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## Happy Feelings at the Fest!

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**Data Zone Page 7**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Battle in Baton Rouge

## Gov. Edwards Proposes School Choice Voucher Cuts

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# Gov. Edwards Proposes Voucher Cuts

*Results Could Have an Effect on 7000 Low-Income Students*



In an effort to balance the state's \$900 million budget deficit, Governor John Bel Edwards (above) has proposed a significant cut to the Louisiana Scholarship Program of approximately \$6 million for the 2016-17 fiscal year reducing the VOICE Program from \$42 million to \$36 million.

**By Eric Craig**  
Data News Weekly Multimedia Editor

Governor John Bel Edwards proposes to cut the Louisiana Scholarship Program by \$6 million for the 2016-17 fiscal year. Currently the proposal is in debate in the Louisiana Legislature. The proposed cut would reduce the VOICE Program from \$42 million to \$36

million. The program cuts are one of many in hopes of balancing the state's \$900 million budget deficit.

According to the Louisiana Federation for Children, the program is designed for low income families. The program provides low income families with more options for schooling, while also combating low performance in low-income student groups. The program holds voucher-accepting schools accountable for rais-

ing the academic performance of these students.

Ann Duplessis, President of the Louisiana Federation for Children wrote a Letter to the Editor on nola.com, expressing her discontent to the proposed budget cuts.

"The governor says he can reduce funding by 14 percent and still educate the same number of students. State education Superintendent John White told the

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

House Appropriations Committee that, as a practical matter, the proposed funding reduction will mean that all the students who expected a scholarship for next year won't be able to find a slot," Duplessis wrote.

Duplessis believes the Louisiana Scholarship Program needs 46 million dollars to function properly. With the current proposed budget cuts, Duplessis projects the program will support 1000 fewer students.

Additionally, Duplessis is a strong supporter of the program's contributions to student growth.

"Over the past five years, the Louisiana Scholarship Program has shown steadfast improvement in test scores, closing the achievement gap with public schools from 32 percent, when the program began taking students who were desperately behind in school, to 18 percent now" Duplessis wrote.

The Louisiana Scholarship Program launched in 2008 as a citywide initiative in New Orleans as the Student Scholarships for Education Excellence Program. The Voucher Program was expanded statewide in 2012, renamed the Louisiana Scholarship Program.

According to the Louisiana Federation for Children 2015-16 analysis of the Voucher Program, the program serves over 7100 students. The scholarship program has an application pool amounting to over 12,000 students each year.

The Voucher Program works with 119 private and church-sponsored schools that receive public money to cover a child's attendance cost.

Currently, out of the 7100 students, 88.6 percent are minority students. Out of those, 81 percent are African-American. Twelve percent of the total population of voucher students are White. Ninety-two percent of the total scholarship body receive federal free or reduced lunch.

The American Federation for Children, which is a national group with a local chapter in Louisiana, funded an on-air commercial advertisement attacking Gov. Edwards for his proposed cut to the Voucher Program.

The 30-second commercial featured unidentified parents reacting to the cuts to the voucher system.

"I just can't believe he would put us in a situation where our Child's education is at stake," an unidentified mother said.

Since the proposal of the budget cut, Gov. Edwards has refuted criticism about his decision.

According to nola.com, Edward's staff has suggested the budget cuts



Ann Duplessis, President of the Louisiana Federation for Children said in a Letter to the Editor that she believes the Louisiana Scholarship Program needs 46 million dollars to function properly.

will not reduce the current number of students, but will instead pay voucher-accepting schools less.

"It's impactful, but our hope and our expectation is that we are not eliminating any slots, but we are reducing the level of compensation to the schools," said Jay Dardenne, Gov. Edwards Budget Chief, on April 12th, according to nola.com

On April 28, 2016, The Louisiana Federation of Teachers and the Louisiana Association of Educators released a joint press release defending Gov. Edwards.

"With the state facing a \$900 million deficit for the coming year, Gov. Edwards has proposed cutting some \$6 million from ex-Gov. Bobby Jindal's scheme to funnel state funds to private and religious schools," the organizations wrote.

"The voucher fund has run multi-million dollar surpluses in past years, and Gov. Edwards says that the anticipated cut should not affect students currently enrolled in voucher schools," they wrote.

"His plan does not eliminate funding for existing vouchers at all, according to the governor's office," the organizations stated.

The organizations also argued that the Louisiana Federation for Children and its subsidiary advertisements are taking advantage of the financial crisis and the legislature.

"The Louisiana Federation for Children is apparently taking advantage of a fiscal crisis for political purposes. The organization is closely allied with the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, which opposed Gov. Edwards' election and is struggling to maintain its influence in the legislature," the organizations wrote.

The Louisiana Federation of

efficiencies.

On Feb. 2, 2016, Gov. Edwards spoke at a Louisiana Association of Educators and National Education Association Listening Tour. At the tour, Gov. Edwards said there should be more emphasis on public school funding.

We should not divert any resources away from our traditional public schools for unproven gimmicks, especially when we don't have many resources to begin with," Gov. Edwards said.

"The worst performing schools in Louisiana that we know anything about are voucher schools," he added.

In Feb., the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans reported that the Voucher Program does not lead to significant increases in student education.

"After two years of students receiving an LSP scholarship we find little evidence to suggest that, after two years, students receiving an LSP scholarship had noticeably different non-academic skills or political tolerance," the organization wrote in its research analysis.

On Monday, May 9th, Upper Room Bible Church was audited for billing taxpayers over \$61,000 in the Louisiana Voucher Program. Voucher-receiving students were either not attending class or attending other schools.

Gov. Edwards has urged people concerned with the voucher cuts to push lawmakers to support more tax revenue increases in the state.

During his April 28th conference Gov. Edwards said the proposed cuts would be for the 2016-17 school year. The plans for this not to affect students currently with vouchers, but will hinder future growth of the program.

Rev. Leonard Lucas, affiliated with the Light Christian Academy, which is a school recognized by the Voucher Program, voiced his concern about the reduced funding in a press conference on April 28, 2016, according to nola.com.

"We want you to understand that there is a concern. We have a concern because those families need those vouchers because it is a tremendous blessing to our community," Rev. Lucas said.

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# Sheriff Gusman and OPSO Release Statement Regarding City's Proposed Jail Takeover

## Data Staff Report

Last week, Data News Weekly reported on the ongoing battle between Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman and the City of New Orleans regarding the attempts through legal motions to turn control of the Orleans Parish Prison facility over to the federal government.

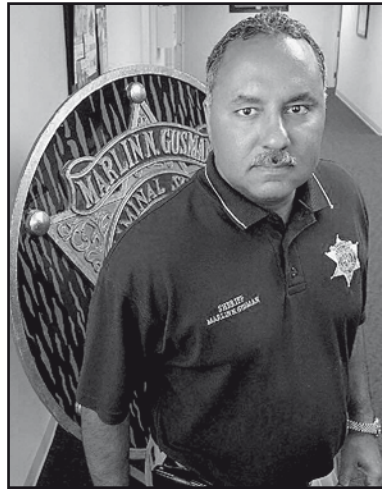
Following is a statement from Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman regarding the City of New Orleans' support of a takeover of the jail by the federal government:

"The Mayor of New Orleans and his supporters on the City Council have not spent 5 minutes inside the jail to view what is happening for themselves. How can they make any judgment on the best way for

the jail to operate? They refuse to come and personally see the progress we are making.

The Sheriff's Office has been forced to make some very tough decisions. At each point, the Sheriff's Office faced unrelenting criticism.

The notion of the city doubling the OPSO's budget is a lie. The budget submitted by the Mayor's Office and approved by the City Council allocates revenue to the OPSO for programs and activities that do not exist. For example, the City tried to allocate more than \$3 million in interest payments for the Law Enforcement District funding as operational funds for the OPSO. That cannot be done. The City also projected that the OPSO would receive \$400,000 in revenue from the



Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman says that It is unreasonable for the plaintiffs and U.S. Department of Justice to expect complete perfection in only two years when overhauling a system that was broken for 30 years before his becoming sheriff.

electronic monitoring program in 2016. The OPSO has not operated the electronic monitoring program since 2015.

It is ironic that the city withholds funding, withholds building permits, withholds cooperation, and then criticizes the OPSO for the pace of our progress. Mayor Landrieu issued a stop work order on construction of the new jail, less than one month before we were scheduled to move in. We had to go to court to fight them. The mayor then refused to issue an occupancy permit once construction was complete. We had to go to court again to fight them. Now we've had to go to court to try and resolve the constant funding shortfalls by the City in their obligation to pay for a constitutional jail.

It is unreasonable for the plaintiffs and U.S. Department of Justice to expect complete perfection in only two years when we are overhauling a system that was broken for 30 years before I became sheriff. These situations do not even account for the state of the City's current consent decrees with the New Orleans Police Department and the Sewerage and Water Board. Both of these consent decrees have gone on longer without any talk of a federal takeover.

While I believe that we will be able to come into compliance quicker than those other places, we must have the cooperation of the city on funding and salaries to accelerate the pace of reform."

Data News Weekly will continue to update the story.

## R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Announces 2016 Date for 16th Annual Bowl Game



## Data News Staff Edited Report

R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl officials and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation announced today that the 16th Annual R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl will be played on Saturday, December 17, 2016, at 8 p.m. (CST). The game will be played in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and will feature a matchup between teams from the

Sun Belt Conference and Conference USA. ESPN and ESPN Radio will air the game live.

"Sun Belt Conference football and the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl have been closely tied since their beginnings in 2001. The Sun Belt is proud of its affiliation with its postseason bowl partners as each provides a unique and memorable experience for student-athletes and fans. We are looking forward to another great New Orleans Bowl this upcoming season," said Sun Belt

Commissioner Karl Benson.

The New Orleans Bowl and Conference USA have a long-standing relationship that began in 2002.

"We are pleased to once again be a part of the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl," C-USA Commissioner Judy MacLeod said. "Our schools have a rich history in this game, and New Orleans will be a wonderful destination for one of our teams again this December."

In its 16th year, the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl and its affiliated events continue to grow and create significant impact on the city of New Orleans, generating an estimated economic impact in excess of \$20 million annually.

"Since its inception 16 years ago, the number one goal of the R+L Carriers New Orleans Bowl Committee, staff and volunteers has been to create a special experience for the student-athletes,

coaches, administrators and their fans. This December, we look forward to continuing what has become a great New Orleans tradition," said bowl Executive Director Billy Ferrante.

## Mothers and Children put at Risk by Unsafe Rental Housing



Often the root of health problems involves addressing what's going on in someone's home.

## Data Staff Report

On Wednesday, May 11th, at 2 pm in the City Council Chambers, the Community Development Committee of the New Orleans City Council heard from public health experts who highlighted some of the serious health issues that mothers and their children are facing, from leaks and mold to fire hazards.

Data shows that thousands of New Orleans families with children spent Mother's Day in unsafe and unhealthy homes. As many as 78% of rental units in New Orleans needed major repairs at some point in the previous year, despite the fact that renters are paying more now than they ever have before. Some of the major

**Mothers, Continued on page 5.**

# Young Leadership Council Releases REVISED Lineup for 17th Annual Wednesday at the Square

*Series extends through June 1 with all-star lineup including The Revivalists, Marcia Ball, Flow Tribe, and Tab Benoit*

## Data Staff Report

Young Leadership Council (YLC) announced the revised lineup for its 17th annual YLC Wednesday at the Square concert series, which was extended through Wednesday, June 1, to accommodate two rescheduled shows originally cancelled due to weather. The next concert is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11, from 5 to 8 p.m. in Lafayette Square, with performances by co-headliners Marcia Ball and Flow Tribe.

The Revivalists are still scheduled to perform Wednesday, May 18, along with opening act, ROAR!. Other additions include co-headliners, , as well as N'awlins Johnnys who are set to open for Tab Benoit on Wednesday, June 1.

"The talent in this year's line-up is truly unprecedented. Their flexibility with rain dates and the season extension speaks volumes about their commitment to making YLC's Wednesday at the Square series a success," said Matthew Treuting, YLC Wednesday at the Square committee chair.

Young Leadership Council's Executive Director Stephanie Powell agrees, "Wednesday at the Square is our largest annual fundraiser. The success of this concert series allows our volunteer leaders to make a larger impact in our community. I'm incredibly proud of our vendors, sponsors, volunteers, and



Mia Borders

talent for their dedication in making this the most successful fundraising series, yet."

## 2016 Wednesday at the Square REVISED Lineup

Wednesday, May 11

Marcia Ball + Flow Tribe (co-headlining)

Wednesday, May 18

The Revivalists + ROAR!

Wednesday, May 25

Mia Borders + The Breton Sound (co-headlining)

Wednesday, June 1

Tab Benoit + N'awlins Johnnys

The Wednesday at the Square concert series is free and open to the public. The concerts will take

place every Wednesday from 5 – 8 p.m. through June 1 in downtown New Orleans at Lafayette Square (between Camp Street and St. Charles Avenue, directly across from Gallier Hall).

Proceeds from food and drink sales will benefit YLC's community service projects, designed not only to improve the quality of life in the Greater New Orleans area but also to foster leadership skills in young professionals.

Single-concert sponsorships for the 2016 series, as well as video board advertising, are still available. For more information on sponsorship and advertising opportunities, including private hospitality tents, contact candace@ylcnola.org.

For more information on YLC, please visit [www.ylcnola.org](http://www.ylcnola.org). For more information on YLC Wednesday at the Square or to volunteer at one of the concerts,

please visit [www.wednesdayatthesquare.com](http://www.wednesdayatthesquare.com). Engage with YLC Wednesday at the Square on Facebook, Instagram at @ylcnola, and Twitter at @WedattheSquare.



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## Mothers, Continued from page 4.

health issues in the city include:

- 1,700 units with mold
- 2,350 units without a working bathroom
- 5,300 units with water leaks from the outside
- 5,450 units without a working smoke detector

"There's only so much a health-care provider can do in a hospital or doctor's office," said Dr. George Hobor, Healthy Communities Portfolio Director for the Louisiana Public Health Institute. "Often the root of health problems involves addressing what's going on in someone's home. Mold can cause asthma and have lifelong effects for children, while the insta-

bility that comes with substandard housing is linked with greater odds of depression, worse overall health for children, and moves to less safe neighborhoods."

"Our 'In That Number' campaign tells the stories of youth struggling with mental health symptoms and pulls back the curtain on the stress in their daily life," said Della Wright, Evaluation Manager at the Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies. "Not surprisingly we have found that housing instability is a significant contributor. That's why we ask that the Council continue its work to ensure that mothers don't have to worry about their children experiencing symptoms of depression and PTSD because of unsafe and unhealthy homes."



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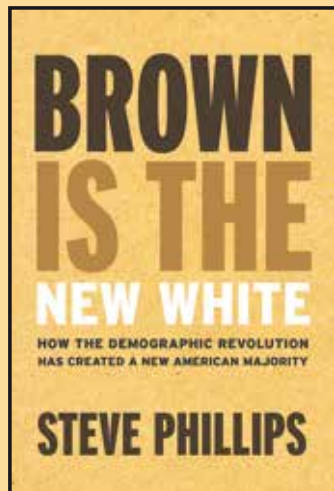
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# Brown is the New White



*Brown is the  
New White*

by Steve Phillips  
c.2016, The New  
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249 pages

By The Bookworm Sez  
Data News Weekly Guest  
Columnist

## Your vote matters.

At least that's what they tell you, but you have your doubts. You're ONE of millions of people who'll go to the polls in November. You're a raindrop in the sea, a needle in a voting haystack. But as you'll see in "Brown is the New White" by Steve Phillips, you are more powerful than you think.

In 1968, the year Martin Luther King was assassinated, about 12 percent of the U.S. population comprised "people of color." Forty years later, on the night that Barack Obama was elected president,

36 percent of Americans were African American, Latino, Asian American, Arab American, or Native American.

While that still doesn't sound like a very high number, Phillips says that, for a politician looking to win in 2016, those demographics belie an "equation that's been hiding in plain sight": add progressive White voters, and "America has a progressive, multiracial majority right now..."

That's good news for Democrats – the party most often favored by progressives and people of color – but it's not the final word. Drawing a line from Selma to Obama's election, Phillips says that understanding the interests and histories

**Book Review, Continued  
on page 11.**

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# Happy Feelings! Jazz Fest Final Recap

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

Data News Weekly Contributor

The 2016 New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, also known as Jazz Fest, has come and gone, but we wanted to share one more look at the people who made Jazz Fest possible. They came from near and far to hear the sweet sounds, dance, sing along, and indulge in some serious food. Without the crowds, Jazz Fest wouldn't be Jazz Fest, so here's to you fans, everyone loves you! See you next year!



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events

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# This Is Why Republicans Continue To Lose The Black Vote



**Raynard Jackson**  
NNPA Columnist

Those who have followed my writings know that I have been and will continue to be very critical of my Republican Party over the lack of real engagement with the Black community.

I am now beginning to question whether there is room for Blacks in this Republican Party. The recently ended Republican primary tells me

the answer is “no,” but when party leaders are questioned about it, the answer is always “yes.”

Between the Republican National Committee (RNC), the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC), the National Republican Campaign Committee (NCCC), all the state parties, all the 527 political action committees, the Republican Governor’s Association, etc., there are about fifty Black staffers that I am aware of and probably upwards of 90 percent of those work for a member of congress, thus most Republican entities have no Black staffers, advisors, or consultants.

Republicans will counter that Blacks are an insignificant part of primary voters (about 2 percent), which is factually true, but that

should not prevent the hiring of Black staffers, advisors, or consultants during this process.

Implicit in this bogus argument is that Blacks should only be hired to engage with the Black community. I totally reject this approach. As a matter of fact, if a campaign has a limited budget, they are better served by hiring a Black staffer over a White staffer.

Blacks, out of necessity, are forced to live in two worlds simultaneously. We have to be able to live and function within the Black community (where most of us live); but we must also be able to navigate the white community (where most of us work).

Most whites could not navigate the Black community effectively since most have absolutely no re-

lationship within the community. So, by hiring a Black staffer, you get a two-fer. I find this an extremely compelling reason to hire a Black staffer.

To my utter and total dismay, every Republican presidential campaign other than one gets a failing grade on the issue of Black staffers.

You never hear the few Black Republicans who have a media platform talk about the lack of Black staffers within every level of the Republican Party. They are too caught up waiting for the proverbial pat on the head from their overseers.

You rarely, if ever, see them take a principled stand against the party when it comes to the invisible Black man.

You see them on CNN mouthing all the words they are told to speak

and not bringing light to a party that is lurking in the dark.

According to the Gallop, “almost two-thirds of blacks identify as Democrats, with most of the rest identifying as independents. Only 5 percent of Blacks nationwide identify as Republicans.” This means about 29 percent of Blacks label themselves as “Independent.” In business, this 29 percent is called a “target market.”

Did we really need an autopsy report after the 2012 election to tell us what needed to be done to diversify our party? This was a cheap political stunt to give the party cover, because they didn’t really want to address the reality staring them in the face.

**Commentary,**  
**Continued on page 9.**

## Malia Obama Got into Harvard and Fox News Fans Called Her a “Little Monkey”



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

Malia Obama deserves congratulations. Admitted to Harvard University, she has decided to take a gap year, a mature choice that many students make when they want a break between intense and competitive studies and college. This is a great time for her to take a gap year. After these eight years in the White House as a “First Daughter”, she now has a chance to enjoy life and pursue some of her non-academic interests. She speaks fluent Spanish, so perhaps she’ll take some time to travel to Mexico, Cuba, or Spain. She is interested in television and film, so perhaps she’ll work as a production assistant (or even a commentator) on a television program. She may be

interested enough in politics to volunteer for some down-ticket candidate. Imagine the boost she could give to California Attorney General Kamala Harris in her Senate race this fall! It is going to be interesting to see how this young woman’s life unfolds.

In reaction to Malia’s good news, the racists are out in full force. According to the website AddictingInfo.org, the Fox crew was so vitriolic that Fox had to close down a page due to the volume and negative comments regarding her announcement. The content of the messages hardly deserves reprint, but it is no surprise that the beautiful young lady was called a “monkey,” not to mention the “N-word” and worse. She was admitted because of affirmative action, several wrote. Every stereotype one can imagine was heaped on this young woman.

Come on people! Malia Obama won’t be 18 until July 4. She’s a kid. Dislike President Obama and his wife, Michelle, if you want to. Call them names – I am sure that by now, ugly name-calling affects them as much as water rolling off a duck’s back. But it is especially

vile for racist haters to direct such ire to a young woman, who is really just a girl. Perhaps some feel she has no right to innocence because she lives in the White House. But it’s heartbreaking to bear witness to the venom this young lady has attracted.

While it is heart breaking it is hardly surprising. Hatred seems to be the winning ticket in our nation. That Donald Trump is the presumptive Republican nominee for President is frightening. He won by dominating a large and crowded field, winning primaries and delegates when some thought he had little chance and even less organization. He’s thrown more than \$30 million of his own money into this race, so far, and is likely to spend millions more even as he begins to stump for contributions. His winning platform has been to insult any and everyone, from Mexicans (“rapists”), Muslims (moratorium on entering the country), his opponents (Lying’ Ted, Little Marco, and more), Hillary Clinton (Crooked Hillary, “screeching” Hillary, playing the “woman card”), to all the

women he has insulted (taking swipes on everything from their looks to their bodily functions). The “Stop Trump” movement was too little, too late. Apparently, the plurality (not majority) of primary voters want a blustering, bullying, braggart to lead our nation. And judging from the abhorrent comments Malia Obama’s success has garnered, there are many who would emulate Mr. Trump with his vile meanness.

How has meanness and racial resentment become the order of the day? Whatever happened to civility? What happened to the adage that if you have nothing kind to say, say nothing? What happened with being glad for a young person who has been admitted to college? What happened to disagreeing about issues, but not about personalize. Why does the size of one’s genitalia become a debate point in a presidential election? People are now talking about ways the Republican Party might heal. How does our nation heal?

Republicans don’t own a monopoly on meanness. I was appalled that Secretary Hillary Clinton and

Senator Bernie Sanders went after each other like mortal enemies, shouting over each other, bandying hostile accusation, and generally behaving as if they were auditioning to lead the Republican party in style, if not content, when they last debated. They’ve both calmed down, perhaps realizing that they have much more in common than not. Indeed, Hillary Clinton owes Bernie Sanders a “thank you.” His candidacy has appropriately pushed her to the left, especially on issues of economic justice, and made her a much better candidate.

I don’t ever, ever, ever want to hear the word “post-racial” again. Comments directed toward Malia Obama suggest that our nation is pre-civilized, not post anything. The hate directed at a young woman, and the hateful rhetoric that has characterized the Trump campaign are two sides of the same coin. Where do we go from here?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington D.C. Her latest book, “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available at Amazon.com and www.julianne-malveaux.com

## Spiritually Speaking

# Confidence Plus Discipline Equals Power



**James A. Washington**  
NNPA News Wire  
Columnist

I have two words for you today; confidence and discipline. Both of which, when viewed spiritually, exude Godly principles. Put this on the Holy Spirit, but discipline is an amazing thing. When applied to faith, be it natural or supernatural, the result is spiritual confidence. Spiritual confidence and discipline, without ego or arrogance, gives you an attitude of awareness and knowledge and dare I say power? The example I'd like to use is of those saints in the Upper Room,

when the Holy Spirit came upon them on the day of Pentecost and instilled everyone there with well, confidence and discipline. These people ultimately came to demonstrate a level of faith that was used via the power and grace of God to spread the Word of God all over the world. If you look at the before and after of this Pentecostal happening, you'll begin to see my point. Prior to this, the faithful were huddled in secrecy, being faithful to the belief that what Jesus had told them, was indeed true. God would send another. That 'Other' turned out to be the Holy Spirit, who imbued them with more of what they already had. Now their confidence in the truth of Jesus, coupled with their discipline to spread that word, manifested itself in their ability to communicate the gospel to the world. The world has not been the same since.

The question then becomes, in

what is your confidence and discipline based? Where do you get the necessary power to have your gifts fortified? Does your faith give you the strength to acquire the discipline necessary to know what you should be doing in the Lord's name and then do it? I believe the result is the power to know that you can do anything through Christ Jesus, provided you were called to do it. I also believe scripture illustrates to us that without spiritually based discipline, it is practically impossible to stand up to the trials and tribulations of life, but also impossible to withstand the temptations that seek to control our sometimes out of control behavior. The good news here is that wherever the Holy Spirit resides, change will occur, the right kind of change. Of those anointed in the Upper Room, many were faced with the opportunity to make their lives easier, if

they would simply maintain the secrecy of their faith. Spiritually based faith and confidence gave each the power to boldly speak the truth. Remember Peter denied Christ three times without confidence. Some would call that cowardice. After Pentecost, he was buoyed by confidence and discipline. Power is the Word that comes to mind here.

You remember Paul at Ephesus? "When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:6. Here, these twelve men were already baptized but knew nothing of the Holy Spirit. After, we are told, they began to preach the gospel. Can't you see the power gained and their growing confidence? There is nothing restrictive about this kind of discipline. It is in fact quite liberating. They knew that they knew the same way we know that we know.

It's that change thing again. It's called being set apart and not having to apologize or keep it a secret. I believe it lets us stand up as Christians in the face of criticism, adversity and temptation. We may still fall, but we will not fail because our infrastructure has been fortified. Let me be clear. I believe that discipline coupled with confidence invites the Holy Spirit to take up permanent residence in your soul. It's what I'm looking for and what I'm praying for, for me and for you. And look out world when that happens. Like someone once said to me, I'm a different kind of soldier. Believe it or not, so are we.

May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is Publisher of The Dallas Weekly Newspaper. He can be reached at jaws@dallasweekly.com

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

In typical Republican fashion, they appointed two minorities, one Black and one Hispanic, as co-chairs (the other three being Whites) of the committee. Then they had a White as the national face of the report who did most of the media interviews after the report was released.

This little fact is exhibit "A" in how Republicans just don't get it. Why would they not have the Black and Hispanic as the face of the report to engage with the media? Duh!

Even when they try to do the right thing, they do it the wrong way.

The one person who understands these issues is the one person the Republican establishment tried to defeat, Donald J. Trump. He constantly talks about engaging with the Black community, he constantly talks about how illegal immigration has devastated the Black community, he constantly talks about how the Obama administration has been disastrous for Blacks and he has hired "real" Blacks and put them in positions of power.

Trump has substantively talked about the Black community more than the sum total of the 16 candidates he defeated. Yes, you heard me correctly.

Trump's national spokesperson, Katrina Pierson, is all over TV speaking on behalf of the campaign. The visual of a Black female being the face of a presidential campaign is unprecedented and very powerful. Neurosurgeon and former presidential candidate, Dr. Ben Carson, is leading Trump's vice presidential search; I can't recall a Black ever serving in this position for any other Republican nominee.

The Republican Party has no Blacks that ever speak for the various entities listed above, so please don't get mad when the Democrats label our party as racist; visually and optically, we are; on policy, not so much.

Democrats and Republicans are trying to brand Trump as racist, sexist, and a xenophobe. If these claims are true, I hope he continues to live up to those characterizations; because if he does, he will be sworn in as the 45th president of these United States.

If you don't believe what I am saying, maybe you will believe one of Trump's long-time employees, Lynne Patton. This video says it all.

Raynard Jackson is founder and chairman of Black Americans for a Better Future (BAFBF), a federally registered 527 Super PAC established to get more Blacks involved in the Republican Party. BAFBF focuses on the Black entrepreneur. For more information about BAFBF, visit www.bafbf.org.

## Data News Weekly is Hiring

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# Condom Maker to Provide 56 Condom Sizes

*Goal to make condom use more comfortable and likely and reduce risk of HIV transmission*

## Data Staff Report

When it comes to condoms, proper size matters. ONE® Condoms has announced its plans to introduce 56 perfect-fit condom sizes to the United States. These include sizes larger and smaller than those currently available, marking a historic shift in the range of condoms that are cleared for sale by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). ONE has also acquired TheyFit Condoms, a popular European brand that will be relaunched as myONE Perfect Fit® condoms this fall.

## Does condom size really matter?

Research consistently shows that many men avoid condoms because they do not fit or are uncomfortable. In studies dating back to 1993, 40-45 percent of men have suffered problems with fit or comfort from “one-size-fits-all” condoms. Common complaints include the condom being too loose, tight, long or short, resulting in loss of erection, de-sensitivity, and difficulty achieving orgasm.

Safety may be compromised due to improper coverage if the condom is too short. Research also shows that men who wear condoms that do not fit properly are more likely to report slippage and breakage of the condom. In a large condom study of 820 men conducted by Indiana University researchers, fitted condoms broke half as often as one-size-fits-all condoms. The study also found users of fitted condoms were much more likely to purchase or recommend a fitted condom over a one-size-fits-all condom.

“We believe that condom fit is the next great frontier when it comes to increasing use and acceptability,” said Davin Wedel, president of Global Protection Corp., parent company of ONE® Condoms. “Shoes and pants come in different sizes, so why not condoms? We’re very excited to bring this solution to millions of men who are frustrated by condoms that just don’t work for their bodies.”

When myONE is made available in the United States this fall, customers will measure their penis using a FitKit and receive a unique product code that corresponds to their myONE size. Purchases may be made at [onecondoms.com](http://onecondoms.com) and authorized resellers, and product is shipped discreetly to customers.

## Historic shift in available condom sizes now cleared for sale by the FDA.

The introduction of myONE required an expansion to condom sizes permitted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Condoms are classified as Class II medical devices, and must conform to standards set by American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The new myONE sizes come after years of advocacy to update condom testing standards to more accurately reflect penis size.

“In order to sell myONE, a considerable amount of time was spent with the FDA, researchers, and ASTM over the past few years to show that the current range of sizes just wasn’t enough for a majority of consumers,” said Wedel. “Years of effort have been put into updating the American standards, which had not been updated since 2003.”



Prior to myONE, the minimum allowed condom length set by ASTM was 6.69 inches—with the introduction of myONE, condoms will be available starting at 4.92 inches. The allowed condom width set by ASTM prior to myONE was 1.85 to 2.24 inches. MyONE widths will range from 1.77 to 2.52 inches.

### Average Penis Measurement

Pre-myONE USA Standard  
myONE Size Range

#### Length

140mm (5.5")  
170mm - 210mm (6.69" - 8.27")  
125mm - 208mm (4.92" - 8.19")

#### Width

51.5mm (2.03")  
47mm - 57mm (1.85" - 2.24")  
45mm - 64mm (1.77" - 2.52")

In contrast, studies show that penis size varies greatly, with lengths ranging from about 1.57 to 10.24 inches and widths ranging from about 0.5 to 3.16 inches.

This fall, myONE will offer an array of 56 condom sizes, with combinations of 8 condom lengths and 9 condoms widths—representing a more accurate range of penis size. The company selected its sizes based on data from TheyFit, a popular European brand which it acquired in 2015.

“When we reviewed the data, it was surprising to see that only 12 percent of purchases were within the current American standard,” said Jared Maraio, Senior Director of Brand Strategy. “Based on the data, myONE will offer sizes properly fitting 80 percent of condom purchasers. Another 10 percent

will find a substantially improved fit over regular condoms. It’s our goal to ensure that myONE supports the great majority of men, and we’ll continue to develop the product as we gather more information.”

## Public health implications

The introduction of an expanded range of condom sizes may also have positive ramifications for the public health sector, where health educators often meet resistance to condom use because of comfort.

“There’s a common health demonstration where an educator will put their fist, a watermelon, or some other large object inside a condom to show that it’s silly for guys to complain about condom fit,” said Maraio. “Just because something fits, it doesn’t make it comfortable. myONE makes the argument that people don’t have to choose between comfort and safety.”

The effect that myONE may have on public health efforts is particularly important to Wedel, who founded Global Protection Corp. with a mission to improve acceptance of condoms to prevent the transmission of HIV. In addition to the ONE® brand, Global Protection Corp. is the country’s largest distributor of safer sex products to the public health sector.

“Providing an expanded range of condom sizes has powerful implications for increasing condom use and making a positive impact on public health over all,” said Wedel. “We’re looking forward to working with our partners in the health community to identify strategies to eliminate barriers to condom use with myONE, particularly among at-risk populations.”

## Book Review, Continued from page 6.

of each individual group (including progressive Whites) is essential for forward movement, politically. It’s also important to know how those groups vote and the issues they care about, because if the “truth of the lives of the New American Majority” is ignored, “they will ignore you...” Phillips says. Stirring things up, as he points out, are conservatives who actively court “communities of color” and Republicans who’ve shown that they’re trying to embrace new thinking.

Smart politicians, Phillips says,

will “invest wisely” by speaking directly through media outlets that are important and relevant to voters in order to keep the New American Majority’s attention and retain their support. Both parties must examine ways to bring “justice” and, therefore, equality to constituents. They need to cultivate “great cultural competence and expertise.” And they’ll have to “educate themselves about the realities of the lives of people of color.”

Jam-packed with statistics, numbers, and thoughts that whirl

around the pages, ‘Brown is the New White’ is interesting, but it’s not a book to finish in a weekend. There’s so much inside here to comprehend, that you may not even finish it this month.

Author Steve Phillips pulls together plenty of intriguing ideas, history, and cause-and-effect tales but too many stats, which often muddy his points. He seems to go off-topic, sometimes slightly, but enough to cause me to stop and wonder where this was going. And yet, what he says is compelling

and impossible to ignore; to wit, we are on the verge of something that could be exciting, if we only coalesce.

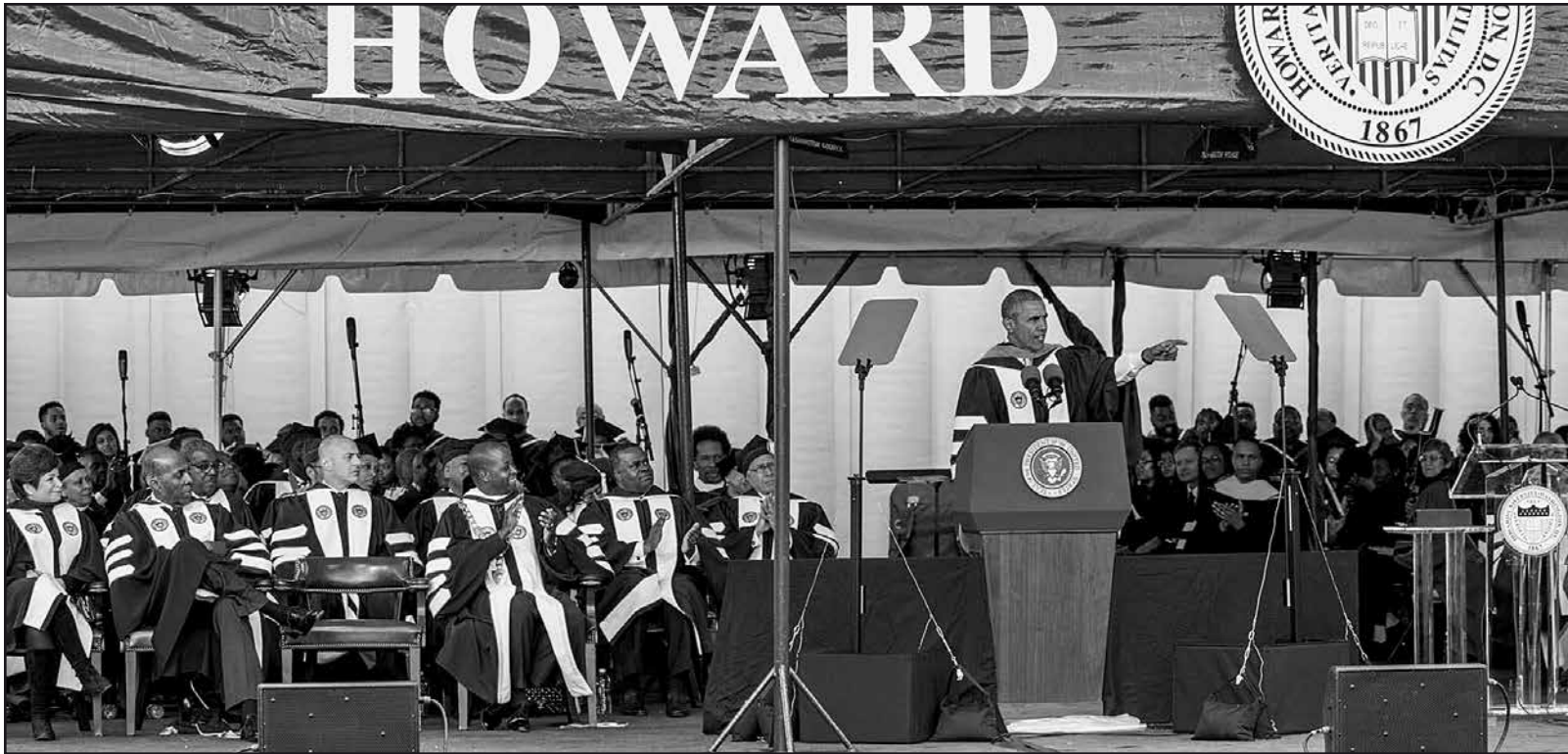
To reach that point, there are suggestions here, some of which may be controversial and some of which will require serious work. Still, though this book is definitely on the heavy side, what you’ll eventually learn is meaningful, particularly in this election year. For anyone over 18, “Brown is the New White” could be a book that matters.



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# President Obama Urges Howard Grads to Continue Needed Change



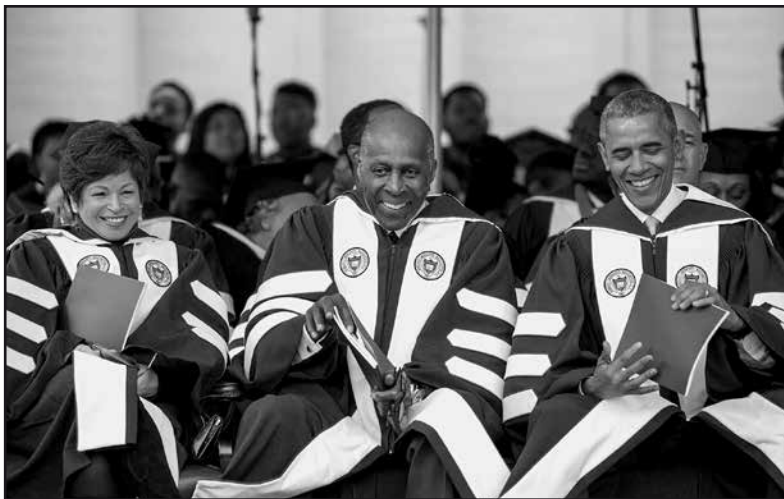
From left, Presidential adviser Valerie Jarrett, Vernon Jordan, President Obama. Vernon Jordan, a legendary figure in the civil rights movement, presented President Barack Obama with an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree at Howard University's commencement ceremony. (Cheriss May, Howard University News Service)

## By Howard University News Service

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama told the graduates of one of the nation's leading historically black universities that America is "a better place today" than it was when he graduated from college, but more work needs to be done and urged them to be involved in the political process if they want to see change.

"When you don't vote, you give away your power," Obama said told the more than 2,300 graduates of Howard University. "Change is the effort of committed citizens ... Change requires more than speaking out; it requires listening to those with whom you disagree, and being prepared to compromise."

Obama received an honorary doctorate of science from the university. It was presented by civil



President Obama on main stage at Howard University Commencement. (Cheriss May, Howard University News Service)

rights icon Vernon Jordan.

Under overcast sky and the constant threat of rain, Obama told the graduates and their families that there were no Black CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and few Black

judges when he received a bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 1983.

"A lot of folks didn't even think Blacks had the tools to be a quarterback," he said. "When I was a

graduate, the main Black hero on TV was Mr. T."

Today, he said, "we're producers, studio executives. We're no longer small-business owners, we're CEOs. We're mayors, representatives."

He said there is still work for Howard's graduates and others to do.

"Racism persists, inequality persists," he said.

He cited income inequality, as well as disparities in unemployment, pay and criminal justice. Disease and conflict worldwide, along with new challenges from terrorism and climate change are also problems that need to be addressed, he said.

"So, make no mistake Class of 2016, you've got plenty of work to do," he said. "So, enjoy the party, because you're going to be busy."

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