician.

"New Orleans attracts you for a variety of reasons, whether it is the music or the way of life," Mendy said. "Music is not just something you listen to, you live it, you experience it, you share it," Mendy added.

He believes the music of New Orleans creates the culture of New Orleans because the music affects people's way of life and how they interact with each other. "In New Orleans people speak to you as you pass them on the street, and that is something you'll find in Haiti and in Africa," Mendy said.

It is not a coincidence that there are so many cultural similarities between Haiti and New Orleans. "The French people sought Louisiana back in the 18th Century, and you have a lot of enslaved people coming here, that is why there is a root between Haitian and American people here in Louisiana," said Lyonel Sanon, a Professor of Linguistics and Education. With currently 1 million Haitians in the United States, he acknowledged that Haiti has and continues to impact American culture today.

"The people from Africa and Haiti who also learned some musical styles from Europe, came together with different sounds to create the syncopations that eventually made it to New Orleans," said Régine Chassagne, who was born in Canada to Haitian parents. She said that after having grown up in a Haitian household it is comforting to experience the Haitian-influenced music and culture of New Orleans. She moved here with her spouse and bandmate Win Butler and Co-Founded the Krewe du Kanaval, which celebrates the links between both places. "I feel happy because I know if I start dancing in the street, it's ok," Chassagne said.



shall be removed from office. The

House of Representatives does the impeachment and then the Senate

The impeachment process al-

lows the House of Representatives

to investigate the wrongdoings of

Donald Trump - wrongdoings

that are clearly laid out in the re-

port of Special Counsel Robert

Mueller. And if substantiated,

those wrongdoings can then be

presented to the Senate where

their deliberations can be ob-

But rather than carry out their

sworn duty, the Democratic lead-

ership in the House of Representa-

tives, citing the difficulties in carry-

ing out impeachment proceedings,

would rather call on the American

electorate to vote Trump out of

office in 2020. This strategy is de-

signed to maximize Democratic seats in Congress while relieving

the Democratic majority in the

House of the obligation of doing its

you did your job is putting party be-

Fear of losing elections because

This calculated political expedi-

ency – and shirking from impeach-

ment – is one reason why the cur-

rent Democratic leadership in the

House cannot stay in place much

longer. Attempts at dressing this

self-serving cowardice in a suit of

tactical shrewdness will not dupe right thinking Americans. Nancy

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House Democrats Want Us to do Their Job

Oscar H. Blayton NNPA Contributor

\$174,000.00 – That's what every member of the House of Representatives receives in salary each year. Every member, that is, except Nancy Pelosi, who as the Speaker of the House, gets to take home \$223,500.00.

Those are not bad wages, even if these legislators work five days a week with only two weeks off annually for vacation. But Congress has averaged only 138 legislative days a year since 2001. If you do the math, you will see that comes to less than three days a week.

Undoubtedly, many members of the House of Representatives can articulate why they need so few days in session. Their stated reasoning might include the rigors of carrying out their constitutionally mandated functions.

But therein lies the rub. The House of Representatives is refusing to carry out one of its more important constitutionally mandated functions.

When the Founders of this nation wrote the Constitution, they did not want the country to be forced to blindly trust and follow the person holding the office of the President. And for this reason, they divided the power of the government into three distinct branches and gave each branch equal status.

In order to prevent the President from becoming a tyrant, the House and Senate were given the responsibility and authority to perform oversight of the Executive Branch.

In order to properly carry out their job, Congress must provide oversight of the president.

We now have a sick and twisted man-baby fouling the oval office.



Donald Trump does not respect the rule of law or the institutions of our federal government. He is determined to bend all aspects of our national structure to his will and he has found pliant minions who have been willing to ignore, and even break, the law in service to their overlord. Neither Congress nor the nation has ever seen anything like this before. The purulent character of Trump has infected most agencies of the executive branch of our government and released bigots, misogynists, xenophobes and every other manner of villain as antigens into the body of our democratic society.

While Trump burns down the house that America has built, Republican lawmakers have become his collaborators. And too many Democratic members of the House of Representatives, cowered by the

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thought of angering the Republican base, simply quail in the face of this onslaught against our liberties.

Two centuries ago, Congress was given a tool with which to rein in or remove an abusive president because the Founders knew it was possible a day like today might arrive.

The House of Representatives has the power of impeachment. In fact, it has the "sole" power of impeachment. The Senate cannot impeach. It can only try a federal officer who has been impeached by the House of Representatives. The process has been clearly laid out in Sections 2 and 3 of Article I of the Constitution. Once the president has been impeached by the House of Representatives for high crimes and misdemeanors, he or she is then tried on those charges by the Senate; and if convicted, he or she

Pelosi has argued that impeachment proceedings will solidify Trump's base. Clearly, she is maklaw in Virginia.

follow us on

ing a political calculation and not a moral decision grounded in the Constitution and her oath of office. Oscar H. Blavton is a former Marine Corps combat pilot and human rights activist who practices



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