

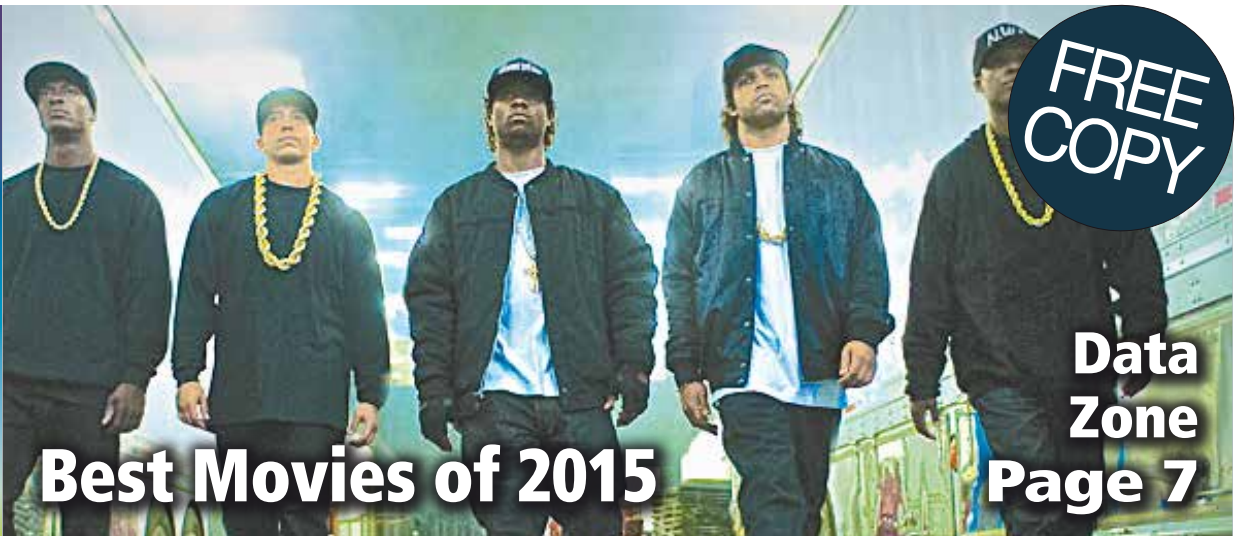
Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



FREE COPY

Best Movies of 2015

Data Zone Page 7

January 2 - January 8, 2016 50th Year Volume 36 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

8 Ways African Americans Progressed in 2015



Page 2



Newsmaker

New 4th Circuit Clerk of the Court

Page 5

National News

No Justice for Tamir Rice

Page 11



8 Ways African Americans Progressed in 2015

By Marion Hercyl
Data News Weekly Contributor

From students taking a stand to better internet access 2015 marked steps in the right direction

For us all at times, 2015 felt like a never-ending stream of negative headlines. Your news intake from any source might have felt like we're not making any progress, or maybe even taking steps back. We have been bombarded on a daily basis with the gut wrenching news of our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers and yes our babies becoming victims of senseless violence. It dominated our news cycles. Even more devastating was the number of stories of our people being killed by police, shot down in the streets with no accountability in many of the cases, even though the incident was caught on tape. It has been a difficult year, filled with heartbreak, but we also saw incredible strength rise up out of our young adults with a simple mantra #BLACK LIVES MATTER! Yes inspite of all of the negative news there is hope – and the fact is that there's still much more work to be done – here are 8 examples that show we are making headway on some critical issues.

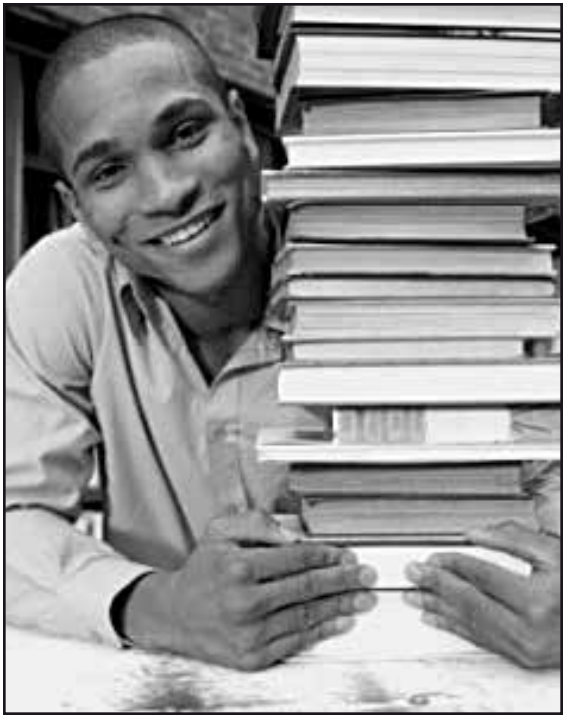


More People Than Ever Are Now On The Internet

While millions of people still aren't online in the U.S. and billions have yet to log on worldwide, 2015 was the year when more of humanity joined the Internet than ever before. We're doing it using our smartphones, which keeps us constantly connected to work, play and everything in-between. But the increasing digitization of everything is revealing inequalities in digital skills that must be closed in the years ahead if everyone is going to have the opportunity to make the most of that access. Over 66% of New Orleanian households have internet connection be it broadband, mobile or dsl service which is integral, as our communication ability and the education of our children depends on us being connected, and having access to digital service.

Some College Students Got A Break From Crushing Debt

Student loan debt hit an all-time staggering high of \$1.2 trillion last year. That translates into 40 million Americans having at least one outstanding student loan, CNN reported. But some lawmakers this year laid the groundwork to ease the financial burden students and graduates face. In December, 10 Democratic state lawmakers joined 99 members of Congress in announcing their support for debt-free colleges. The Obama administration got involved in the movement when it announced in December that the U.S. Department of Education would cancel \$27.8 million in federal student loans owed by former students of defunct for-profit school chain Corinthian Colleges Inc. who were duped into taking on the debt. For many others student loan forgiveness programs like the Obama Student Loan Forgiveness Program.



Cover Story, Continued on page 4.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Opinion	9
Newsmaker	5	State & Local News .	10
Data Zone	6	National News	11
Commentary.	8		

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction & Production
CEO/Publisher	Dwight Brown	MainorMedia.com
Edwin Buggage	Dionne Character	Editorial Submissions
Editor	Benjamin F. Chavis	datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Calla Victoria	Max Ehrenfreund	Advertising Inquiries
Executive Assistant	Marion Hercyl	datanewsad@bellsouth.net
June Hazeur	Lynette Holloway	Distribution
Accounting	Julianne Malveaux	On The Run
	David Roman	Courier Services
	Desiree Thompson	

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

ONE DAY SALE

SHOP SAT, JAN. 2, 9AM-10PM

ALSO SHOP FRI, JAN. 1, 10AM-10PM

HOURS MAY VARY BY STORE. SEE MACYS.COM AND CLICK ON STORES FOR DETAILS

FREE SHIPPING ONLINE AT \$25
VALID 1/1-1/2/2016. PLUS, FREE RETURNS. U.S. ONLY.
EXCLUSIONS APPLY; SEE MACYS.COM/FREERETURNS

50%-80% OFF STOREWIDE

DOORBUSTERS!

10AM-2PM FRI & 9AM-2PM SAT

DEALS OF THE DAY

AVAILABLE ALL DAY, BOTH DAYS!

OR, EXTRA SAVINGS FRIDAY & SATURDAY UNTIL 2PM

EXTRA DOLLARS OFF SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL & HOME ITEMS

\$10 OFF

YOUR
PURCHASE OF
\$25 OR MORE.

LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. VALID 1/1 'TIL 2PM OR 1/2/16 'TIL 2PM.



00000202107518023111

★macy's

CANNOT BE USED ON DOORBUSTERS OR DEALS OF THE DAY

EXTRA DOLLARS OFF SELECT SALE & CLEARANCE APPAREL & HOME ITEMS

\$20 OFF

YOUR
PURCHASE OF
\$50 OR MORE.

LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. VALID 1/1 'TIL 2PM OR 1/2/16 'TIL 2PM.



00000202107518082118

★macy's

Excludes: Deals of the Day, Doorbusters, Everyday Values (EDV), specials, super buys, cosmetics/fragrances, electrics/electronics, floor coverings, furniture, mattresses, rugs. Also excludes: athletic apparel, shoes & accessories; Dallas Cowboys merchandise, gift cards, Jack Spade, jewelry trunk shows, Kate Spade, Macy's Backstage merchandise/locations, New Era, Nike on Field, The North Face, previous purchases, Samsung watches, selected licensed depts., services, special orders, special purchases, Tumi. Cannot be combined with any savings pass/coupon, extra discount or credit offer, except opening a new Macy's account. Dollar savings are allocated as discounts off each eligible item, as shown on receipt. When you return an item, you forfeit the savings allocated to that item. This coupon has no cash value & may not be redeemed for cash, used to purchase gift cards or applied as payment or credit to your account. Purchase must be \$25 or \$50 or more, exclusive of tax & delivery fees.

the magic of
macy's
.com

ONE DAY SALE PRICES IN EFFECT 1/1 & 1/2/2016, EXCEPT AS NOTED.



OPEN A MACY'S ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA 20% SAVINGS THE FIRST 2 DAYS, UP TO \$100, WITH MORE REWARDS TO COME. Macy's credit card is available subject to credit approval; new account savings valid the day your account is opened and the next day; excludes services, selected licensed departments, gift cards, restaurants, gourmet food & wine. The new account savings are limited to a total of \$100; application must qualify for immediate approval to receive extra savings; employees not eligible.

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



Campuses Protested Racism – And They Were Heard

It could be said that events at the University of Missouri, where two top leaders were let go because of how they dealt with campus racism, catalyzed the country. Protestors at University of Missouri, Ithaca College, the University of Illinois and other schools spoke out about issues of inequality and administrative responses to racism. And their voices rose to the surface. Football players at the University of Missouri, stood with their fellow students in protest of racist and discriminatory treatment of Black Mizzu students, which forced the resignation of the university president. A brave and proud moment for the school, and an ignition for other student bodies across the nation to take a stand against racism.



The U.S. Military Opened All Combat Roles To Women

All combat jobs will be open to women in 2016, which Obama declared as being a major step forward. He said the military will be made stronger as a result. "Together, we're going to make sure our military remains the finest fighting force in the history of the world, worthy of all our patriots who serve – men and women," he said.



Television Got Way More Diverse

Television became a more relatable space this year mostly because networks opened up their shows to actors of varying backgrounds.

ABC became the first network in history to air three shows simultaneously with Asian leads. "Jane the Virgin" portrays colorful Latino characters without relying on tired stereotypes. "Empire" introduced us to a new kind of black woman – "a fearless businesswoman who isn't Claire Huxtable," Zeba Blay. And, Viola Davis won an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series. But advocates are still pushing for more diversity behind the scenes. People of color, for example, made up only 5 percent of executive producers in the 2014-2015 season.



High School Graduation Rates Hit Record High

The U.S. high school graduation rate has steadily increased for the past four consecutive years, and hit a record high in the 2013-14 school year. Teens graduated at 82 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Graduation rates have also increased across the board for the past several years for such subgroups as low-income students, students with disabilities and English language learners. And, the achievement gap in graduation rates between black and white students and white and Hispanic students continues to narrow. Locally, Orleans Parish had one of the best graduation rates in the state last year: 89 percent, no change from 2013. In the Recovery system, 61 percent completed high school on time which represents an 11 point increase in five years. Very disadvantaged students in New Orleans are outperforming the state average. Many Recovery schools posted graduation rates well above 61 percent.



Black Twitter Helped Take Down The Confederate Flag

On the night Dylan Roof killed nine people in Charleston, South Carolina, a black activist tweeted #TakeItDown with a photo of the confederate flag. The tweet proliferated across Black Twitter and the next day everyone from Chris Hayes to Mitt Romney was using the hashtag. "Symbols alone won't change the dynamics," said Rashad Robinson, executive director of social justice organization Color of Change. "But it's important that if we are going to change the landscape that we change the symbols that people have to live under." The flag came down at the South Carolina courthouse after 54 years.

Here in New Orleans, following the wave of dissent by Blacks regarding symbols of the Confederacy, the New Orleans City Council voted to remove four monuments to the Confederacy from prominent places in the city.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu's administration has agreed not to remove the statues of Gens. Robert E. Lee, P.G.T. Beauregard and Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy and the obelisk dedicated to the Battle of Liberty Place before a Jan. 14 hearing in federal court.



But Really, We All Know This Was Serena's Year Last, but certainly not least.

When it comes to sports, 2015 was the year of Serena. Williams dominated the women's tennis circuit, winning three of the four calendar grand slams.

The greatest women's tennis player of all time capped off her magical season by winning Sports Illustrated's 2015 Sportsperson of the Year for her accomplishments. At the ceremony, she took on her critics. "I've had people look down on me, put me down because I didn't look like them – I look stronger," she said. "I've had people look past me because the color of my skin, I've had people overlook me because I was a woman, I've had critics say I [would] never win another Grand Slam when I was only at number seven – and here I stand today with 21 Grand Slam titles, and I'm still going."

Studies Show Republican Ads Darken Obama's Skin Tone

By Max Ehrenfreund
Courtesy of Washington Post

WASHINGTON – A new study shows that negative ads targeting President Obama in 2008 depicted him with very dark skin, and that these images would have appealed to some viewers' racial biases.

The finding reinforces charges that some Republican politicians seek to win votes by implying support for racist views and ethnic hierarchies, without voicing those prejudices explicitly. The purported tactic is often called "dog-whistle politics" – just as only canines can hear a dog whistle, only prejudiced voters are aware of the racist connotations of a politician's statement, according to the theory.

That debate has been prominent in the 2016 campaign, primarily targeting Donald Trump, but it has existed in almost every recent presidential election. To hear their opponents tell it, when Republican politicians say they oppose a generous welfare system, they really mean black beneficiaries are lazy. If they endorse strict immigration enforcement, they really mean that Latinos are criminals, critics say.

A study published online this

month in Public Opinion Quarterly provides new evidence that one GOP campaign – intentionally or not – has aired advertisements that exacerbate viewers' racial biases.

Analyzing 126 advertisements from the presidential campaign in 2008, the authors first digitally measured the darkness of the two nominees' skin in each spot, then sorted the ads into categories based on themes. President Barack Obama and his opponent, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., looked very different in various advertisements depending on how the footage was edited and produced.

That was particularly the case in negative advertisements, in which each campaign manipulated the images of its opponent to shadow or wash out his face for dramatic effect.

Interestingly, though, when McCain's campaign aired spots that connected Obama with alleged criminal activity by liberal groups, the producers almost always used images that made Obama's skin appear very dark.

Eighty-six percent of these ads contained an image of the president in which the his skin tone was in the darkest quartile of all ads studied.

Likewise, as the election ap-



Vets For a Strong America received a lot of attention for its video attacking President Obama for taking too much credit for the Osama bin Laden killing, however the most egregious part of the video was the darkening of President Obama's skin.

proached, images of Obama in spots aired by McCain's campaign became gradually darker.

Images of McCain campaign's own candidate, meanwhile, became somewhat lighter.

Whether this was a conscious strategy on the part of McCain's campaign is impossible to say. The

Washington Post contacted the Republican National Committee and McCain's Senate office. They did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Yet a large body of evidence shows that racial prejudices are stronger against African-Americans with darker skin. For example, ju-

rors are more likely to sentence to death black defendants with stereotypically African facial features, even when accounting for the severity of the crime.

The authors of this study – Solomon Messing of the Pew Research Center; Julia Mabon, a software engineer who works for LinkedIn; and Ethan Plaut, a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University – confirmed that darker images of Obama did indeed affect the way viewers perceived him.

The researchers showed subjects manipulated images of Obama and then asked them to play a game resembling a crossword puzzle. The subjects had to fill in blanks, such as "C R _ _ _." One respondent might write "C R O W D," while another might write "C R I M E." Given the letters "L A _ _," a respondent could write "L A Z Y."

Those who saw the image of Obama with light skin gave that word or another anti-black stereotype as a response 33 percent of the time. Among those who saw the darkened image, the figure was 45 percent, showing that they were more likely to have those negative stereotypes on their minds after seeing the photograph.

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals Announces New Clerk of the Court

Data Staff Report

The Judges of the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal announced this week that Danielle A. Schott, has retired after 33 years of dedicated service as Clerk of Court. The Judges also announced that they have appointed local attorney, Justin I. Woods, to serve as her successor.

Woods received his undergraduate and law degree from Loyola University of New Orleans in 1989 and 1996, respectively. Prior to his appointment as Clerk of Court, Woods was a practicing attorney in New Orleans representing both public and private clients in various litigation matters throughout his years of practice with The Woods Law Group, L.L.C., Gainsburgh, Benjamin, David, Meunier & War-



shauer, L.L.C. and The Murray Law Firm, L.L.C.

Woods is a member of the National, American, Louisiana and New Orleans bar associations. He is a fellow of the American and Louisiana bar foundations. He currently serves as the Vice-President of the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Legal Society. He is currently a board member of the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing

Action Center and a board member and past President of CASA of New Orleans. He is a past board member of the New Orleans Bar Association and past board member and Chair of the Pro Bono Project. Woods is also a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He has received numerous awards and honors, most notably including: the New Orleans Chapter of the Alliance for Good Government 2011 Civic Involvement Award, the Pro Bono Project 2012 Friend of Pro Bono Award and the Greater New Orleans Louis A. Martinet Society 2014 President's Award.

Chief Judge James F. McKay III stated that "the Court feels that Justin Woods is the right person for the job and will continue the legacy of Danielle Schott in professionalism and competency in service to the community."

Check out Data's
"Calendar of Events"
at ladatanews.com



Stay up on all of the happenings
in the Big Easy

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Welcome Home Leo Norcentelli!



By Dionne Character
Data News Weekly Columnist

On December 17, 2015 Leo Norcentelli a founding member, guitarist and songwriter for the legendary funk band, The Meters celebrated with friends and fans who welcomed him back home at Tipitina's in New Orleans. Special guests included: Irma Thomas, The Soul Rebels, Sharon Martin, Big Chief Alfred Doucette, Dave and Don Bartholomew, Big Sam, Funky Nation, Deacon John and more. Whenever there's a welcome home like this one, you know Data was there!

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

Connect to the Source

Data News Weekly, your one stop for what's happening in New Orleans.



ladatanews.com



WBOK 1230AM

A BAKEWELL MEDIA COMPANY

Real Talk for Real Times...

1639 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70119 (504)942-0106

www.wbok1230am.com

The Best Films of 2015



By Dwight Brown
NNPA News Wire Film Critic

Movies have become a great comfort in what has been a tumultuous year. They've entertained us. Made us laugh, feel courageous, scared, romantic and educated us too. It's a perfect time to reflect on the films, performances and Black artists who made 2015 special. And might as well get a head start on the high-quality movies that will contend for Oscars and be released in theaters and on DVD/VOD in weeks to come.

Amy ★★★½ Amy Winehouse burned bright like a firefly and died just about as quickly. Her jazzy, smooth and tortured Billie Holidayish voice haunts the soundtrack. Her infamous drug addiction and self-destructive relationships are on view. A brilliant and sobering documentary by director Asif Kapadia.

Black Panthers: Vanguard of a Revolution ★★★★★ Whittling down what must have been countless hours of possibilities (archival footage, interviews, photos) into a thought-provoking and coherent documentary about the Black Panthers was done expertly by director/producer/writer Stanley Nelson and editor Algernon Tunstall.

Few stones are left unturned.

Creed ★★★ - Only an ingenious filmmaker (Ryan Coogler) could fathom a continuation of the Rocky saga that is

as much of a crowd pleaser as the original. Michael B Jordan steps up as Apollo Creed's son Adonis, and he takes his punches with grace. Sylvester Stallone digs deep to render his best performance ever as the aged pugilist Rocky Balboa. A knockout.

The Revenant ★★★★★ - After the success of his Oscar-winning film *Birdman*, one might have thought filmmaker Alejandro G. Inarritu might miss a beat. He didn't. His tale of a frontiersman, who survives a brutal bear attack, is left for dead then seeks revenge for his son's murder, is a violent and riveting experience. Leonardo DiCaprio deserves the Oscar for Best Actor for sheer brilliance and guts.

Room ★★★★★ - A young woman (Brie Larson) and her vulnerable son (Jacob Tremblay) have been locked up in a shed and held hostage for years. They plot their escape. A deceptively simple script (Emma Donoghue), directed with skill and restraint (Lenny Abrahamson), turns into an astounding and heart-wrenching film that never loses its dramatic edge.

Sicario ★★★★★ - FBI Field agents Kate (Emily Blunt) and Reggie (Daniel Kaluuya) seek revenge when a drug cartel kills their colleagues. They team up with a smarmy Defense Department "contractor" (Josh Brolin) and a mysterious figure (Benicio Del Toro) to hunt the bad guys. Imagine *Zero Dark Thirty* tequila style. Genius direction (Denis Villeneuve), perfect screenplay (Taylor Sheridan) and superb ensemble acting.

Son of Saul ★★★★★ First time filmmaker László Nemes has written and directed a devastating Holocaust drama based on an innovative creative strategy: "The camera is his [Saul's] companion; it stays with him throughout this hell." The audience witnesses a very personal story about a man determined to give a dead teenager a proper burial at Auschwitz. The claustrophobic cinematography keeps you astonished.

Straight Outta Compton ★★★★★ This isn't some chump change Sundance indie movie about the rap group N.W.A and hip-hop culture. This is a full-fledged, big-budget looking homage to the L.A. rap scene, that smartly, emotionally and historically capsulizes the life and times of Eazy-E, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre and everyone around them who caused the big bang that popularized West Coast rap music. An Oscar-caliber film.

Timbuktu ★★★★★ We read how Islamic fundamentalists are encroaching on the basic liberties of people in Africa and the Arab world. Veteran filmmaker Abderrahmane Sissako (Bamako) approaches this complicated social phenomena by creating a simple allegorical tale about a shepherd who comes under the wrath of an Islamic tribunal and the results are deadly. The film is as spiritual as a biblical passage.

Wild Tales (**)** If a past transgression has been eating your soul alive, these twisted vignettes could be your remedy. Tales of revenge, miscalculations, deceit, unbridled anger and jealousy beyond anything you can fathom are doled out with a wicked sense of humor by director Argentinean writer/director Damian Szifron. Macabre and hysterical.

Honorable Mentions

'71

Beast of No Nation

Bridge of Spies

Burnt

Concussion

Da Sweet Blood of Jesus

The Danish Girl

Ex Machina

Freeheld

Furious 7

Inside Out

Love and Mercy

Mad Max: Fury Road

Spy

Trainwreck

Trumbo

What Happened, Miss Simone?

Overrated

Carol (Sterile. Everyone wears new clothes like they're in Saks' store window.)

The Martian (After ten minutes we know Matt Damon's coming home.)

Spotlight (Go watch an episode of *Law & Order* and save your money.)

Truth (Dan Rather made a big mistake and so did this film's producers.)

Worst Movies

Fifty Shades of Grey (Sets women back 50 years.)

Irrational Man (Woody Allen, who is on autopilot, forgot to press the start button.)

The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (Boring actors: Henry Cavill, Armie Hammer. Boring movie) **Our Brand is Crisis** (Sandra Bullock has rarely made a wrong move. Until now.)

Pan (How could anyone ruin the legacy of Peter Pan? This is how.)

Southpaw (Everything that was wrong with this boxing movie was right in *Creed*.)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS.

Read more reviews by NNPA News Wire Film Critic Dwight Brown at DwightBrownInk.com.

This Is How the Holidays Expose Income Inequality



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

In progressive policy circles, and during the Democratic presidential debates, people are talking about income inequality. Though this phenomenon has always been with us, the activists who are demanding \$15

per hour pay remind us that some have much and too many have too little. Senators Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren have pulled Democrats into the conversation, some kicking and screaming. President Obama, who barely mentioned the word “poverty” in the first six years of his presidency, has recently talked about income inequality.

More than a quarter of all African Americans and Latinos live in poverty, along with about an eighth of all Whites. From early December through much of January (the holiday season), poverty slaps them in the face. These holidays are more like an orgy of conspicuous consumption than a celebration of the Christ child’s birth.

We have been barraged with television, radio and print holiday ads. Some can only watch the ads, not daring to hope that they can possess any of the things being advertised. Parents are often frustrated by their children’s pleas. Struggling to put food on the table, toys are a luxury they can’t afford. Meanwhile, the average family will spend almost \$900 on holiday gifts. Some children will receive so many gifts that they have tired of them before Christmas day is over.

Some holiday tables will groan with plenty. Others will feature a modest meal. Hundreds of thousands will eat only because charitable organizations provide Christmas meals, or the fixings for them. Indeed, lots of charities step up during this holiday season, providing gifts and clothing for the young people whose parents can’t afford them, or meals for those who will go hungry. Lots of caring people will be photographed, Santa hats in place, serving food at shelters before they sit down to their own meal. While their gesture is much appreciated, too many are missing-in-action in April, July, or October, when there is as much hunger as there is in December.

People shop more on December 26 than on any other day of the year, including the day after Thanksgiving, because post-Christmas sales are “great. How many homeless people will they walk by on their way to the department stores? How many who served food on Christmas day will give on the day after Christmas? Many malls do not allow panhandlers on their property. That’s a convenient way to avoid reality.

I could go on – some people have no shoes, while others revel in the fur-lined boots they get for the holiday.

Malveaux, Continued
on page 9.

New Year’s Resolutions for Black America in 2016



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Whenever we begin a new calendar year, it can be useful to make New Year’s Resolutions to prioritize and focus for the immediate future. Beyond the traditional litany of making very personal and oftentimes private resolutions at the beginning of a new year, Black America as a whole, I believe, should be vocal and public about our determination to keep pushing forward for freedom, justice, equality and economic empowerment.

What should be our collective goals and strategic objectives over the next 12 months? Recent academic studies by the Dominican University of California on the importance of “goal setting” to overcome individual and social procrastination revealed that writing down your resolutions and sharing your goals with others that you care about will help you work more dili-

gently to achieve those goals.

Every time I pick up and read a Black-owned newspaper in America during this season of annual proclamation, it is always informative to see a written list of New Year Resolutions that challenge Black America to continue strive for excellence and achievement in all fields of endeavor. I am obviously proud of the trusted impact of the Black Press of America. Check us out at www.NNPA.org and www.BlackPressUSA.com.

We have another critical election year coming up in 2016 and the Black American vote will have to be mobilized in every primary election and across the nation next November in elections in every precinct in every state, county by county. Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) efforts, therefore, will be a top priority and we must collectively resolve that in 2016 we will ensure the largest voter turnout of Black voters in the history of the United States.

Remember, we had a record voter turnout of Black voters both in 2008 and in 2012. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, “66.2 percent of Blacks who voted in the 2012 presidential election, higher than the 64.1 percent of non-Hispanic Whites who did so... This marks the first time that Blacks have voted at

a higher rate than Whites since the Census Bureau started publishing statistics on voting by the eligible citizen population in 1996.”

We cannot afford to let the Black vote be taken for granted in 2016.

Politics and economics are inseparable in the United States. Yet, even though Black Americans spend in excess of \$1.2 trillion annually in the nation’s economy, that kind of spending volume has not translated into real economic power: increasing the ownership of global businesses and billion-dollar revenue-generating investments. We still have a long way to go to achieve economic equality and parity in America.

We should resolve, therefore, in 2016 to improve and expand the economic development of Black American families and communities. Although the American economy continues to recover under the Obama Administration, for Black Americans we have not closed the wealth gap. White Americans today have 12 times the wealth of Black Americans. We must without hesitation and without apology be more determined to end poverty and to generate more wealth for Black America. Therefore, we join in complete solidarity with the resolve of the National Association of Real Es-

tate Brokers (NAREB) in the goal of striving to increase Black homeownership in 2016.

We are very encouraged that the 2016 NAACP Image Awards will once again be broadcast on TV One. We all should support Radio One, TV One and Interactive One. We all also should support The Impact Network and other Black-owned media companies as well as the publishers of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

Ending mass incarceration, reforming the criminal justice system, and stopping police brutality are related urgent matters that demand the resolve and activist involvement of Black America. Yes, in 2016 our national outcry will continue to be “Black Lives Matter!”

The highest quality education for our children and our young adults requires our vocal support and energetic involvement from pre-school to post graduate higher education. At every level of the educational process and journey we must be vigilant in our demands and commitments to attain the best education for our families.

Thus let’s renew and strengthen our dedication to support the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NA-

FEO), the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) as well as work to sustain all of our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and predominantly Black institutions (PBIs). Lastly, we are a spiritual people. All African people are spiritual. We resolve lastly to support and strengthen our religiously institutions: churches, temples, mosques and synagogues.

I asked the Chairman of the NNPA, Denise Rolark Barnes, who publishes the Washington Informer for her perspective about 2016 New Year Resolutions. She emphasized resolutely, “In 2016, our first priority should be to commit our lives and our dollars to those individuals and institutions that represent our best interests. Let’s strive to be the ones that will make a difference in our own communities. Be mindful that ‘If it is to be, it is up to me.’”

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcfc>.

Tamir Rice, I'm Sorry

By David Roman
Data News Weekly Guest
Columnist

Officer Will Not Face Charges in Shooting of 12 year old Cleveland Boy.

Once again justice is served for the killer.

Once again a murder of a black child goes unpunished.

And once again the system fails the ones it's there to protect.

A child playing in the park with a toy gun is gunned down.

A child, let me say that again, a child is playing in the park and is gunned down by the very one he is supposed to run to for protection.

And again the debate will go on about who was in the wrong.

In my day a toy gun was just that

and any adult would know a child is carrying a toy gun.

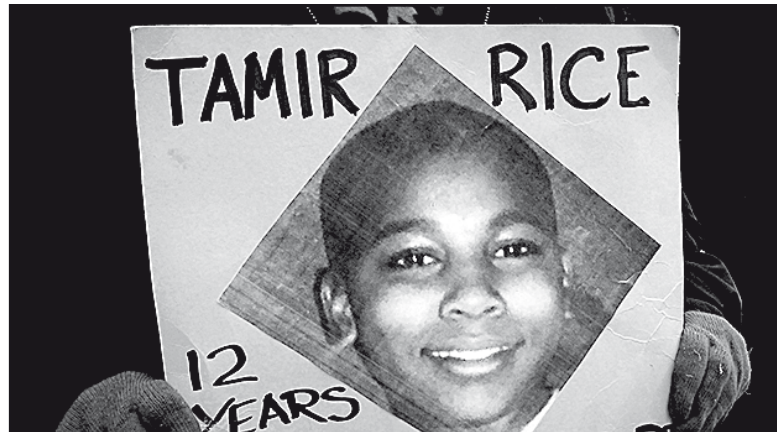
Things have changed since I was a child with children walking the streets killing one another.

Fear is in the air but who's the professional here?

Why is it that no one thought to question him first before riding up and shooting him without one question. Why not shoot him in the leg if you have to shoot him, and why is it that the same situation with a white person we would watch them walk away in handcuffs even after killing many.

We understand the system is set up for the police and black lives don't matter in their eyes.

But God Damn isn't anyone tired of the lying and covering up to protect killers.



And isn't it time to change this system that protects and is also partners in murder?

When the police know they will walk free in 98% of their murders what's to keep the killing types filled with hate from killing at free will, and crying I was afraid for my life.

Are you sick of these cases and sick of the outcome?

I know I am. I'm tired of these stories since I was a child the same stories that haunted us every day year after year after year.

Racist and racism is still alive in America and its time we took con-

trol and vote these types out of our lives.

I'm sick of it you should be too.

And most of all I wish to say to Tamir we failed you in not arming you with the knowledge you are a walking target simply because of the color of your skin. No matter how much you are loved at home outside your door there are people who wish you harm. We failed to warn you that certain toys are not ever to be one of your play things not even in the park or your back yard. And most of all we failed to create a world that is yours to be the man you wanted to be without fear.

David Roman is a photographer, writer, poet, cook, artist and gallery owner living in Germany.

Malveaux, Continued from page 8.

days. Some have dozens of coats in their closets, while others are coatless and cold. Some folks have so much "stuff" that they aren't sure what they have. Others "ain't got no stuff" and would relish a trinket – a new scarf, a piece of costume jewelry, a box of candy, a token that reminds them that somebody cares.

I'm not condemning fellow consumers. I'm as bad as anyone, my house overflowing with much-appreciated gifts from friends, and little goodies that I've purchased myself. In facing my own consumerism, I'm not doing any holiday shopping this year. I am in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter folks who have done my spirits well when they disrupted Chicago's Magnificent Mile (keep it up, y'all).

I'm not writing to criticize those who spend during this holiday season. I'm writing because I want those who are cognizant of the ways income inequality affects the holiday of our nation's poor to consider activism around inequality issues during the rest of the year. We need people to pressure Congress to pass more legislation to create jobs and income supplement opportunities. We need more opportunities for people to participate in SNAP (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Programs – or food stamps) to prevent hunger. We need folks who are willing to serve justice, not just food. We need to talk to young people about income inequality, suggesting that they donate just one of the dozen toys they receive to another young person in need. Compassion is wonderful; compassion plus action is a winning combination.

When you drive by homes that are amazingly decorated with blinking lights and spellbinding ornaments, it is almost impossible not to enjoy the riveting display. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the profligate display of holiday cheer (an acquaintance told me that he spends more than \$2000 to develop his display). There is something wrong if "peace on earth, goodwill to all" is only a reality during this holiday season.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, D.C. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" will be published January 2016 and is available for preorder on www.juliannealveaux.com.

ladatanews.com

The Regency Reception Hall

"A Venue for All Occasions"



For Weddings, Private Parties, Showers,
Corporate Parties, Repasses and More...

504-245-2323

7300 Downman Road
New Orleans 70126
www.theregencyneworleans.com

Tyler Perry To Host FOX Religious Musical Event "The Passion" In New Orleans



Abra-Ca-Da-Bra Bail Bonds "Like Magic We'll Get You Out"

Federal Court ANYWHERE

Criminal Court ANY TIME

Municipal Court ANY PLACE

Traffic Court



**SERVING the New Orleans Area &
Beyond for 15 years**

The competent and very capable agents at Abra -Ca-Da-Bra Bail Bonds will be there to get your friends and love ones out of JAIL. For all your Bail Bonding needs Call us FIRST. We are discrete and we keep your business where it should be, with YOU.

Phone us at 504-376-4060 "We will come to YOU"



Live musicals are in high demand since *The Wiz Live!*, which dominated the 18-49 group for NBC and gained stellar reviews. The cast of *The Wiz Live!* is pictured above.

By Desiree Thompson
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Next year is gearing up to be a big one for live musicals over at FOX; it was recently announced Tyler Perry will host a religious musical special just in time for Easter.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the famed director will host and narrate *The Passion*. Produced by Adam Anders (*Glee*, *Rock of Ages*) the show will be filmed in New Orleans and retell the story of Jesus of Nazareth during the Last

Supper. The event will also take advantage of the NOLA setting by filming in the city's well-known locations, such as the Superdome and the live stage at Woldenberg Park.

The Passion will air on Palm Sunday in March 2016. The cast hasn't yet been publicly announced.

The event comes after the announcement of several other musicals, like *Grease Live!* starring Keke Palmer and a remake of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* with Laverne Cox.

Live musicals are in high demand since *The Wiz Live!*, which

dominated the 18-49 group for NBC and gained stellar reviews.

FOX Entertainment president David Madden released a statement about working with Tyler Perry: "The *Passion* is both wonderfully entertaining and genuinely inspirational," Madden said in a statement. "We are so thrilled to have the multi-talented Tyler Perry join us for this epic music production. He is the perfect host to lead the cast — and viewers — through the streets of New Orleans in this contemporary re-telling of a timeless story."

“Appalling”: Civil Rights Leaders Outraged After Grand Jury Fails To Indict Cop In Death Of Tamir Rice, Protests Erupt

By Lynette Holloway
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Civil rights leaders, community leaders and social media users expressed outrage Monday after a grand jury failed to bring charges against a Cleveland officer in the death of Tamir Rice.

Activists from New York to Cleveland to Chicago called on demonstrators to protest the decision.

Tamir, a 12-year-old Black child, was playing with a toy gun on a playground 13 months ago when he was gunned down by white Cleveland police officer Timothy Loehmann.

On Monday, a grand jury declined to bring charges against Loehmann and his training officer, Frank Garmback, who responded to a report about a man with a gun near a recreation center, writes USA Today. A dispatcher did not tell them the caller said it was likely a fake gun.

Rashad Robinson, executive director of ColorOfChange, one of the largest online civil rights organizations, said in a statement that the decision shows that Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty, “doesn’t honor Black life or seek to hold officers accountable.”

“Prosecutors continue to wield unchecked authority over Black communities,” Robinson said in the statement. A prosecutor pressing charges against an officer is a rarity that often only occurs with a mass swell of protests and mainstream media attention. Meanwhile, far too many prosecutors go out of their way to over-prosecute and incarcerate Black folks for far less damaging crimes.

“McGinty is no exception. He never intended to prosecute the officer who killed Tamir. Throughout a sham grand jury process, McGinty released questionable expert reports justifying Tamir’s killing and attacked his grieving family in the press. Over 150,000 ColorOfChange members joined Tamir’s mother in calling for a special prosecutor to take over.”

The Rev. Al Sharpton, the long-time civil rights activist, released a statement calling the decision appalling.

“We are appalled that no indictment was returned in the case of



12-year-old Tamir Rice, though we are not surprised given the behavior and tone displayed by prosecutor Tim McGinty’s all year. National Action Network has stood by Tamir’s family since the egregious killing that took young Tamir’s life and his mother joined us at a national march for police accountability last year in the nation’s capital. We will continue to support Samaria Rice as we call for a special national prosecutor to monitor such cases and we stand by the Rice family as they are dealt this blow during the holidays.”

NAACP President and CEO Cornell William Brooks said in a statement that the grand jury’s decision leaves a number of questions unanswered.

“The first of those questions is why the dispatcher failed to pass along to the responding officer essential details that the suspect was likely a juvenile, possibly waving a toy gun. The fatal shooting of Tamir Rice at the hands of a rookie officer might have been prevented if those crucial details had been provided.

“And has the value of the lives of our children been reduced to a decision made in less than two seconds? That is the amount of time it took for one officer to decide whether

Tamir Rice should die....less than two seconds. Life and death decisions are made every day by police officers across the country, but the benefit of the doubt is often given in the preservation of white lives while the presumption of guilt, dangerousness and suspicion, time after time, is reserved for black lives.

“The tragedy of Tamir Rice must be seen with unblinking clarity through the lens of a series of incidents of police misconduct committed by members of the Cleveland Police Department over years. Cleveland has a long record of police misconduct subject to multiple and serial federal investigations. And it is against this ugly backdrop that its citizens are being asked to “just trust us.” We must now hold accountable in the courts not merely police officers, but also hold accountable in the voting booth those who are responsible for dangerous policing. Similarly, we need the NAACP continues to call for a national standard for excessive use of force, police retraining and systems accountability.

After the decision was announced, the hashtags, “#Tamir-Rice” and “#McGinty,” began trending on social media. Civil rights activist DeRay Mckesson was one

of many social media users sounding off on Twitter.

“The prosecutor today reminded us that he doubles as the defense attorney for the police,” McKesson tweeted.

Tamir’s family renewed their calls for the Department of Justice to bring federal charges against the officer, according to the Washington Post.

“It has been clear for months now that Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty was abusing and manipulating the grand jury process to orchestrate a vote against indictment,” the family attorneys said. “Even though video shows the police shooting Tamir in less than one second, Prosecutor McGinty hired so-called expert witnesses to try to exonerate the officers and tell the grand jury their conduct was reasonable and justified. It is unheard of, and highly improper, for a prosecutor to hire ‘experts’ to try to exonerate the targets of a grand jury investigation.”

The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice is currently conducting an independent investigation into Rice’s death.

Sources: USA Today, the Washington Post

DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to
place your classified ad.

Job Opportunity

Freelance Writers Wanted

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.

We can’t wait to
hear from you!

This space can be

yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421

NO MORE

“WHAT KIND OF GUY WOULD LET THAT HAPPEN TO HIM?”



1 in 6 men had an unwanted or abusive sexual experience before age 18.

No more excuses.
No more silence.
No more violence.

JOYFUL
HEART
FOUNDATION



www.1in6.org

NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

www.nomore.org

Ice T

© 2013 Joyful Heart Foundation. All rights reserved. All content and trademarks used under license (or with permission).