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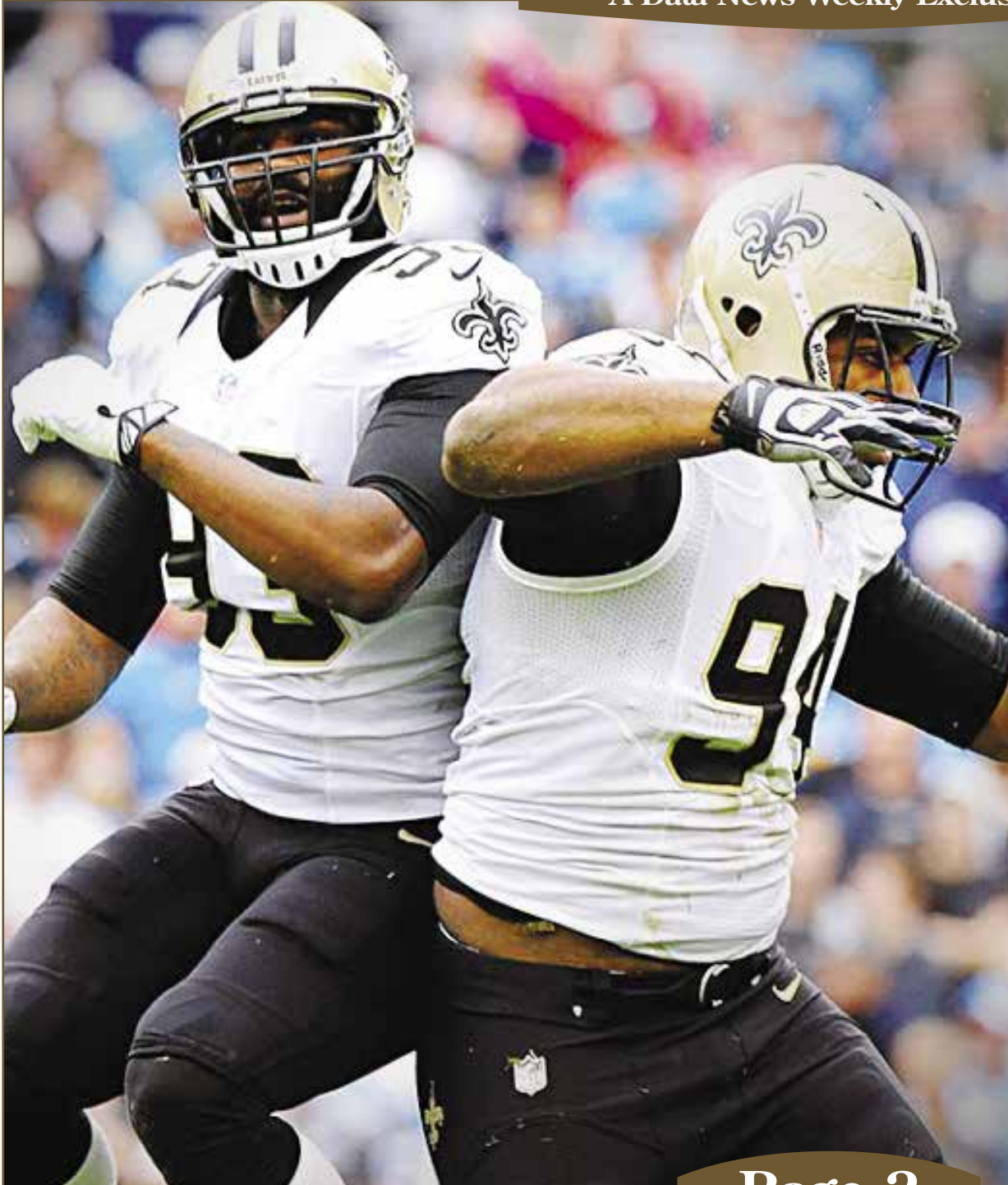
Panther - Wakanda Forever

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The Woes of the Black and Gold



This year the New Orleans Saints are 3-7, and have had a less than stellar year under new head coach Dennis Allen. Some believe that changes may have to occur for the Saints to be successful in the future.

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Contributor

We are ten weeks into the NFL season and the Saints are a disappointing 3-7. At this point in any other year, we would be hanging our heads saying we'll do better next year. But this season the Black and Gold

have the benefit of playing in the NFC South, which is the worst conference in the league. And with their dismal record they are only two games behind the 5-5 Tampa Bay Buccaneers for the lead in the division. Many expected a rebuilding year for the Saints under new Head Coach Dennis Allen, but the 2022 Campaign is leaving fans concerned about the possibility of

success of the Saints. "We are not playing well this year" says Kelvin, a longtime Saints fan. "It is not just the injuries that's a problem, but it seems that the leadership on the sidelines and on the field are not clicking this year. I also think after this season we should consider making some major trades to get a top shelf quarterback."

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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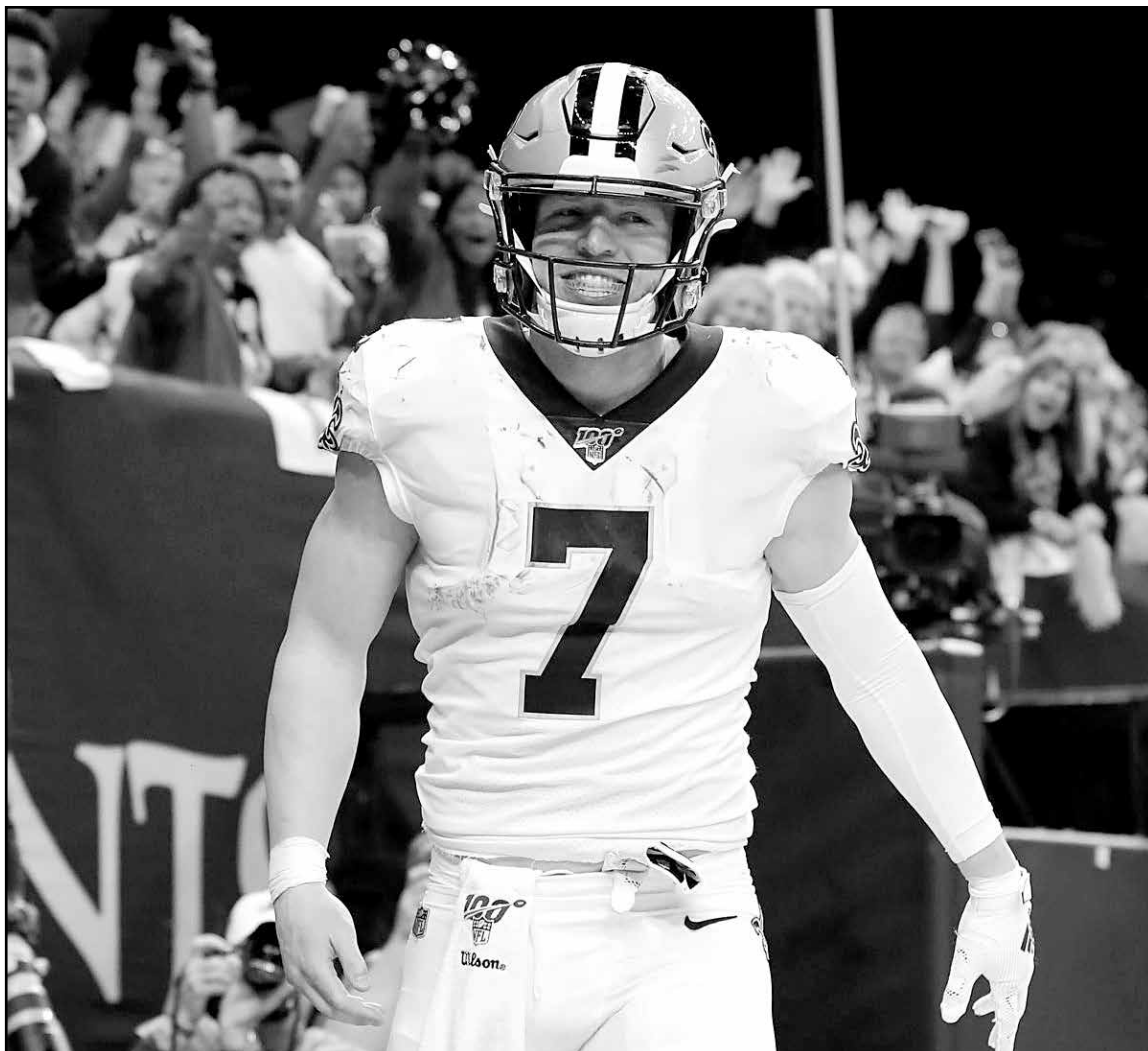
Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



A bright spot this year is wide receiver Chris Olave, who is a candidate for rookie of the year.



Injuries and problems on and off the field have plagued all-pro running back Alvin Kamara in the 2022 season.



Swiss Army Knife Taysom Hill continues to perform at a high level, but the Saints seems like a team without a leader on the offensive this season.

From Monday morning quarterbacks, sports junkies, and casual fans, all are not feeling good about the direction of the team this year.

"I am not a diehard fan but want my team to win and if they get on a hot streak, they may still be able to make the playoffs," says Eddie. But for them to build a team that can consistently win, they are going to have to trade some key players who haven't performed over the last few years." Sean Payton and Drew Brees' commitment, ingenuity, and leadership ability.

Jameis Winston, who has been injured for the last two seasons, as well as all-pro wide receiver Michael Thomas who has been sidelined as well, have contributed to the Saints' offensive woes. Standout Alvin Kamara, we have witnessed only flashes of his greatness this season. Bright spots have been Taysom Hill, who continues to be their Swiss army knife, getting it done in any way he can. And a spark of light is the young receiver Chris Olave, showing that he may be the future at the wide receiver position.

Also, the defense led by all-pro Cam Jordan is having an average year but has been plagued by too many penalties at key times during the game. Thus, causing them to lose games that they could have won.

Further, the team is playing with lackluster energy and not a winning spirit. They are not playing with passion or purpose. The tradition of winning under Sean Payton is absent from this team. The question is can the Saints recapture this to end the season on a high note?

"I am hopeful that they can win a few games this season, but I am doubtful that they will make a playoff run," says Marcus, a longtime Saints fan. "We are going to have to be patient to see how Dennis Allen and the team's management will consider what moves to make after this season. This is going to be necessary if they plan to build a winning franchise."

While not a year like in the early 80's when fans were wearing brown paper bags over their heads, for this year continues to disappoint fans.

And of course, the fans will still go to games, watch the games in bars and at their homes. They will tailgate, and even travel out of the country to support the Black and Gold.

Admittedly, the Saints are not a Super Bowl caliber team this year, but they are not playing like a team, with a coach who apologizes for losing after every game, and without a sense of urgency to become a winning franchise. As fans all we can do is sit around and wait for what the future holds for the Black and Gold.

A Red-Carpet Event was held for the Opening of Black Panther

Wakanda Forever Sponsored by Juan LaFonta & Associates, LLC, New Orleans Clerk of Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon, Metropolitan Health Group and the National of Islam Muhammad Mosque No. #46.

Data News Staff Edited Report

NEW ORLEANS, LA – On Thursday, November 10th at Elmwood Palace 20 Theaters, Juan Lafonta & Associates, LLC. held a red-carpet event for the opening of Black Panther – Wakanda Forever. This family friendly event was FREE to the first 1000 to arrive with an event flier that gained them entrance to the movie. Fliers could be obtained by visiting the following locations.

- 4201 Downman Rd, New Orleans, LA 70126
- Bluclid Floral - 5113 Saint Claude Ave, New Orleans, LA 70117
- Peaches Records - 4318 Magazine St, New Orleans, LA 70115

According to Attorney, Juan Lafonta, “In our continuing role of serving our community, we are happy to celebrate the opening of Wakanda Forever. What bet-

Juan Lafonta and Associates LLC - 6305 Elysian Fields Avenue Suite 207, New Orleans, LA 70122

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Peaches Records - 4318
Magazine St, New Orleans,
LA 70115

According to Attorney, Juan Lafonta, "In our continuing role of serving our community, we are happy to celebrate the opening of Wakanda Forever. What better way to do this than to do what we do best... celebrate with friends and family."

The event was co-sponsored by New Orleans Clerk of Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon, Metropolitan Health Group and Nation of Islam Muhammad Mosque #46



Attorney Juan Lafonta (L) pictured with co-sponsors that include: New Orleans Clerk of Court Chelsey Richard Napoleon, Metropolitan Health Group and the Nation of Islam Muhammad Mosque #46



Photo Credit: Christian Foster

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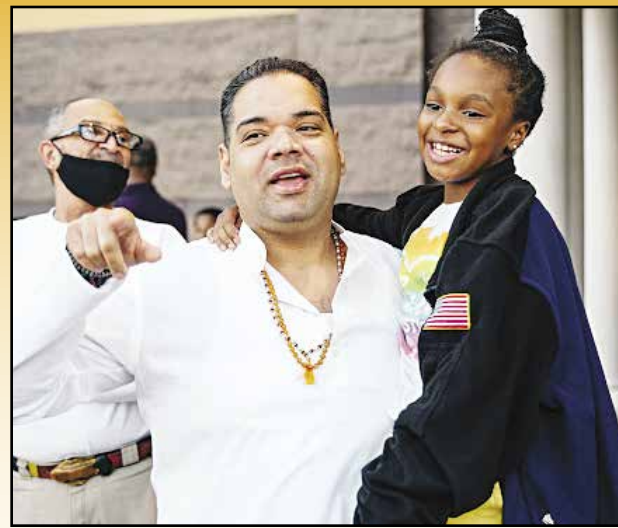
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Joseph Price Joins Dillard as Head Men's Basketball Coach

Dillard University News Release

NEW ORLEANS—Dillard University has announced that Joseph Price has taken over as head coach of the men's basketball program. A former stand-out player at the University of Notre Dame and a former professional basketball player, Price brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in college player development, scouting and coaching to the Bleu Devils.

"I'm excited to add Coach Price to our staff," said Dr. Linda Bell, Director of Athletics. "I think he will find great success here at Dillard University and in the City of New Orleans."

"I am elated to have this opportunity to take the reins of a program filled with history," he said. "I believe there's ample opportunity to continue to make history and that is what I plan to accomplish."

Price served as head men's basketball coach at Central State University, a member of the NCAA Division II's Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). There, he garnered an 18-12 record, the best for a first-year head coach in the university's history. That season, Price won CSU Coach of the Year. He also led the Marauders to their first Western SIAC title in school history. While at CSU, Price developed four HBCU All-Americans and seven all-conference se-



Bleu Devils Head Basketball Coach, Joseph Price, shares a laugh with President Rochelle Ford (left) and Athletic Director, Dr. Linda Bell. Photo: Sabree Hill/Dillard University

lections.

It was in 2002 that Price began his collegiate coaching career. He began as an assistant under Ron Hunter, current Tulane University head coach and former Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) head coach. In 2003, Price helped the Jaguars earn their first NCAA Tournament berth. Price's primary role at IUPUI included player development, opponent scouting and recruitment. Among the players Price helped develop were NBA first round pick George Hill—currently with the

Milwaukee Bucks—and 2003 Mid-American Conference Player of the Year, Odell Bradley.

In 2007, Price joined the staff of Ball State University, where he helped the Cardinals win the Mid-American Conference West Division in 2009. There, he helped Ball State sign one of the top 80 classes in the country that season.

Following Ball State, Price went on to assist at Morehead State University. Involved in all aspects of the MSU Basketball Program, he helped the 2011 Eagles match the highest single season win total in

school history. During that season, Price worked with future NBA star in forward, Kenneth Faried, an AP 3rd-Team All-American and a National Defensive Player of the Year before being drafted by the Denver Nuggets.

In the 2011-2012 season, Price went to Lamar University to join Pat Knight's staff. Price and the Cardinals enjoyed immediate success, going 23-12 overall and earning a spot in the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2000. It was also the team's first 20-win season since 1988. Also, Price would develop

Mike James who would have stints with the Brooklyn Nets and Phoenix Suns.

After Lamar, Price spent the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons as Head Coach at Grambling State University. During his tenure, Price led a program hampered by serious NCAA sanctions, including limited scholarships, practice time, recruiting restrictions and a postseason ban into full eligibility in just two years. At Grambling, Price built a strong foundation with a commitment to academic and athletic excellence by facilitating a Strategic Progress Plan, bringing in recruits, and emphasizing the core values of great character, pride, hard work and respect. Price's first recruit, Terry Rose, was named SWAC Freshman of the Year; and Antwan Scott was named SWAC First Team All-Conference.

Price played four seasons at Notre Dame for Coach Digger Phelps, where he helped the Fighting Irish to a combined record of 84-37. During Price's sophomore year, Notre Dame finished the National Invitational Tournament as a runner-up. Following his senior season, Price was a 7th round draft pick of the Washington Bullets. Price also spent 13 seasons playing overseas in France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, and Spain. Price helped St. Prex win the 1988 Switzerland Second Division League-B Championship.

Commentary

Chuck D on the Death of Migos Rapper Takeoff

Stacy M. Brown NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent

As family, friends, and fans, continue to mourn the death of Migos member Takeoff, the demand for hip-hop to take a stand against gun violence has grown.

While many have expressed disbelief and anger that the shooting death of the 28-year-old, whose real name is Kirshnik Khari Ball, took place allegedly because of an argument over a dice game.

Fans on social media and the mainstream press have quickly tossed blame at everyone from Takeoff's bandmate Quavo to cloth-



Hip-Hop Legend Chuck D of Public Enemy.

ing boss J. Prince Jr. and even to the slain rap star himself.

And as always, hip-hop has come under fire.

That's no surprise to legendary

fatalities as hip-hop would have addressed that issue long ago.

And Chuck doesn't put the blame entirely on the artists.

"This curiosity of what is this hip-

Public Enemy frontman Chuck D, whom most recognize as hip-hop's voice of reason.

In putting in a perspective as perhaps only the "Fight the Power" artist can, Chuck noted that any other industry that has seen as many

hop thing, what is this Black thing. The world always seems to want to know and mimic our greatness," Chuck asserted in a 30-minute interview with the Black Press of America's live morning news program, "Let It Be Known."

"And if they can find a way to finance and have our people mimic us at our worst—the stereotype that generalizes us as a bunch of murderous thugs and metastasize that over a 10-15-20-year period as being normal, then we got a problem."

He continued:

"I don't blame the youth. You've got to blame some adults hiding behind the scenes, pied piping and pied papering all of this mad-

ness and making this kind of thing seem normal. Was there a shoot-out at a dice game? Yes. Were Black men involved in that circle? Yes. But it's somebody pushing buttons and pulling levers and not only doing so but they have been greatly enriched financially by these incidents."

Takeoff's death counts among a string of murders in the hip-hop community over the past several years.

Other high-profile murders include PnB Rock, Pop Smoke, XXXTentacion, Nipsey Hustle, King Von, and Young Dolph.

**Commentary, Continued
on page 7.**

Take Hold of the Here and Now



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

As the seasons change and we move towards the end of the year, some of us are preparing to gather with family and friends to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday and some of us may be feeling a little overwhelmed from the pressure of trying to make everyone else happy, which may be a little exhausting, causing you to become more unaligned and frantic because now, you have to make a decision to put you first in order to heal your own mind, body and soul, while loving others.

Perhaps, what we all need to be focusing on is more self-love and how can we make the shift of this life more incredible by being prepared with what we will need in the future in order to stay sane and tapped into our own creative



endeavors, not getting side-tracked by the invites, parties and holiday gift giving, focusing on the reality of things and where we are individually.

You should not feel awkward saying "no" to every invitation because there is no way you will be able to get through the new year ready to celebrate with gratitude and happiness because you continue to think that being overwhelmed by people and friends is normal.

Girl, get your 2023 calendar and start planning your future. Write down some of the things you'd like to accomplish next year because if you don't slow down today, things will continue to fall out of place right into your new season, leaving you unbalanced with a more complicated schedule.

Take hold of the here and now and start building the life you want today. Focus on your dreams and aspirations, make changes with food, and evaluate how you can better prepare your life for success by using this holiday season to show up for yourself.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com or <https://www.instagram.com/dionnecharacter/>.

Commentary, Continued from page 6.

"I was in college when Biggie and 'Pac was killed and thought there was no way we'd ever experience anything remotely close to that again," media personality Jemele Hill tweeted following Takeoff's death.

"Now," Hill continued. "It's happening so frequently that you barely have time to recover before someone else is killed."

Chuck noted that a large part of the argument about hip-hop deaths and violence comes from many who don't consider all available facts.

"There are hundreds of thousands of artists out there," he said when asked whether the younger artists pay attention to the old heads.

"Who do you count? Do you count the more successful ones because more people like them? When we start getting into followers and likes, those algorithms

don't add up to who we are as a people," Chuck insisted.

He explained:

"I have ten stations on Rap Station (Radio). We play artists from the underground and underground. We play artists with a 10-15-year career, women worldwide and in more abundance than in the United States."

Chuck continued:

"If you only pay attention to what's being washed up on your shores, you're going to get a limited view of what it really is. There is really no kind of educational forum that people can go to like in other aspects of life. Our arts and culture should be taught to us. If we don't control our educational curriculum, we're going to let corporations teach us. And, whenever corporations show up, God walks out the door."

In a recent podcast, Takeoff spoke about receiving his flowers before he died.

"It's time to pop it," Takeoff said on "Drink Champs."

"It's time to give me my flowers. I don't want them later when I'm not here. I want them right now."

Chuck said the life artists today lead, compared to earlier hip-hop stars, is different.

"At the beginning of hip-hop, especially in the real beginning, cats wanted to get away from that,"

Chuck recounted.

"They didn't want to be in the Bronx. New York City had been de-emphasized and abandoned by the U.S.A. during a tough fiscal time post-Nixon. Cats saw the emergence of hard drugs coming in out of nowhere, and cats wanted to get away from that, and they didn't want to [rhyme] about that in the 1980s."

He concluded:

"You had MCs and rappers who adhered to those values and qualities. We could have 'The Message' by Grandmaster Flash and the Fu-

rious Five that talked about what's going on, but they also made party records to not talk about things people saw every day.

"There was a balance to at least try to bring good times into the picture. People often said Public Enemy bought a political message, but we came from the 1960s, so we remember a time of being broke but not broken.

"Many cats came from the 1970s doing hip hop in the 1980s and 1990s.

"We came from the Black Panther Party doing lunch programs, the Nation of Islam doing things in the neighborhood. We remember Dr. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X being assassinated when they were living people to us.

"On my birth certificate, it says 'Negro.' I remember being 'Colored' and 'Black is Beautiful.' That's a different period that has been kind of pushed under the rug in Americana."

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