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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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State of Black America 2020

A Conversation with National Urban League President Marc Morial



“We titled this year’s report “Un-masked” because the events that have unfolded this year have laid bare the face of racism in America,” says Morial regarding the recent release of the National Urban League 2020: State of Black America. (Marc Morial with 2020 Vice-Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris).

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

Reinvesting in “We the People”

Today the nation is at a crossroads in its experiment with Democracy. It is a time when the phrase

“We the People” that appears in the preamble to the United States Constitution is a question of what people are to have justice, freedom, and equality? It is a time in 2020; where the vision of a nation is blurred and needs clarity of vision that can move it to a place that restores and renews its commitment to becoming a more perfect union.

Data News Weekly spoke with Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League, who is also the former Mayor of New Orleans and author. Throughout his life he’s been committed to social change and we had a unique opportunity to have a conversation about the NUL State of Black America and a host of other issues impacting Black America.

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Unmasked: Taking Off the Veil of Racial Disparities in America

On this day Morial is upbeat, motivated and seems ready to lace up the gloves and fight justice for all people. He begins by speaking on the National Urban League's State of Black America 2020.

"We titled this year's report 'Unmasked' because the events that have unfolded this year have laid bare the face of racism in America. The pandemic has sickened and killed Black Americans at far higher rates because of long-standing racial disparities and biases in the Health Care System. The economic collapse has hit Black Americans hardest because of long-standing disparities in employment and income. The death of George Floyd shone a revealing spotlight on disparities in the justice system. We are in the midst of a triple pandemic, all interconnected by racism."

It must be noted that conversations around combating the problem of systemic racism is reverberating across the nation; in this Presidential Election year It's an important issue to Morial, who says that while the problems around racial disparities is nothing new, it is time to explore sustainable solutions.

To quote from the essay contributed by Dr. Lisa Cooper, Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Equity: "As we have seen through the Black Lives Matter Protests, many people are finally recognizing the inequities that are borne out of systemic racism, becoming motivated to speak and act for justice and change. We know now, more than ever, that everyone's voice is important to bring about the change that we seek. The crises of the COVID-19 Pandemic and police violence and killings of African Americans are forcing us to confront the injustices and eliminate the inequities that prevent us from living up to our stated ideals of 'liberty and justice for all.'"

20/20 Vision...The Struggle Continues

After the Killing of George Floyd, at the hands of police in Minnesota, protests are taking place in cities in America and abroad. It seems that the seeds of a new Civil Rights Movement have spawned in what is being called the Black Lives Matter Movement. Morial as head of the National Urban League and being part of many coalitions over the years dedicated to Civil Rights. Most recently, he and other Civil Rights leaders took part in working with the Congressional Black Caucus leadership and members of Congress on the George Floyd Jus-



"Organizations are working together around issues of Civil Rights" says Morial. As an example, the National Urban League is co-convening the Census Roundtable, with Fraternal, Business, Civic and the Faith Community around the 2020 Census and getting Blacks to participate in the 2020 Census. (National Urban League President, Marc Morial with 2020 Presidential nominee Joe Biden).



Morial is concerned about the problems of Crime and Gun Violence. Speaking of his time as Mayor of New Orleans and approaches he believes work he says, "As Mayor of New Orleans, I oversaw a 60% reduction in violent crime which we achieved through a combination of reforms that helped to restoring trust between the police department and the community and investing in economic initiatives like summer jobs for youth. We also need a comprehensive National Gun Safety Policy." (Marc Morial with Poor People's Campaign Chair, Rev. William Barber).

tice in Policing Act and Morial and the National Urban League is co-convening the Census Roundtable, with Fraternal, Business, Civic and the Faith Community around the 2020 Census and getting Blacks to participate in the 2020 Census.

"It's truly inspiring and gives us a sense of renewed hope, but we have to focus on turning protest into power, on channeling this energy and passion into action and bringing about transformational, systemic changes," Morial says with enthusiasm and hopeful optimism around dealing with issues of social justice.

Election 2020...Black Votes Matter

This nation is only a few months away from deciding who will be the next President of the United States and it is in these uncertain times that all communities especially mi-

nority communities get out and vote. For as we are witnessing remnants of the nations' racist past and a return to many Jim Crow-like practices aimed at keeping Black People away from the polls. Morial and the Urban League are part of a concerted effort to thwart these voter suppression efforts. He also lays out the case of why Blacks should vote in high numbers, not just in November, but all elections because Black Votes Matter.

"Black people should vote as if their lives depend upon it because they do. For all of the reasons that are laid out in this report, the tri-



Morial believes today's Civil Rights Struggle is not just about how it impacts the African American community but affects the entire nation. One that many came on different ships but are now in the same boat.

ple pandemics of virus, economic collapse and racial injustice have pushed Black Americans to the breaking point. The historic gains of the last 50 years – voting rights, fair housing, equity in education –

are steadily being eroded. Only voting in record numbers can keep our country from moving backward."

A Lesson for Leaders: Building a Gumbo Coalition and Reducing Crime and Gun Violence

We are seeing a spike in gun violence in cities across America, including New Orleans. Morial, when Mayor of New Orleans led an effort overseeing a time where crime was reduced by over half. Recently, he released a book entitled "The Gumbo Coalition: 10 Leadership Lessons That Help You Inspire, Unite and Achieve."

When asked what he would say to mayors and leaders across the nation on strategies to reduce violent crime.

"As Mayor of New Orleans, I oversaw a 60% reduction in violent crime which we achieved through a combination of reforms that helped to restoring trust between the police department and the community and investing in economic initiatives like summer jobs for youth. We also need a comprehensive National Gun Safety Policy."

Good Trouble and Building A More Perfect Union

The fight for this nation to reconcile itself around issues of race is still ongoing. A nation where "We the People" relegated some to 3/5th a person and Jim Crow are now still fighting the good fight and as the latest Civil Rights Icon John Lewis said getting in "Good Trouble."

Black Lives Matter is the latest incarnation of the demands for Freedom, Justice and Equality made for Blacks in America. And this long stride towards freedom is a relay, which the National Urban League and other historical Civil Rights groups continue to fight, so that Lady Liberty's Light shines on all the people of this nation that strives to become a more perfect union.

Morial believes today's Civil Rights Struggle is not just about how it impacts the African American community but affects the entire nation. One that many came on different ships but are now in the same boat. Where its citizens while either sail to an oasis of human decency where all can live with dignity or sink into the abyss of intolerance and incivility.

"The events of the last few months have placed our mission front and center and clarified that we cannot hope to move forward as a nation unless we commit to tackling racial justice. We are proceeding with the understanding that Civil Rights are not just a concern for communities of color, but for the entire community."

Born to Shine



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

Fashion Editor: Tracee Dundas | @fashionablyyoursnola

Photographer: Tracee Dundas

Model: Jennifer Freitas

Location: W Hotel French Quarter

What started as a fun trend now has evolved into an obsession for many and a lucrative business for others. Either way, everyone wants to get into the act of taking selfies; from celebrities, musicians, bloggers, and politicians. However, not everyone is a master at capturing that picture-perfect selfie. There is a certain art to taking attention-grabbing photos which require a bit of creativity, and a little practice to insure the most fashionably fabulous selfies.

Here are few easy tricks for snapping amazing selfies every time.

NEXT LEVEL – Hold the camera above your head. This will give your selfie an artsy feel while giving a good view to show off your outfit. (A selfie stick is helpful).

DON'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY –

Don't be stiff and stuffy. Have fun! Be Yourself!



CONSIDER THE BACKGROUND

It's the whole package that makes for the best picture, not just the face. Check your surroundings to see what's happening in the background. Incorporate an interesting background for added impact.



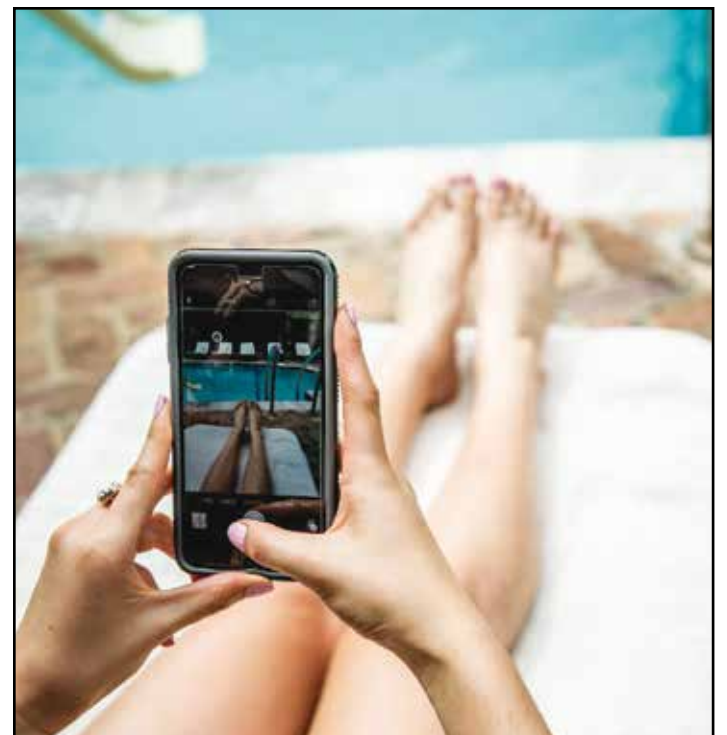
KNOW YOUR BEST ANGLE

Everyone has a "better side". The trick is to highlight your cheekbone, make your eyes look bigger and own the moment.



LIGHTING IS EVERYTHING

Good lighting is key when taking any kind of photograph, and selfies are no different. The right lighting can make or break what could be a great photo. Avoid dark or dimly lit areas, harsh fluorescent lighting or lighting that cast a shadow on the face.



KEEP IT INTERESTING

Angles, cropping in, close-ups and shooting body parts can capture the attention of your audience better.

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

Data Zone, Continued from page 4.



WEAR SUNGLASSES

Wear your favorite pair of sunnies, hat or other accessory for a fashion blogger or celebrity vibe.



SAY CHEESE

Practice your smile, smizing, pouting, sexy or any other facial expressions you wish to convey in your photos. Your expressions should be second nature and be effortless.



HAVE A SIGNATURE POSE

Find a signature pose that will help you feel confident no matter what the situation.



EXTEND YOUR NECK FORWARD

This will help remove a double chin, accentuate your jawline. It will probably feel weird, but it will dramatically improve your photo.



TIME OUT

Use your camera timer to help setup the perfect shot without stressing out.

Hip-Hop Mogul Percy Miller (Master P) to Pay for Funeral of Young Girl Shot in Dollhouse

Data News Staff Edited Report

In a gesture of goodwill Hip-Hop Mogul Percy Miller also know to the world as Master P said he will pay for the funeral of a 3-year-old Kentucky girl who was fatally shot along with her father.

Miller, a New Orleans native is known for his philanthropic work in communities throughout the nation.

In a published report, 3-year-old Trinity Randolph and her father, Brandon Waddles, died of multiple gunshot wounds on August 14, 2020 in Louisville, KY, the Jefferson County coroner's office said in a statement.

The statement listed the deaths as homicides. Louisville Police as of



Percy Miller (Master P) was as many shocked by this sad event and says the senseless killing must stop and is something that is plaguing communities throughout America.

press time have not released any information on details of the shooting or possible suspects.

Describing the fatal incident, the girl's grandfather, Tyronn Howlett, said Trinity was playing in her "Frozen" dollhouse at her home when she was shot, the Courier Journal reported.

Percy Miller (Master P) was as many shocked by this sad event and says the senseless killing must stop and is something that is plaguing communities throughout America.

"This is a 3-year-old innocent girl that's gone from her family, from her future, somebody who could have come out of the community and be the next president, doctor, lawyer, teacher," Miller said in a statement to the press "This is sad."

Councilmember Moreno Introduces Measures to Lower Taxes for Consumers and Homeowners During Pandemic Economy



Councilmember-At-Large Helena Moreno

City of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS- Recently, Councilmember-At-Large Helena Moreno, in partnership with the Cantrell Administration, filed a millage resolution lowering the overall ad valorem, or property, tax rates for New Orleanians. This is the second tax relief bill aimed at reducing burdens and increasing equity for New Orleanians during the economic crisis, as Councilmember Moreno is also moving legislation to exempt diapers and feminine hygiene products from local City Sales Tax.

"New Orleans has become a less affordable place to live, pricing out working families, our cultural community, our seniors, and our aspiring young people hoping to build a better life. We need to stop and reverse this trend now and use all our authority to do so," said Councilmember Moreno. "Assessments - the value of properties in New Orleans - are controlled by the Assessor, and those values have continued to sky-rocket, raising the tax burden on long-term residents and accelerating upheaval in some of our core neighborhoods. That's why I worked with the CAO's Office to file legislation to lower - not just hold steady - Property Tax Rates in New Orleans. And, that's why we moved to help families by lifting the inequitable burden of sales tax on essential items like diapers and feminine hygiene products."

Queen on Thrones

I Am Woman



Diva Dionne Character
Data News Weekly Columnist

Chile, I feel like I have been walking through Jerusalem carrying the cross Jesus was nailed upon as the hot sand tormented my leather flip flops from the realities of this cold world. But—I am Woman, I was built to endure pain like burnt trees facing an uphill fire on mountain tops where intuition and wisdom dwell like Queens on Thrones, ready to save the universe with wide hips thick like colored rainbows in the midst of storms unprotected by mother nature.

Our power is the only source that can save the world in this state of confusion — we must challenge small minded men with microscopic ideas as we tap into our feminine power acknowledging that we raise Kings

and if there's gonna be a battle it will be with us, we who have conquered a many of combats as we will not allow history to repeat itself for we are the rise of nature and without women, this world will fall to its demise because we are the root to humanity.

Now, is the time that all women must come down from their thrones to save the universe from men with gavels pounding on soundless tables doing us no good. Now, is the time that we must all grab our black leggings and congregate at kitchen tables sipping on green tea, cooling our spirits with Christian fans at the speed of hummingbirds, as we march like mothers of churches reaching back to the praying days when women spoke and everyone listened because clearly, the universe is FEMALE!

It's time we all rise tall wearing our heavy crowns like the benediction has been read aloud across the universe, realizing that we are free enough to make a difference. We are free enough to give the world a glimpse of how powerful we are in numbers. We are Queens on Thrones.

TEXTING
AND DRIVING
MAKES
GOOD PEOPLE
LOOK BAD.

STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG



Trump Administration Ramps Up Efforts to Dismantle Post Office

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

President Donald Trump has made no secret of his desire to dismantle the United States Postal Service or revamp the agency in a way that has angered Democrats and others who said it's a tactic to prevent mail-in voting for the upcoming election.

The CARES Act passed in April authorized the postal service to borrow up to \$10 billion from the Treasury Department for operating expenses if it's determines that, due to the COVID-19 emergency, the post office would not fund operating expenses without borrowing money.

"They have withheld that money. They have broken the law," Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass told BlackPressUSA during a livestream interview last month. Other Democratic lawmakers, including Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), and Rep. Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), also told BlackPressUSA that the president is trying to dismantle the postal service.

Trump has steadfastly opposed funding the postal service.

Despite recently voting with his wife by mail in a Florida primary election, the president said he's against mail-in voting.



Slowdowns at the post office have reportedly also resulted in seniors receiving their medications late and other important mail like social security checks. (Photo: iStockphoto / NNPA)

"Trump is not stupid. He knows if there is a decent-sized turnout in this election, he loses," Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) wrote on Twitter.

"He and his friends believe they can suppress the vote by destroying the post office. We aren't going to allow that to happen."

Several postal workers have reported the removal of sorting machines at postal facilities and the removal of sidewalk mailboxes.

Postal officials reported that

in the last week, the agency had removed letter collection boxes in at least four states: New York, Oregon, Montana, and Indiana.

Postal workers in at least three states – West Virginia, Florida, and Missouri – have received notification that retail operating hours also face reduction.

Removing mailboxes had become a practice along marathon and parade routes since the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, however, the latest removals are be-

lieved intentional and strategically coordinated to impact the election.

In response to the removal of mailboxes and a slowdown in the delivery of mail, the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) sent a letter to the Postmaster General on Aug. 7th. New Mexico Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver (D), Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoyn (R), Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson (D) and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose (R) joined in signing the letter.

"State and local election officials are busy planning for the November general election, and many expect an increase in the use of absentee and mail ballots, along with other election-related mailings," the state officials wrote.

"We view the [United States Postal Service] as a vital partner in administering a safe, successful election and would like to learn more about any planned changes around USPS service due to COVID-19, preparations for increased election-related mail, USPS staffing levels and processing times, and other pertinent issues."

The postal service has sent letters to warn 46 states that it could not guarantee all mail-in ballots cast for the November election would arrive in time to be counted.

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Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We want to hear from you if you are a working journalist, or an aspiring journalist who has 2 years or more of newspaper or PR writing experience. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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COVID-19 VACCINE RESEARCH STUDY



VOLUNTEER & MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every modern vaccine and medicine we have today was first tested in clinical trials involving hundreds to thousands of people before becoming available to the public. This COVID-19 vaccine study will enroll up to 30,000 adults, and each and every person involved plays a powerful role. By choosing to volunteer, you will represent people like you – in age, gender, race, ethnicity, and the communities where you live. Involving people from all backgrounds will improve the development of this vaccine for everyone.

Joining a clinical trial is an important and personal decision. We hope it is one you will consider.

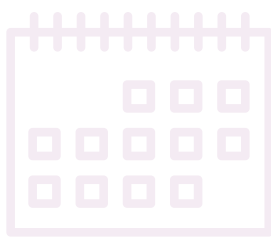
WHAT TO EXPECT



PARTICIPANTS WILL BE
**RANDOMLY
ASSIGNED**
(BY CHANCE) TO RECEIVE
THE STUDY VACCINE OR
PLACEBO (INJECTION WITH
NO ACTIVE INGREDIENT)



PARTICIPANTS WILL
RECEIVE THEIR
2
INJECTIONS
3 WEEKS APART



PARTICIPANTS
WILL HAVE
4
**SCHEDULED
FOLLOW-UP VISITS**
AT THE CLINIC



PARTICIPANTS WILL
TRACK THEIR HEALTH AND
REPORT ANY COVID-19
SYMPTOMS FOR
2 YEARS
AFTER THEIR INJECTIONS

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