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New Orleans

# Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

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## The Mystic Krewe of Femme Fatale Halloween Bash

Data Zone Page 6

November 5 - November 11, 2016 51st Year Volume 28 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# General Election 2016



Hillary Clinton



Cedric Richmond



Regina Bartholomew-Woods



Caroline Fayard



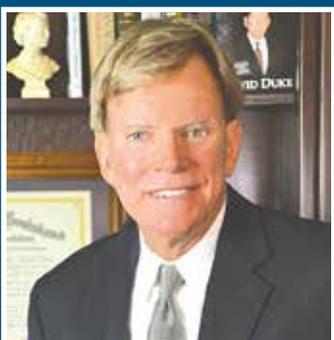
David Alvarez



Alvin Crusto, Jr.

## Data News Weekly Endorsements

Page 2



**Newsmaker**  
Dillard Students Protest David Duke

Page 4

## Fashion

Delaney's Armoire: The Spice Girl Project



Page 5

# Data News Weekly Additional Endorsements



Hillary Clinton



Cedric Richmond



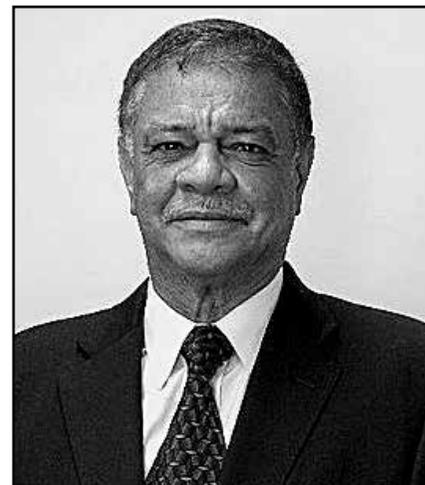
Regina Bartholomew-Woods



Caroline Fayard



David Alvarez



Alvin Crusto, Jr.

**By Data News Weekly Editorial Staff**

The day has finally come where we will go to the polls to vote for President of the United States, in addition to statewide and local offices. True to our motto as "The People's Paper" Data News Weekly encourage our readers to go out and vote. We feel this is the most

important election of the 21st century. In this election there are truly differences in the positions and visions of the candidates running for President of the United States. We cannot let hate and division win on Election Day and turn back the hands of time and all the hard work of those who came before us fighting in our struggle for equality.

So we ask you to please get out and exercise your civic duty and vote on November 8th. To help with your decision making, Data News Weekly has created a list of endorsed candidates that have the experience, drive and goodwill to drive progress in this state and nation.

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

## INSIDE DATA

Newsmaker . . . . .	4	In The Spirit . . . . .	9
Fashion . . . . .	5	National News . . . . .	10
Datazone . . . . .	6	Style . . . . .	11
Commentary . . . . .	8		

## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

### Oct. 22, 2016 Endorsed Candidates.

#### President: Hillary Clinton

In the race for President of the United States the choice is clear; Hillary Clinton has the temperament, intelligence, and experience to lead.

#### Louisiana 2nd Congressional District: Cedric Richmond

Throughout his political career Cedric Richmond has fought for the people of the district and beyond.

#### Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal: Regina Bartholomew-Woods

Regina Bartholomew-Woods has the experience and right temperament, and proven-track record to promote justice on the bench.

#### U.S. Senate: Caroline Fayard

Caroline Fayard is a fresh face, but has proven to be a strong advocate for the state of Louisiana.

### Additional Endorsements

#### Orleans Parish School Board District 6 David Alvarez:

Data News Weekly endorses a reformer, innovator and visionary David Alvarez in the race for the Orleans Parish School Board in District 6 that covers the Carrollton/Tulane area of Uptown New Orleans. Alvarez is an education and civic leader in his community. He has a master's degree in education administration, and works as a consultant evaluating student performance and behavioral health programs. He is also the vice president of the Carrollton-Riverbend Neighborhood Association. His platform includes creating transparency and accountability in the education system and providing quality education for all young people in New Orleans regardless of their racial and socioeconomic background. He has the heart and compassion to lead and we believe he is the best choice in this race. Alvarez is someone that will restore hope and be a voice for all the children and not only a few. This is why we endorse David Alvarez, a true

advocate for our children's future.

#### Orleans Parish School Board District 7 Alvin Crusto Jr.

Alvin Crusto Jr., is a man filled with passion, purpose and competence. He possesses the qualities that are needed for a school board that will be facing new challenges as schools from the Recovery School District will become part of the Orleans Parish School Board. This transformative time requires someone with real-life experience inside the schools. Crusto comes armed with several decades in the classroom as well as administrative experience. He is a veteran who's served in the armed forces and introduced the highly regarded Young Marines Program at McDonough 28 helping many of the City's youth. Crusto is also a candidate whose record of excellence matches his rhetoric. He is a dedicated reformer whose many achievements include being named "Teacher of the Year" multiple times and also Who's Who Among Teachers. Outside of education he is a civic leader giving his time to many worthy

causes that help students, families and citizens of New Orleans. He is what the board needs; a strong voice with local ties and is unafraid to say what some may not in our changing City. We need someone with, courage and integrity who will be that voice and that person is Alvin Crusto Jr.; a proven leader fighting for all the children of New Orleans to receive a quality education. This is why Data News Weekly is endorsing Alvin Crusto Jr., someone who stands with and for the people of his district and the City of New Orleans.

### Amendments

Not only is New Orleans and Louisiana voting for candidates that will influence politics, but amendments, too. Here is a list of three important amendments you should vote in favor or against.

**1. Voter Registrar.** Data News Weekly says NO on this amendment. If the voter registrar amendment is passed, current and future registrars will have to have at least four years of college and two years of work experience, or seven years total work experience. The amendment discrimi-

nates against many registrars currently working in the city. Currently, Registrars go through rigorous training before serving the community.

**2. College Tuition.** Data News Weekly says YES. While this amendment puts the state and voters in a difficult position, one must understand that public schools have their funding cut recklessly. In order to protect the value and sustainability of the public colleges, and in order for them to best serve the public, state-funded schools should be able to increase tuition to prevent further cutbacks, enrollment retractions, and the job loss of important faculty and staff.

**3. Tax benefits for spouses of slain military, law enforcement.** Data News Weekly says YES. If passed, this bill will allow spouses of slain police officers, fire fighters or armed service member who died in active service would be exempt from paying property tax on their home. This benefit will only affect people who lose spouses in active duty in 2017.

For a full list of Data News Weekly's first round of endorsements, visit [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com).

**"WHEN THEY GO LOW, WE GO HIGH!"**

**"This November, when we go to the polls this election and every election...is about who will have the power to shape our children for the next four or eight years of their lives."**

*~ Michelle Obama*

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# Dillard Students Voice Concern over David Duke Presence on Campus

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Dillard Students in New Orleans are not happy with their university right now because of its decision to host the Second Senatorial Debate in Louisiana.

## The Senatorial Debate

On Sept. 26, 2016, Dillard University was contacted by Fox 8 to hold a private Louisiana Senatorial Debate. When Dillard took the bid, the participating candidates were not specified by the station.

Fox 8 announced the six candidates in the senatorial race on Oct. 26, 2016. The list of candidates includes: John Kennedy, Foster Campbell, Caroline Fayard, Charles Boustany, and John Flem-

ing. On the bottom of the list was Republican candidate David Duke.

According to Fox, candidates needed to score a poll of 5 percent or higher in current elections polls. David Duke scored last at 5.1 percent.

The debate is set to air on Wednesday, Nov. 2nd from the University. The debate is hosted by John Snell with questions posed by journalist from Fox affiliate stations across the state. The event is not open to the public.

## Students Respond

On Monday, Oct. 31st, a group identified as Socially Engaged Dillard University Students issued a letter to local media, expressing their distaste in Dillard's choice to host the senatorial debate including David Duke.



David Duke has a track record of supporting the Ku Klux Klan and other White supremacy movements. Photo via David Duke's Twitter.

"This is simply outrageous," The Socially Engaged Dillard University Students wrote.

"We are aware of the importance of this upcoming election, however, we cannot and will not allow this disrespect and continuance of racism and oppression on a campus we call ours (the Black community), where we are educated to respect ourselves and our disciplines, and to which we pay a hefty tuition and fees."

The students described David Duke as "the New-Nazi KKK Grand Wizard."

In an official statement, Dillard University said it does not endorse David Duke by hosting the debate. The University ensured its students that it will work with the station to maintain safety on campus.

"We write to you today not only to express our hurt and shame, but also to fight for our ancestors and

their struggles," students wrote.

"How dare this administration stand for Duke's 'safety' and not fight for our security and right to learn in a healthy space."

The students, in their letter to local media, sent a list of demands that the university should accept for hosting the debate on campus.

The list includes 1) all non-university-certified cars to be parked off campus. 2) Include a minimal of 150 students to attend the debate by random lottery. 3) A statement from Dillard condemning racist and offensive actions 4) Clearance to protest during the day of the debate, and 5) Take all the money obtained from hosting it to the debate and apply it to student-sponsored events against racism.

## CUMULUS RADIO & DATA NEWS WEEKLY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

### POWER-TO-VOTE



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Election Day

### POWER-TO-VOTE

Cumulus Radio & Data News Weekly will cover the Crescent City with Presidential Election Day voting awareness, reports and pictures of the voting public.

Through the day Data Readers and Cumulus Radio listeners can track community voting awareness information at [ladatanews.com](http://ladatanews.com), [power 102 9.com](http://power1029.com) and [old school 106 7 .com](http://oldschool1067.com), City of New Orleans Registrar of Voters Office and Louisiana Secretary of State Office.

Data News Weekly and Cumulus Radio are joining together for a special community partnership to provide the unique cultural elements of urban news, political awareness and lifestyle and entertainment stories.

**"BECAUSE TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

with

**The Power-To-Vote**

# Spice Girl Project Review



**Delaney George**  
Columnist

The eccentric, vibrant, forever young essence of the famous "Spice Girls," Band was reincarnated at City Park last Tuesday through the vision of a young 23-year-old Stylist Syrajh Hamilton.

Born and raised in New Orleans, Hamilton has been styling for over five years; involving himself in concept photography, artist styling, and various local fashion shows and events in New Orleans.

Hamilton's concepts and visuals incorporate New Orleans lifestyle, authentic New Orleans landmarks, as well as always keeping locals involved in his projects.

"I aspire to make a statement through clothing that's as loud as my personality," Hamilton said.

The Spice Girls photoshoot took place in City Park's playground, where local New Orleans model Mariah Robey, dressed in dynamic patterns from head-to-toe, accompanied by an array of colors as a background.

"New Orleans is a very colorful City, you can find vibrant inspira-



Hamilton helps his model into her vintage jean jacket. Fixing some last-minute touches to insure is vision comes without flaw.

tion anywhere, even in a simple playground," Hamilton said. The stylist bases his career on his wild styling abilities and unique but notable shoot locations. Hamilton has conducted shoots at places such as American Apparel, Manning's, Nola



Mariah Robey strikes a pose on the City park playground as Syrajh Hamilton directs from behind the scenes.

Music Awards and The West inn.

"I always listened to The Spice

Girls as a kid, it's funny how I get to represent them now. I'm just glad Syrajh chose me to help bring his vision to life," Robey said.

Hamilton will be working on another visual project late this November titled "The Perfect Guy" a GQ inspired series. He welcomes locals to attend what he calls "live shoots" as well.

"I love showcasing what I do in person rather than social media, especially when it's being showcased to the people I do it for," Hamilton said.

Hamilton will also be releasing a fall/winter clothing line from his brand Syrajhoxo. To see more from the young New Orleans Stylist, visit [www.Syrajhoxo.org](http://www.Syrajhoxo.org) or keep up with all his release dates and events via Instagram @Syrajhoxo.



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# Witches, Warlocks and Femme Halloween

**Eric Craig**  
Multimedia Editor

On Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 Mystic Krewe of Femmes held its Halloween Bash at the Regency Hall in New Orleans. The party had a costume contest, live music, food and plenty of dancing. At the party was the Krewe's Queen Select, Dawn R. Bentley-Johnson and President Gwendolyn V. Rainey.

The Mystic Krewe of Femmes was founded in 2013, and holds values of fellowship, and the promotion of friendship, among its members. For more photos, go to [Ladatanews.com](http://Ladatanews.com) or visit us on Facebook @DataNewsWeek



*“Louisiana is ready for a new generation of leadership, and a new kind of leader. I’m running for the United States senate to help move Louisiana forward, and to fight for the values that make us who we are.”*

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# A Conversation with New Orleans' Best Local Radio Host TPot and Stevie G

## Eric Craig Multimedia Editor

In New Orleans, there are 39 local radio stations, and only one has the rated best local radio host in the City: B97, WEZB 97.1 FM.

At 2 p.m. every weekday, Stephen and Tierza Guggenheimer, better known as Stevie G and TPot, host "The Afternoon Swirl," a show dedicated to top hits, pop-culture talk and various other life topics. What's the best part? It's all from a point of view of a New Orleans married couple.

For the past two years in a row, the duo has won "Best Local Radio Host" in Gambit Weekly.

While the duo spends most of their day discussing funny topics, interviewing artist, answering listeners and playing the top-40 hits, what are they like behind the scenes?

## Running the Show

TPot and Stevie agreed that running an on-air, live show can be difficult. But with a little effort, and God-given synergy, the duo makes it happen.

"It's never actually planned," Stevie said, referring to the set-up of the show.

"The serendipity of it is that we're able to slip in or out of being the funny one and following



Stevie G and TPot have hosted The Afternoon Swirl for over 10 Years

along. We don't have to communicate who does what," he added.

While the witty performance of the two is refined by practice, skill and a little bit of luck, it's not the hardest part of working on the radio station.

"The hardest part if when I get feedback is when they're right and you're wrong. It's hard to admit when you're wrong," Stevie said

While feedback can be hard, working at B97 is no easy feat.

"Everything you hear on the radio one of us has done, one of

us has pushed a button," Stevie said. "We don't just talk."



Stevie and TPot handle on-air phone calls, edit sound bites and recorded phone calls, queuing commercials, music and more without staff.

While the job can be tough, the couple found their work to be very rewarding.

"Talking to listeners, or when I get to know them and recognize their voice, is always really fun for me" TPot said.

"I really enjoy doing that. I feel like that really makes people's

day and add a personal touch to the show."

The Duo currently hosts "The Afternoon Swirl" every weekday from 2-6 p.m. Additionally, they are on 504TV every Thursday with Sheba Turk.

For more on the spot coverage of the duo, follow their segment channel on Facebook and Twitter @Afternoonswirl.

## Fun Facts about Stevie G

Hobbies other than radio: Wrote a full length novel titled Dirt Nap Rhapsody, and knows how to code for web, iOS and other platforms.

## Fun Fact about TPot

What makes you laugh: "You want to get me? Put some clothes on an animal."

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# A Mockery of a Democracy 5

## Election Day 2016 Trump vs. Clinton, A House Divided

*Questions for the People of a nation where Propaganda, Espionage, Scandals, and a Fact Free Zone threatens to lead to a Civil War in 21st Century America and How We Can Prevent It?*



By Edwin Buggage  
Editor, Data News Weekly

### What Happens when a Reality Television Candidate is a Step Away from the White House?

We are near the end of an election cycle that's taken political discourse to new lows. From the fact-free zone of the Trump campaign to the espionage of the wiki-leaks hack from Russia, to salacious details of allegations of sexual assault and threats to put a political opponent in jail. I ask is this the United States or some Third World country?

We ask ourselves what is the cause of a portion of the American electorate to buy into fool's gold. I say this as a member of the media that in some ways our industry is culpable in this race to the bottom. In recent years, the prestige press/mainstream media in looking for

ratings have reduced political discourse to an ESPN like sporting event, talent competition or TMZ gossip stories replacing real news. They have in many ways enabled Trump and created sensational rolling coverage of stuff he says on Twitter. Instead of looking at it in a serious way why some Americans with legitimate concerns about the future of America has turned to a reality show host and demagogue to articulate their frustration with the status quo. This would in my view as opposed to covering Trump, would have been more responsible and helping us understand who these people are and in the end leading to a more constructive dialog among the voters that would lead to healing after the election and a government that works for the people.

### America in the 21st Century: How to Build Bridges in a Divided America

In addition, we must also ask ourselves the more important question after this election who have we become as a nation, but the larger question is after November 8th, is who will we become? We must ask

ourselves where is the larger vision for a nation that a young J.F.K. in 1961 during his Inaugural address asked citizens the question "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country." Or the inspirational words of M.L.K. who spoke at the March on Washington in 1963 of a dream "where one day people will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their character." Can we today find this common ground that will lead us forward as a nation as we forge ahead or will we become more divided? If we continue down this road we will no longer be the greatest nation the world has ever known in modern times. It is in these days we must harken back to the words of Jesus in the book of Matthew, "If a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

This is where we are in America. We must stand together or we will perish together. We must find those common bonds and recognize we are more alike than different. We cannot let the political ideas separate us from what I feel is at the root of all our being and that is decent caring sometimes passionate people who happen to disagree about a

candidate. But in the big scheme of things we are all Americans and we must come together after this election. We cannot let divisive rhetoric kill the spirit of the great nation that we have become.

### Recipe for a Better America: Love, Understanding and Open Dialog Trumps Hate, Polarization and Division

After this election, the people of this nation must hit reset and figure out a way to be civil, meet each other in the middle and get things done in the areas of public policy. Because if we are to continue to be a great country we must help those who are the most in need; it is like as a chain is only as strong as its weakest link; a country is only as strong as its most vulnerable citizens. So, we must do something to lift those out of poverty and find ways for all our citizens who play by the rules to live a life of peace, dignity and prosperity.

Thinking of this idyllic state brings me back to eight years ago and the feeling many had at the first Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama, the nation's first African-American President. In

2009 this historic event happens to fall on M.L.K. Day. It was an amazing event, people from all walks of life coming together believing we were stronger together and that hope and change were on the horizon. On this cold day people shed tears of joy as we were celebrating the birth of a new nation; one where race was no longer a barrier for someone seeking the Presidency of the United States. This road we charted down during these storied times is still a passable one; as we see a country where there are more "We" in we the people living the American Dream. And I see the possibility of it becoming a greater reality every day when today I look at my eight-year-old daughter's class photo I see a rainbow of children of different colors smiling together. I think this is the America I would like to see her grow up in and be part of, I think most people would agree. So, let's do what we can together to make this a reality for future generations where love, understanding and open dialog can Trump hate, division and misunderstanding. And Americas can be civil towards each other and continue expanding the lanes of our great democracy.

# Donald Trump is Straight Up Lying About Voter Fraud



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

I watched the Presidential debate on October 19 in both awe and horror. Awe, because I truly do not understand Mr. Trump's temerity to lie, interrupt, sniff, sigh, and interject offensive comments ("such a nasty woman") in lieu of disagreement. The horror came

when Mr. Trump asserted that he would not necessarily accept the result of an election he has described as "rigged" (actually, in Trump's world, anything that does not go his way is rigged – debates, primary elections, Emmy Awards). Trailing in the polls, Mr. Trump is playing the same racial games he has played throughout the elections, suggesting that there is massive voter fraud in cities like Philadelphia and Detroit, cities with large African American populations, that dead people are voting, and that millions of voter registration records are wrong.

There have been dozens of reports that refute the Trump claims.

According to analysis by a professor at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, Calif., only 31 of more than 1 billion votes cast since 2000 have been fraudulent. The Brennan Center for Justice, housed at the New York University School of Law has studied voter fraud and found that allegations are most often unfounded. Trump also cited a Pew Center study that indicated that one in eight voter registrations might be inaccurate. But Pew says inaccurate registration may not be fraudulent ones. As an example, some people have not changed their addresses, and will do so before they attempt to vote again. These folks aren't committing fraud, they've simply

moved. The Pew Center says that our nation's voter registration system needs an upgrade. They have not identified massive voter fraud as a problem. Donald Trump, though, is the master of manipulative repetition. Just like he hammered on "Little Marco," "Low Energy Jeb" and "Crooked Hillary," now he is hammering on voter fraud, whether it is accurate or not. At least one fact-checker has detailed how wrong Trump is and has described his claims as "bogus."

Claims of voter fraud divert attention from a more significant issue: that voter suppression makes it more difficult for many to vote. Too many states have instituted new

voter ID laws, reduced the number of early voting days, consolidated precincts (forcing people to travel further to vote), and purged people from voting registration polls. Several organizations are providing backup for voters, including the website [www.iwillvote.com](http://www.iwillvote.com) that allows people to check their voter registration. But with registration deadlines closing in this handful of days before the election, it is likely that some people who want to vote will not have the opportunity.

This voter suppression has been deliberately, and it has had a parti-

Commentary, Continued  
on page 9.

Spiritually Speaking...

# If You Woke Up this Morning, You Need to Read This



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

The closest person in the world is responsible for this one. It's all about praying and meditating in the morning. I have watched a personal transformation right before my very eyes. I've watched as the quest for the habitual has become the reality of ritual, so much so, that it's something I am trying to emulate. As a concept, it's actually pretty easy to do. In the morning, I am not particularly in need of anything, but

I understand now that calling upon the Lord is an act of spiritual clarification. From evening prayer to dawn's affirmation of God's power, I have definitely taken this time as much for granted as anyone. After some Morning Prayer practice, it's becoming apparent that I need to thank God for seeing me through the night. I ask Him to order my steps, guide my thoughts and allow me to do something during the course of the day to give indication of a deep appreciation for allowing me to wake up.

If you allow yourself to concentrate on what God has done for you on any given day, then it becomes obvious that He is indeed here and working wonders on your behalf. If you do not believe, try this. At the end of today, take a moment and reflect on those things that you can

think of that prove God was with you all day. Start with this morning, because you really didn't have to wake up. If you hadn't noticed, some people didn't. If you drove, flew, took a cab somewhere and arrived safely, you might want to give God a little credit for your being accident free. You might have even passed one on your way. Can you remember seeing anyone in need of food, clothing, a few dollars, maybe a bath? But it wasn't you? All "natural disasters" on this day missed your house. No floods? No tornadoes? No hurricanes? No earthquakes? While I'm at it, how's your family? Are your kids healthy? Are they simply alive and still breathing today? Is someone you know under intense pressure, emotionally, financially or physically? Did you get called about a now deceased dear

friend, colleague or relative? Can you begin to see where I'm coming from? God's Hand is everywhere in your life, if you just stop being busy and take a good look. I promise you if you just slow down a bit, you'll see God's presence time and again in your life; that is, if you can see past your ego or maybe it's your never thought about it attitude.

Once you begin to realize that God is present all the time, then, prayer easily and rapidly becomes praise. I mean once you recognize the real possibility that God held "my" hand today, then it stands to reason that a genuine thank you is in order. So now out of any sleep I'm awakening from comes a hand palms open with a praise that goes something like this: 'Thank you Father God for seeing me through the night. Stay with me and remind

me during the course of this day of your infinite blessings bestowed upon me. Let me do something. Let me say something today to make you proud and show you my appreciation of your giving me the time and opportunity to demonstrate who I am and whose I am to the world.' The words might change from time to time, but the intent is the same. I hope to no longer take my consciousness for granted. There's a reason my eyes were opened and I must acknowledge I had nothing to do with it. As such, I think it prudent to acknowledge the One responsible and look for His purpose after that. The next step for me then is to try and maintain a consistent spiritual posture. I know it's not easy. The world will test you. But since God was gracious enough

**Spirit, Continued on page 11.**

**Commentary, Continued from page 8.**

san skewing. Why can a gun registration be used as appropriate voter identification, but not a student ID? Rule shifting has gained the attentions of conservative appeals courts. As an example, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Texas voided Texas Voter ID laws. Wisconsin's voter restrictions were also disallowed. Most notably, a federal appeals court shot North Carolina down and, were uncharacteristically critical. The court wrote that, "Although the new provisions target African Americans with almost surgical precision, they constitute inapt remedies for the problems assertedly justifying them and, in fact, impose cures for problems that did not exist."

Is there voter fraud? If only 31 cases, out of a billion votes, were found fraudulent, we can say that there is a bit of fraud, something that is less than a fraction of one percent. At the same time, voting restrictions imposed in 2014 and 2015 were set to block over 1.3 million voters in Ohio, Nor Carolina, Virginia, and Wisconsin, all swing states. Should we be more concerned about voter fraud (31 claims out of one billion votes cast) or the 1.3 million Americans who have been deliberately and "surgically" excluded from the voting process through voter suppression?

African Americans know rigged elections. Our voices have too often been rigged out of the electoral process. Fannie Lou Hamer was beaten to within an inch of her life because she dared organize people to vote. Medgar Evers was killed because he dared organize Black folks to vote. Our people overcame grandfather clauses, voter tests, and all kinds of other nonsense in order to vote. We know voter suppression. When Donald Trump talks about elections being rigged, he exhibits, again, his historical ignorance. Every time Black folks were excluded from the voting process, we accepted the outcome. We accepted the democratic process.

Now Trump has millions of rabid followers who inhale his every word. His irresponsible allegations of rigged elections may well mobilize his base to reject the integrity of the electoral process. Some of us know all we need to know about rigged elections. We know voter suppression personally and immediately. And we know that Mr. Trump has disqualified himself for leadership by saying he cannot commit to an electoral outcome that does not favor him.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit [www.julianmalveaux.com](http://www.julianmalveaux.com).

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# Days Before the Election, Clinton Talks about Criminal Justice, Jobs and Education with the Black Press

By Cash Michaels  
NNPA News Wire Contributor

[RALEIGH] In an exclusive interview with North Carolina's African-American press, Hillary Clinton said the even though she is running to benefit all Americans, the first woman expected to be elected president of the United States on Nov. 8th does have a special focus on working with the African-American community and its leaders — both local and national — to improve employment, business, education, and other important quality of life issues.

"I want to pay particular attention to Americans who feel left out and left behind by the economy, or the situation in their communities," the former First Lady, senator and United States Secretary of State said Oct. 23rd at St. Augustine's

University in Raleigh, a historically Black college, during perhaps one of her last sit-down interviews of the campaign.

"I've laid out a really extensive agenda for African-Americans, starting with improving the economy so that its producing more jobs for more people; raising the national minimum wage — [we've] got mostly women earning minimum wage, often times being the sole support of their children, and they deserve a better economic opportunity," she said. Clinton also cited more affordable housing as a need.

She maintained that getting equal pay for women as a "particularly big issue for African-American women," adding that black female small business owners are "the fastest growing segment of the small business world in our country."

"[But] they're running into cred-



Hillary Clinton, Democratic presidential nominee, discusses the issues in an exclusive with veteran journalist, Cash Michaels, editor of The Carolinian in Raleigh and a Peacemaker contributor. (The Carolinian)

it... [and] regulatory problems. We've got to look at those, not just from a 30,000-foot view, but right

down on the ground. What is it that stands in the way of men or women getting their businesses going?"

Improving higher education not only through the proposal she and Sen. Bernie Sanders have developed to make public universities "tuition-free" for students from families making \$125,000 or less, but also creating a "dedicated \$25 billion fund" to help private historically black colleges and universities like St. Augustine's and Shaw universities to continue to grow.

"Taking on systemic racism," something she has "talked very openly and specifically about," is something Clinton added to her pronounced agenda for African-Americans. She points towards reforming the criminal justice system "from end to end" to help stem the tide of questionable fatal police shootings of black people, improving police training, and building greater respect between law enforcement and the African-American community.

"I particularly want to provide more diversion from the criminal justice system and more second chance programs for people who have paid their debt to society so that we begin to reverse what has been an over incarceration that has really disrupted communities."

"But I also have to do more to heal the divides that we face in our country, and I'm taking all of this on because I want to build on the progress that Pres. Obama has made. I don't want to see it reversed or ripped away." And yet, a "President" Hillary Clinton's approach would be from "a different perspective that will hopefully get even more people listening," she says.

Clinton certainly disagrees with Donald Trump's assessment that African-Americans "live in hell," instantly exclaiming, "Oh that's so wrong," and then adding "One of many insulting, divisive comments that Trump made was his characterization of African-American communities. It just shows he's never been in any, he doesn't know any people, he has no idea of the dynamism of small business or the importance of historically black colleges and universities, or the role that black churches play, or black professionals, and every walk of life."

"He has characterized in such a negative way what I see as a part of America that has a lot going for it, but [also] has some challenges that we must honestly address."

Mrs. Clinton said she'd like to see "a much bigger effort" when it comes to upgrading skills training so that more people can actually qualify for the 1.2 million available jobs in the marketplace. She says she wants to accomplish this challenge literally on a "neighborhood by neighborhood" basis, working with local officials, businesses and faith leaders who know the most about their own communities, and bring different perspectives to the table.

When asked if "President" Hillary Clinton's United States Justice Department would continue to pursue the strengthening of voting rights, keeping in mind the US Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that the Republican-led NC General Assembly deliberately suppressed African-American voters with "surgical precision," Clinton immediately said, "Yes, a hundred percent."

She furthered that she was "proud" of the efforts of both US Atty. Gen. Loretta Lynch and her predecessor, Eric Holder, to beat back unconstitutional voter ID laws in North Carolina and across the nation. However Clinton also blasted the US Supreme Court for striking down Section 4(b) of the 1965, effectively taking away the Justice Dept's most effective tools in policing how various states are upholding the 1965 Voting Rights Act [VRA].

Clinton lamented that the High Court crippled the VRA, especially since Democrats and Republicans

National News,  
Continued on page 11.

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## The Curly Corner

# Why My Natural Hair is Professional



**Destiny Johnson**  
Natural Hair Columnist

When I interviewed for my first job as a full-time teacher, I straightened my hair. I felt that wearing long, straight hair would allow my future employer to recognize my credentials instead of being distracted by my hair. I wore flat ironed hair for about a few months into the job before I began to wear my natural hair full-time.

I grew to accept my hair as not only beautiful but professional. I was not in competition or less than someone that was born with naturally straight hair. The tightly curled hair that grew from my head was acceptable and did not need to be "tamed".

Historically, afro-textured hair has been categorized as ugly, unmanageable and unprofessional. In response, Black women and some men altered their hair in order to be tolerated by their straighter haired peers and supervisors. However,

As a middle school teacher, I have the luxury of experimenting with new styles and products daily. My students may see my hair in a luxurious curly afro on Monday but a blow-out by Friday. Although I am not the only Black teacher on staff, my hair is still very unique in comparison to my co-workers. As a result, I still constantly struggle with the question, 'Is this style professional enough to carry myself as a teacher?'

### National News, Continued from page 10.

in the US Senate when she served voted 98-0 to renew the VRA, and then-Pres. George W. Bush signed it.

"I want to appoint people to the [US] Supreme Court who understand, based on what you read in the Fourth Circuit [and other court

findings against Republicans trying to suppress the vote]. I also want to go back to Congress and try to get legislation to fix the heart of the Voting Rights Act..." noting that Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) is leading a bi-partisan effort now "... to reinstate the full reach and power of the VRA."

awakening is worth praising God for. Kind of gives new meaning to that "joy comes in the morning" thing. May God bless and keep you always.

James A. Washington is Publisher of the Dallas Weekly Newspaper. To reach him, email him at jaws@dallasweekly.com

### Spirit, Continued from page 9.

to give me the day, the least I can do is act like I know who the day belongs to. From "goodnight" in the evening to "hello" in the morning gives all of us a real opportunity to understand the simple gift of life. That time between sleep and



tightly-curled hair is already appropriate for the workplace without needing to tame it.

I am no longer apprehensive about wearing my hair in its most voluminous state. When students have questions such as 'why does it grow like that?', I answer them and continue to flaunt the God-given springs reminiscent of all my West African ancestors before me. I am

still a professional woman and my hair is appropriate for the job at hand.

In closing, wear your hair however you feel represents your best self instead of being too preoccupied with how others may perceive you especially in the workplace. Keep those kinks and curls springing while still climbing the ladder toward success.



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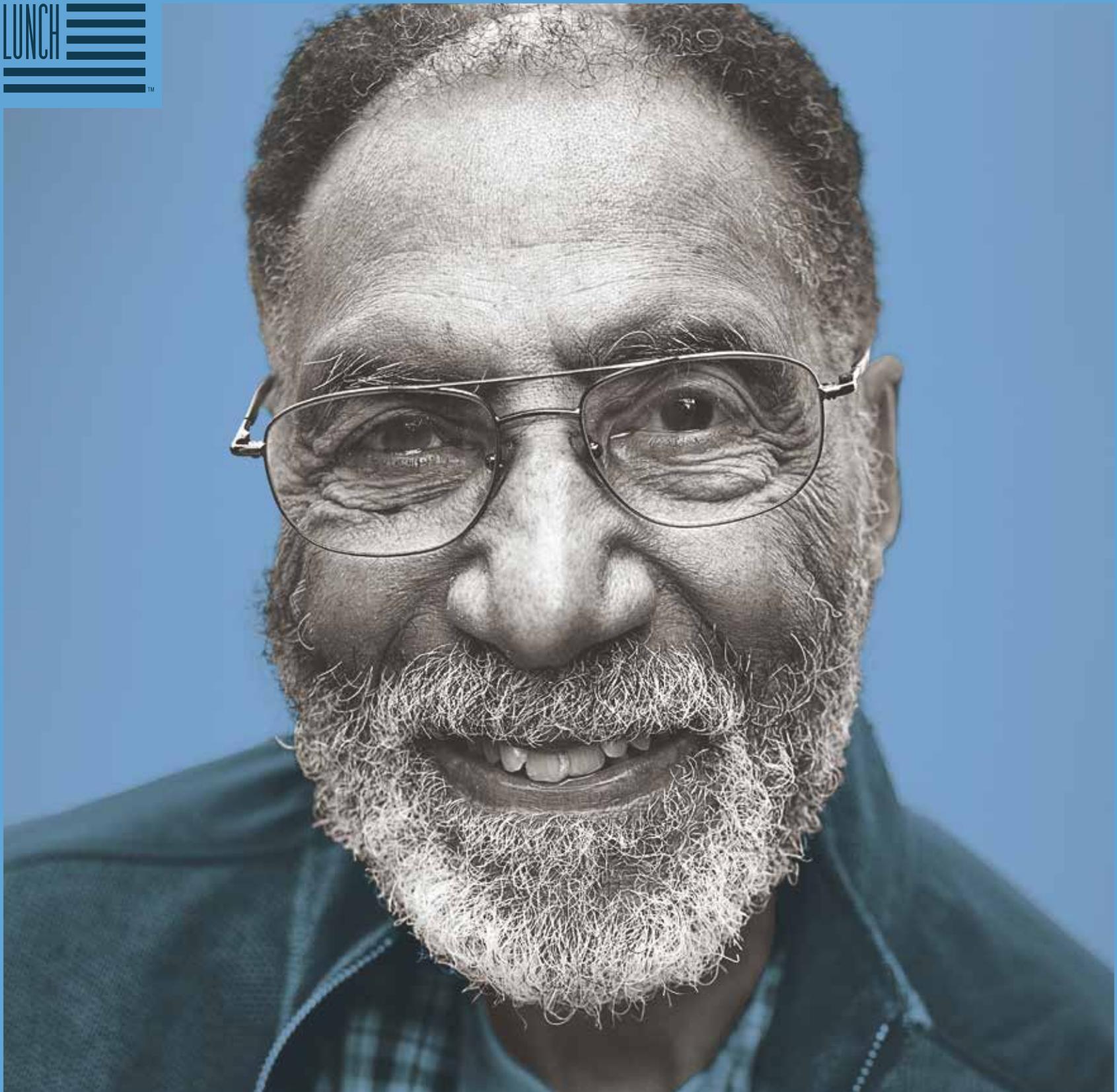
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