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# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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**YMO 133rd Annual Second-Line**


**Data Zone Page 8**

September 30 - October 6, 2017 52nd Year Volume 23 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Data News Weekly Celebrates 51ST Anniversary

Page 2



**Newsmaker**

**Saints Sit Down In Solidarity**

Page 6

**Fashion & Style**

**Fall Fashion Comes Alive**



Page 15



# Data News Weekly Celebrates 51<sup>ST</sup> Anniversary

By Edwin Buggage  
Features Writer

Last year the New Orleans Data News Weekly celebrated its Golden Anniversary as the People's Paper providing news that empowers, inform and inspires a community. This year the paper turns 51 and has

come a long way since Joseph "Scoop" Jones, who was among the few Black World War 2 Correspondents created it in 1966, focusing on entertainment and giving a voice to the African-American Community in New Orleans. Today, Data News Weekly has expanded under the leadership of "Scoop's" son Terry Jones, who's led Data News into becoming a Leading Community

Newspaper in New Orleans and nationwide as one of the premiere African-American Newspapers in the country. We took this opportunity to talk to Publisher Terry Jones about the history of the paper, his vision and its connection and commitment to the community.

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

## INSIDE DATA

Cover Story . . . . .	2	Commentary. . . . .	12
State & Local News . . .	5	Health News . . . . .	13
Newsmaker . . . . .	6	National News . . . . .	14
Data Zone . . . . .	8	Fashion . . . . .	15
42 Tribes . . . . .	11		

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

### A Brief History of Data News Weekly

Terry Jones is a second-generation Publisher of the New Orleans Data News Weekly Newspaper. His father Joseph "Scoop" Jones began publishing in 1966 as mainly an entertainment vehicle for the thriving nightlife scene in Black New Orleans. The younger Jones laughs when reminiscing of how he first began working with the fledgling publication. "My father started the paper and it was the first or second issue, at the time he was connected with a lot of people in the entertainment business and I interviewed and wrote a cover story on the Godfather of Soul James Brown because he was friends with one of the promoters who came to town."

As he took the helm of Data News in 1985, he learned that the skills needed to run a business of this size requires most of if not all of your time. It is unlike a normal job where you work a certain number of hours then you punch out for the day. Speaking of his normal work day he says, "The problem with this kind of work with public relations it's a 24/7 thing." Continuing he says, "I made the commitment early on that this was not a job but

a way of life. I consider it a way of life particularly in a City like New Orleans, everybody knows who you are and you always have to be on always. And because we are so connected to the community I am always thinking what I can do to improve the paper to impact our people in a positive way."

### Data News Weekly Enters the Digital Age

As the media industry is changing and some print publications are struggling to survive Data News Weekly is not only surviving but thriving in a changing marketplace. Data News Weekly as have many print publications found themselves facing new challenges as the digital landscape is changing the nature of print media. Questions have arisen about how they will survive and remain viable. A reality not lost on Jones as he remarks of these changes, "We've had to re-identify ourselves online and connect with a new generation of readers. It is a challenge in this transition; we may have to eventually move from print to digital to reach our readers, but right now our print publication is doing well reaching readers and our website and social media pres-



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry B. Jones

ence has grown considerably."

While Jones is embracing new media and the digital age he says that some businesses see more value in advertising in print publications, "Ironically, a survey just came out and it says a lot of corporations are going back to paper because with blogs and some of the digital

things they are discovering they are not getting the same return on their investment."

### 51 Years and the Meaning of Value to the Community

Presently, Data News Weekly is celebrating its 51th Year Anniversary and Jones feels his paper is

poised to move into the future in spite of the changes in the newspaper industry that many face in the questioning of their continued relevance. "I think we are very valuable. I was just talking to the NNPA (National Newspaper Publishers Association) national advertising arm and we have these conversations with marketing folks. When you begin to talk about blogs and social media, we will not win in the numbers game that is not our platform, as I said earlier it is our interrelationship with the community that defines our value. I spoke with a CEO of Shell about helping to re-connect them to the Black Community; this is where our value lies; in that we have an over 50-year relationship with the Black Community. When companies advertise with Data News Weekly they get the value of my relationship and my trust with my readers, so my value is the paper's longevity and being part of the community."

He continues speaking on this theme stating that blogs and other web based news sites may have in some instances more eyes in terms of numbers, but does not have the client relationship and brand recognition that his paper has that would make a reader pay attention to advertised content. Jones feels that his qualitative value is what gives his paper a competitive advantage over what he deems as the cluttered, undifferentiated space that many blogs and new media companies occupy in the digital space. "That is my major value to the marketplace is my longevity in that community; our value is stability and our relationship with the community, not simply numbers."

### The People's Paper and Commitment to the Community

And as we are on the eve of our municipal elections Data News Weekly continues to stay true to its motto as "The People Paper" it has developed partnerships with CUMULUS Radio, doing community outreach and sponsoring events across the City. Jones says, this is the best part of running Data News Weekly, "I enjoy uplifting our community and seeing the impact of outreach over the last 51 years. We are a part of and ingrained in the community helping shape the agenda of the City."

Jones says of his future vision for Data News Weekly, "We want to continue in our role as the voice in our community to help shape the conversations of our City in these important times and telling our story for now and future generations. Also, we would like to thank all those who have supported us over the years our advertisers, our readers and most of all the community."



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### Arthur Anthony Morrell



### Orleans Parish Criminal Court Clerk

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I would also like to Congratulate DATA NEWS WEEKLY for 51 Years of service to the New Orleans Community.

Best Wishes now and in the Future.

Happy 51st Anniversary DATA NEWS WEEKLY.



# Congressman Richmond Talks HBCUs, Impeachment and #RootOutRacism

By Lauren Victoria Burke  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

During a conference call with reporters, Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-La.), the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), pledged to revisit the debate around impeachment when Congress returns after Labor Day and announced a new campaign to #RootOutRacism in the White House.

Richmond promised a "robust discussion" about impeachment by the CBC when Congress returns on September 5. The House of Representatives hasn't been in session since July 28; members often travel to their home districts during the August recess.

With more than 400 days until the midterm elections of 2018, the CBC reaffirmed a position against the Trump Administration that would indicate that not much will change until Democrats are able to win a majority in the House or Senate. Richmond insisted that the CBC will continue to focus on policies that impact African Americans, rather than the political spectacle that fills hours of cable news broadcasts.

In response to President Trump's recent comments about the White nationalists' rally in Charlottesville, Va., that was attended by Ku Klux Klan members, neo-Nazis and White supremacists, the CBC has reaffirmed a hard stance against the Trump Administration. The CBC declined an invitation to meet with Trump, weeks ago.

"Things will always reveal themselves if [we] give people time to do it," said CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond (D-La.) regarding President Trump. Richmond mentioned that members of the CBC held a recent conference call and that civil disobedience had not been ruled out as they confront Trump's policies.

"We've come to the conclusion that we are in a sad and shameful place," Richmond told reporters. He then pointed to Trump advisors Sebastian Gorka and Stephen Miller by name as two members of the administration who, in his view, should not continue to work at the White House because of their White supremacist views.

"The people who work in the White House should not be White nationalists or White supremacists,"

added Richmond. "This country is having a crisis of leadership."

In a June 9 invitation, Trump had requested that all of the members of the CBC meet with him on a quarterly basis. On June 21,

CBC leadership declined any further meetings with the president. Members of the five-person CBC board met with President Trump and Vice President Mike Pence on March 22.

On the question of impeachment, Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) has balked at the idea that House Democrats would back impeachment proceedings for this president and

has pressed members not to call for such a move.

But three Black Caucus members, Rep. Al Green (D-Texas),

State & Local,  
Continued on page 6.



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**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:** Chasity Hale, Sanya Richards-Ross, Margaret "Marty" Gillis, Valeisha Butterfield-Jones, Tichina Arnold

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# NFL Takes a Knee Against Trump's Insulting Rhetoric

*New Orleans Saints Joined More than 200 Players in Sunday Solidarity Protest.*

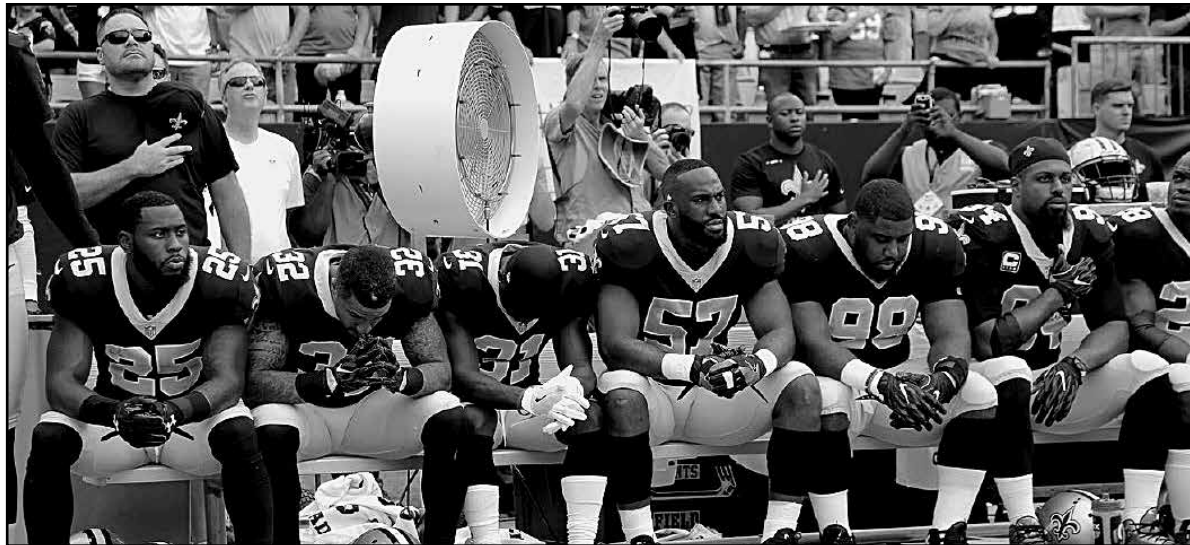
## Data Staff Report

The New Orleans Saints joined with the rest of the NFL teams, owners and players in a show of unity and solidarity, the likes which have never been seen in the history of the conservative leaning sport. Unprecedented, the protest by the players who in some cases included the team's owners and coaches with locked arms, proved to be a powerful response to insults leveled at professional athletes who choose to engage in social justice protest by sitting or kneeling during the National Anthem. This show of unity, which much of the nation never expected to witness, spread quickly to other professional sports teams including the MLB and the NBA.

The protests this weekend by NFL players and other professional athletes to President Trump's attacks on their right to protest could best be summed up by a comment from a Twitter user going by the name of Frederick Douglass: "Sons of bitches join up with the nasty women and bad hombres and take back our country."

Those "sons of bitches," as referred to by Trump during a rally in Alabama on Friday, describe NFL players who kneel or sit during the national anthem prior to games, following the example of former San Francisco 49er Colin Kaepernick who began the protest last year to highlight injustices and police brutality against minorities, including Black men callously killed by police.

"I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses Black people and people of color," Kaepernick said in 2016. "To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and



Overall, 14 Saints players sat down or dropped their heads in silent protest during the National Anthem in response to Trump's statements. The show of solidarity by the league and in particular the Saints was not well received by some members of the LA State House of Representatives.

people getting paid leave and getting away with murder."

But unlike the White Supremacists and neo-Nazis who protested in Charlottesville and, according to the president, included some "very fine people," any NFL player who dares protest is a "son of a bitch" who should be fired.

Beyond his statement, Trump later tweeted: "If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!"

In response to Trump's inflammatory statements, representatives for New Orleans Saints and Pelicans owner Tom Benson issued the following statement:

Our organization takes great pride in equality and inclusion and find the comments by the president disappointing and inappropriate relative to our players on this issue. Tom Benson served in the military

and continues to this day to support all military branches and feels strongly that we honor those men and women who defend our freedoms and our freedom of speech. He also believes that the very players that represent the Saints and Pelicans organizations should be allowed to share or express their feelings. We prefer to take this moment in time and work together, all of us, to stop the divisiveness. Our players and our organization serve the New Orleans Community selflessly and do so without care of race, creed or sexual orientation and that makes us a better City and a better team. We believe strongly in honoring our flag and the National Anthem and what it represents and we support our players. We all must strive to show that we are all Americans and continue to work towards equality for all. The NFL and NBA, perhaps more than any sports, have the power to bring communities together.

Overall, 14 Saints players sat down or dropped their heads in silent protest during the National

Anthem in response to Trump's statements. The show of solidarity by the league and in particular the Saints was not well received by some members of the LA State House of Representatives. On Sunday (Sept. 24), State House Rep. Kenny Havard, R-Jackson, called for Louisiana's government to pull state funding, tax breaks and other support from the professional football franchise.

"Disrespecting our National Anthem and flag in the name of social injustice is the highest form of hypocrisy," Havard said in a written statement Monday.

State Rep. Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs, has also requested the Saints' state benefits be reviewed by the Legislature's Senate and House Budget Committees as a result of the players' protest. Hodges is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which oversees state finances.

Sunday's first NFL game, between Jacksonville and Baltimore, was being played in London and by 9:30 am ET had the largest number

of players to date kneeling during the anthem.

By the afternoon, more than 200 NFL players representing all 28 teams that played Sunday either sat or knelt during the National Anthem prior to their respective games.

Three teams chose to remain in their locker rooms during the Star-Spangled Banner. Some of the protesting players were White, but the overwhelming majority were Black. According to the NFL, about 70 percent of the league's players are Black.

"I'm ok for being fired for what I believe in," tweeted Green Bay Packers' Martellus Bennett. "The idea of @realDonaldTrump thinking that suggesting firing me from football, confirms that he thinks that it's all I can do as a Black man"

"Me taking a knee doesn't change the fact that I support our military, I'm a patriot and I love my country," Buffalo Bills Linebacker Lorenzo Alexander told the AP. "But I also recognize there are some social injustices in this country and today I wanted to take a knee in support of my brothers who have been doing it. ... I just wanted to show them that I was with them today, especially in the backdrop of our president making the comments about our players, about their mothers. And then you put that in conjunction with how he tried to gray-area Nazism and KKK members as being fine people, I had to take a knee."

"We stand with our brothers," Baltimore Ravens Linebacker Terrell Suggs said, according to the AP. "They have the right and we knelt with them today. To protest, non-violent protest, is as American as it gets, so we knelt with them today to let them know that we're a unified front."

## State & Local, Continued from page 5.

Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) and Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wisc.) have supported the idea. Rep. Green has gone as far as drafting detailed articles of impeachment.

Richmond was also critical of the president's response to the needs of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

"They brought all those HBCUs to town. They took a picture in the Oval Office and then they did nothing," said Richmond. "If you look at President Trump's budget, he has a number of actions in it that actually hurt HBCUs."

White House Communications Director for the Office of Public Liaison, Omarosa Manigault is organizing the annual HBCU conference scheduled for September 17-September 19 in Washington, D.C.

"He still has a [HBCU] commission, he still hasn't named anyone to," said Richmond. "Omarosa



Louisiana Congressman and CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond said that the CBC will revisit the debate over impeachment proceedings for President Donald Trump.

is still pretending to have influence with this president. I'm just surprised that she's still there as an African American woman after his latest comments."

Richmond said that he wouldn't be surprised, if many of the HBCU presidents declined to show up for the annual event.

"If they postpone it, great. If they cancel it, great," said Richmond. "What I'd rather see, besides a conference and a fly-in day, is some substantive policies to help these schools with their scholarships, with their campuses, with their infrastructure."

Richmond continued: "I don't think you need a conference in [Washington, D.C.] to do that. This White House is not serious about improving our HBCUs, our institutions of advancement."



# Data News Encourages You To Get Out and Vote

*Early Voting Begins Saturday, September 30*

The 2017 Mayoral race is fast approaching, and Data News Weekly wants to be sure that all eligible voters are registered and that you cast your vote. Here is all of the information needed to vote early. Data News Weekly encourages you to get out and vote. Your vote is your voice!

## October 14 Election Information

Early voting: Sept. 30 - Oct. 7 (excluding Sunday)

Early voting hours are 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. each day except Sunday, Oct. 1.

## These are the locations for Early Voting

City Hall,  
1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W24



Algiers Courthouse.  
225 Morgan Street, Room 105

Chef Mentour Voting Machine  
Warehouse Site,

8870 Chef Mentour Highway

Lake Vista Community Center,  
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.

**If you need to register to vote you may do so at the following 2 locations:**

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New Orleans, LA 70112  
Phone (504) 658-8300  
Fax (504) 658-8315  
Email orleansrovc@sos.la.gov

**Branch Location**  
Algiers Courthouse  
225 Morgan St. Room 105  
New Orleans, LA 70114  
Phone (504) 658-0195

To qualify to vote you must be a U.S. Citizen; be at least 17 years old, but must be 18 years old by the next election to vote; not be under an order of imprisonment for conviction of a felony; not be under a judgment of full interdiction for mental incompetence or partial interdiction with suspension of voting rights; and reside in the state parish in which you seek to register.

Off probation or parole? You can register! Bring documents that indicate you are no longer on probation or parole or under supervision to the registrar's office and a office member can help you get registered to vote. You may reinstate your voting rights by calling (504) 658-8300 for information.

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*smart, she's fair and she can unite us and bring resources to areas of this city that have long been underserved."*

—Senator Wesley Bishop



# Young Men Olympian 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Second-Line Parade

Photos by Kichea S. Burt  
Data News Contributor

On Sunday, September 24th, the Young Men Olympian Junior Benevolent Association, Inc. (YMO) held their 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Second-Line Parade.

This year's parade paid homage to Bro. James Williams, Bro. Cyrus Russ and James "Jimmy" Fulton featuring 6 different sections and 6 different bands. YMO is one of America's oldest benevolent societies and second-line groups, founded in 1884.



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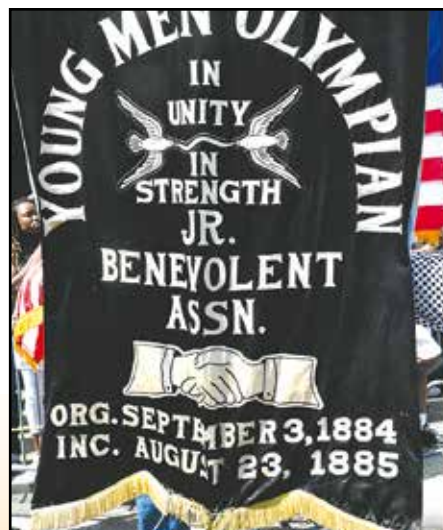
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Data Zone, Continued from Page 8



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# Happy Birthday to John Leftridge

## Photos by Terry Jones

John Leftridge of Abracadabra Bail Bonds celebrated his birthday with family and friends at Seal's Class Act in New Orleans. Data News Weekly wishes John many more happy years to come!



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# Big Chief Walter “Lil Walter” Cook Jr. Creole Wild West

By: Glenn Jones  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

## Timeline:

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1920 – 1954 Big Chief Cornelius “Brother Tillman” Tillman  
1955 – 1964 Big Chief Donald Harrison Sr.  
1971 – 1972 Big Chief “Hercules” Gateman  
1972 – 1973 Big Chief Bruce Gateman  
1973 – 1974 Big Chief “Hercules” Gateman  
1975 – 2016 Big Chief Walter “Lil Walter” Cook Jr.



Big Chief Walter “Lil Walter” Cook Jr. Creole Wild West

## Born to be Chief:

It's not often, that the opportunity to interview a child protégée in his retirement comes along because it's usually called an autobiography. Compiling a lifetime of memories and accomplishments of a person that's been immersed in one discipline at its highest level is a daunting endeavor. However, that opportunity is now and it may never come again. We will try our best to coral his fifty-five years of Black Masking History to honor Big Chief “Lil Walter” and his journey of destiny. “Lil Walter” became Chief at the age of 13. Following in the footsteps of his grandfather (Tribe Unknown) and his father Walter Cook Sr. who was one of the founders of the Wild Magnolias with his brother-in-law Big Chief Leon Thomas. Chief masked for the first time at the age of 2 in 1962 with the Wild Magnolias. Add that to his mother's family being full Choctaw and you have a living personification of Black Masking Indians. To drive this point home Big Chief “Lil Walter” is at best, one to two degrees separated from the aboriginal (native) people of Louisiana, of New Orleans, of the surrounding areas of the French Quarter called Marrons, meaning our present-day

neighborhoods, and has passed down the culture to generations for fifty-five plus years.

Big Chief is a history book in motion. He outlines the beginning tribes of Downtown and Uptown like an ancestry.com family tree diagram, and actually, it is. In the sense that many early tribes were started by family members in different parts of town. It was not uncommon for a Big Chief to give permission to a tribesman moving to a different part of town, to start his own tribe. That's partly how the 101 Gang came about. Combing 3 to 4 gangs for a one hundred and one-member tribe. In speaking with Chief, he expresses even though Creole Wild West and “BK” were the first to be documented between 1855- 1860, that “BK” and others belonged to tribes before that.

If it wasn't enough pressure to be a Chief at 13, Chief also combined two tribes that same year. He was also given the Golden Sioux Tribe that was comprised of Downtown and Uptown Indians totaling 42 Indians from both tribes. For most, this responsibility would be overwhelming, but not for this Chief of destiny. He has been dedicated since birth even giving up scholarships to Texas A&M and Grambling Uni-

versities to lead his tribe. As a third generation Black Masking Indian, Chief attest that his ability to do so was because “I was taught right”, referencing the Uptown Culture of Chief Scouts. Chief Scout is the first position of an uptown Indian youth whereby much of his time is next to the Chief receiving tutelage.

Q) What was your first memory of seeing a Black Masking Indian?

A) When I first realized my daddy was masking I had to look. It was exciting but kind of frightening.

Q) What is the biggest difference in the culture from your youth?

A) See right about now a lot of these lil guys, cause they ain't been taught, they don't know how it really goes. They have heard, but they don't know. They don't know how it really goes. You've got to meet and greet, play your position and all that. But they've got it now, you might see one of them and it's “Hey you MF look what I got, I sew!” Everybody sew! I respect everybody that put a needle in his hand and sew. If you are falling apart or not, at least you tried. All it is, is hav-

ing somebody there to teach them not to criticize.

Q) Who are you paying homage to when you suit up?

A) I have great respect for the ones who came before me. That's who I really honor. I give a lot of honor to my dad because he brought me into the tribe and his dad because his dad brought him into it, I'm a third generation.

Q) What milestones do you remember the most in your tenure as Chief?

A) The best thing I've done, is when I did the Native American. I dressed originally like a Native American Indians. I've been to Paris, France. The best thing about it, I conquered what I was. I'm good with what I do, I stay casting, I decorate and I design and I'm very good at that.

Q) How did people feel about you masking in a more Native (Plain Indian) style?

A) Everybody say because time is changing, they said well Walter look like he came off a reservation because I knew what I was supposed look like. A lot of them didn't understand it. You know they see where it's coming from and trying to get their minds right but they still stuck to one thing. Trying to look like each other. Instead of being you. You've got to get your own identity in this Mardi Gras thing.

Q) As we approach the Tri Centennial of this City and of Black Masking Culture, what would you like to be said about you and your tribe in the next three hundred years?

A) I'm a legend and I ain't got this by trying to get this. I earned whatever is going on now, to what's going to happen. I earned it. Tell em' I'm legendary Lil Walter Cook from way Uptown, don't lose no Feather, don't lose no Crown!

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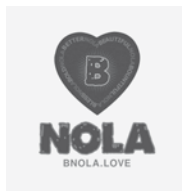
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# Donald Trump's Unsportmanlike Conduct



By Edwin Buggage  
Features Writer

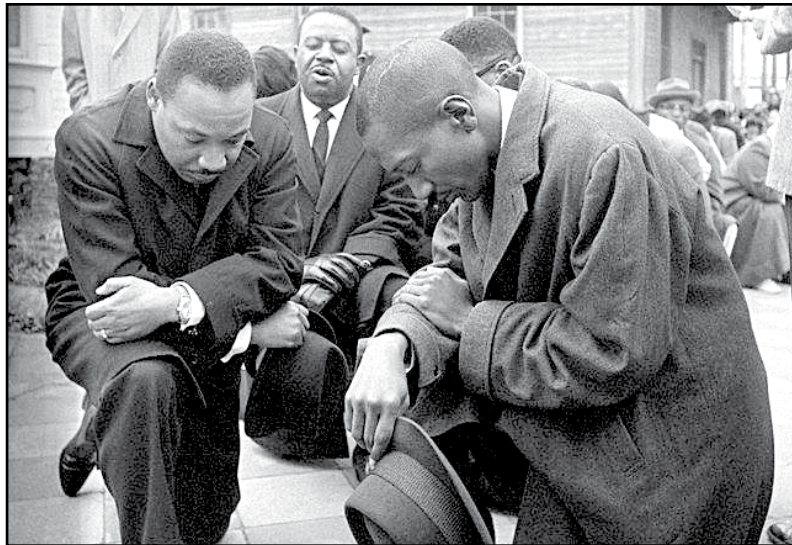
## Donald Trump Make America White Again

Donald Trump's short presidency is one that has been by most accounts, filled with chaos and confusion and may cause long-term damage to the nation domestically and globally. We are witnessing our nation being divided by a president who plays footsie with White nationalists, offends our allies and has us on the verge of a nuclear war with North Korea. But this week, Trump is battling with NFL players who have chosen to peacefully protest racial inequality in America. Going even further, Trump rescinded an invitation to the White House to the Golden State Warriors via Twitter after feeling slighted that the team



may not accept it.

Later, while speaking at a rally in Alabama, the place where many of the greatest civil rights protests took place, Trump used the opportunity to recall the Confederacy's ugly past by calling NFL Players SOB's and demanding that the owners should fire them for their protests. His tone was reminiscent of Alabama Governor George Wallace who said in his 1963 Inaugural Address; 'Segregation Now, Segregation Tomorrow, Segregation Forever' as the



Civil Rights movement was in full swing; Wallace's statements and actions shined the light on the bigotry and racism was the law of the land at that time in Alabama and all throughout the south.

## Black Power In the 21st Century

Today, racial resentment is rife among Whites as they see a nation changing; where the pop cultural landscape has many Blacks at the top of their fields, from LeBron James, and even New Orleans

own Percy "Master P" Miller and Bryan "Birdman" Williams. Additionally, Blacks in many fields of endeavor have risen to top levels in education, business, and politics; with the crowning achievement being Barack Obama being elected the first African-American President. Ironically, this great achievement for our nation is where Donald Trump began his political ascent as the forefront of the birther movement; questioning whether the President was born in this country. Which in and of itself is both silly, sickening and shows ignorance of basic civics.

While there are problems with police brutality and inequality, today unlike yesterday, Blacks do not have to be invisible. No longer do we have to pretend to scratch where we do not itch, no longer does one have to feign ignorance and wear a smile when nothing is funny to get along with Whites. Today, is a time where having the courage to take a stand against what is wrong with this country as it relates to racial inequality is no longer swept under the rug. This is what Colin Kaepernick and many others are doing, and this is in the spirit of dissent that is as part of the American story.

## America's History of Dissent and Fighting Against Tyranny

From the Boston Tea Party, the Civil Rights Revolution, the Women's Movement and many

others, acts of civil disobedience were a rallying cry to amend and correct the wrongs of a society. In fact, these things were done to make the nation a more just place, where the country could move closer to its creed that all people not just being created, but in this case treated equally.

The President's words and actions throughout his time as Commander-In-Chief, if this was a football game would receive a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct. His words are divisive and un-presidential. It is sad for our nation that our leader has the comportment and temperament of a small child. As opposed to focusing on the things that matter, he lacks vision, he is small and petty and behaves erratically like someone with ADHD and this is not a good trait for a president who has access to the nuclear codes and the leader of the free world.

## Team America: Different Jerseys Same Team

The President ignited controversy this weekend when he and his spokespeople spoke of him being offended by NFL players protesting because it is disrespectful to the flag and the soldiers. This faulty logic that he uses as a litmus test of patriotism is shortsighted, and shows his ignorance of American history; where civil disobedience and dissent is as American as apple pie. Patriotism or acts of it are not as black and white as Trump and his surrogates paint; except in the worst of dictatorships, where blind patriotism is expected and any form of dissent punishable in some cases by death. This is not the country we live in. It is one that amended itself into becoming a more perfect union, and today it seems we need to mend ourselves and our imperfect nation and understand we are all on the same team as Americans. And we all want freedom, justice and equality; when this day finally comes we, all win and no one has to take a knee but we can stand together.



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# Artists Talk Mental Health, One Lyric at a Time.

By Christopher D. Brown  
Data News Contributor

Music can do more than entertain. It can also heal. This was the goal of the inaugural Music for Mental Health: An Evening of Song and Discussion, held on Sept. 22nd at the New Orleans Jazz Museum at the Old U.S. Mint. Kathryn Rose Wood, a Clinical Music Therapist and Singer-Songwriter organized the event that featured five artists sharing their stories through song about how mental illness has affected their lives.

Wood lost her brother following his suicide two years ago. She said the program was held as part of National Suicide Prevention Month activities. The loss of loved ones to mental health issues are stories the public does not always get to hear. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among adults in the U.S.,

according to the National Institute of Mental Health. And in addition to Wood, other performers at the event shared personal stories like Singer-Songwriters Mia Borders, Mike Doussan, Kei Slaughter, and Rapper Alfred Banks.

African-Americans are 20 percent more likely to experience serious mental health problems than the general population, according to the Office of Minority Health of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Common mental health disorders African-Americans face include: depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), suicide among young African-American men, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"Mental illness in the urban community needs to be addressed, that's why we're lucky to have Alfred," Woods said of the local rapper's advocacy on the subject.



Artists Alfred Banks, Kei Slaughter, Mike Doussan and Kathryn Rose Wood use music to educate the community about mental health.

Banks' 2017 album, *The Beautiful*, expresses the artist's recollection of his older brother's suicide and his own mental health issues. Banks said he wants to emphasize the importance of mental health awareness in the Black Community. His older brother suffered from schizophrenia and took his life in 2004. As audiences heard in Banks' lyrics during his performance, his

pain persists.

"When they found my brother's body, he was still warm. He was still warm," Banks said as his words cut through the room.

Under dim lights, Banks took a Burberry scarf and tied it around his mic. The room grew tense. The track started and Banks began spitting the lyrical back flips he is known for, scarf swaying behind him. He

rapped about his brother Orlandas, his struggle with schizophrenia, and how that led to him taking his own life. He said he wanted his audience to know the experiences of families who witness a loved one suffering from mental illness.

"He had medicine. But he said it made him feel drowsy, so he turned to alcohol instead," Banks said of the helplessness he felt about not being able to help his brother. "When that failed, he took his own life," Banks said.

Understanding mental health issues must go beyond mental health professionals and their patients, Wood said of using artists to educate the community about the issue. Education starts with a simple conversation, Wood said, and even music.

"Music is one of the best forms of therapy for mental illness," Woods said.

*I would first like to thank the people of New Orleans for re-electing me as Clerk of Civil District Court over the past several years. I am deeply grateful.*

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# NNPA, Pfizer Release Groundbreaking Poll about Sickle Disease in the Black Community

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

A new poll about sickle cell disease (SCD), presented by the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and Pfizer revealed that while the majority of respondents were familiar with the illness, less than 40 percent realized that it disproportionately affects people of African descent.

Earlier this year, Pfizer partnered with the NNPA to increase awareness about SCD in the Black community and to encourage greater participation in clinical trials for treatments involving the disease.

The groundbreaking poll also helped to dispel one of the long-held myths about the negative perception of medical professionals in the Black community.

The poll revealed that, despite

long-standing historical perceptions of mistrust in medical professionals by the Black community, 91 percent of respondents indicated that they believe health care professionals are trustworthy.

Seventy-nine percent of respondents had positive or neutral attitudes toward sickle cell disease (SCD) trials and a majority indicated a willingness to participate in future clinical trials for SCD, given appropriate knowledge and recommendations from health care professionals.

“Our core belief is that every patient counts, especially when it comes to rare disease,” said Michael Goettler, the global president of Pfizer’s Rare Disease unit. “When you have a rare disease, often you feel lonely and your physician may not be able to help you.”

Goettler noted that the poll results provide a basis for Pfizer



NNPA President and CEO Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. (far left) and NNPA Chairman Dorothy Leavell (3rd from left) joined researchers from Howard University and Pfizer officials to release a new poll on sickle cell disease at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. (Freddie Allen/AMG/NNPA)

to seek more detailed assistance for sufferers.

standing of how sickle cell disease is perceived by African-Americans,” said Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., president and CEO of the NNPA. “With this knowledge from the dedicated research team at Howard University, and through our collaboration with Pfizer, we can spur meaningful conversation and assess the best ways to improve disease education for those impacted in our communities.”

Researchers and officials at Pfizer and the NNPA each said that they hope to continue to educate patients, family members and primary care doctors about SCD clinical trials.

“Close to 20 percent said they were unsure of how it was inherited and this presents a problem,” Adams said. “If you don’t know how it’s inherited, you may be putting your offspring at risk.”

“These poll findings will give our readers an in-depth under-

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# Fun for All Fall Fashion



**Delaney George**  
Columnist

Summer has come and gone. It's time to break out the browns, the burgundies, the mustard yellows, and all of the colors that scream fall. Although it's not cold enough to wear your boots and scarves yet, you can still jump into the fall season by wearing your seasonal colors and pallets.

## Make-Up:

The neon, lime, and vibrant hues of lipsticks, blushes, and eyeshadows are out. It's time to break out the matte lipsticks with darker pigments to reign in on fall season. This season, a brown or wine-red lip would be suitable for any fall attire, day or night. As adventurous and edgy as a yellow eyeshadow is, for fall keep that edge by trying a golden smoky eye. You can be daring and still fall fashionable with a hint of gold on top of that black based eyed shadow that makes your eyes pop! You can even play around with darker colored lip and eyeliners for the not so daring yet seasonal look.



Nude colored lips paired with a golden and brown eyeshadow and highlighter.



Lavender purple matte lip.



Nude off the shoulder long sleeve fall top, paired with navy blue ripped jeans.



A velvet brown/tan skirt paired with brown fall ankle boots.

Photos by Delaney George & LanesLense

## Shirts and Skirts:

Luckily, New Orleans' fall still allows ladies of the metro area to show some skin. Short skirts, midi skirts, and long skirts are all acceptable in the fall if they're the right color. While the hot pink spandex skirts and baby blue midis take their rightful place in the closet for next summer, you should start pulling out your beige velvet skirts, burnt orange skirts, or even a cor-

duroy hunter green mini skirt.

Fall blouses are the easiest fashion statements to really make a statement with your fresh for the fall look. Search for the colors you see on the leaves and tress around you and there's your fashion inspiration. This season, brown, tan, and yellow turtlenecks and button-ups will be the talk of the season. Off the shoulder tops are also a great fall accent to pump up your look,

while nudes, oranges, and blacks are sure to gear you up for not only fall but Halloween as well.

If you have the right color scheme in mind, shirts will be no problem to shop for. And for our fall date nights, a wine-red blouse or dress would serve as the perfect look.

For more information on fall looks email [Delaney@yahoo.com](mailto:Delaney@yahoo.com) or direct message @Delannii on Instagram.

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