"Do you hear me, do you feel me? We gon' be alright." - Kendrick Lamar

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Baldwin Documentary "I Am Not Your Negro" Receives Oscar Nod

On February 1, the first day of Black History Month, the National Museum of African American History and Culture premiered the Oscar-nominated documentary "I Am Not Your Negro," which features commentary by James Baldwin. The film is a tribute to the staggering contribution of one of America's greatest men of letters. Directer Raoul Peck spent ten years completing the film. The documentary was inspired by one of Baldwin's unfinished manuscripts regarding his friendships and views on three of his friends: Medgar Evers, Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. None of the three would live to see their 40th birthdays. Medgar Evers was assassinated in 1963 in Jackson, Miss. Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965 in New York City. King was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tenn.

At the heart of the film, the jarring documentary provides Baldwin's sociopolitical observations and showcases the writer's eloquence and directness as a communicator.

Continue on Page 2

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What Parents and Students Should Know about Charter Schools

Late last year, "The New York Times" and "The Washington Post" criticized the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) for its call for a moratorium on charters. Editorial writers at The Post even got all clever with their Oct. 11 headline, "The NAACP opposes charter schools. Maybe it should do its homework.

Of course, the pun was intended. And it was cute, off beam, but cute.

To be sure, it is both media outlets that need to do a little extra studying when it comes to the question of putting the brakes on charter schools.

First, let's be abundantly clear. When the board of NAACP called for a temporary stop on all existing charters, it was not a call for their shutdown. They have not asked that all existing charters be shutdown. They have not asked for a permanent end to charters. They have not asked the question of putting the brakes on charter schools.

To be sure, it is both media outlets that need to do a little extra studying when it comes to the question of putting the brakes on charter schools.

Congressman Cedric Richmond has been a congressman in New Orleans for the past six years. During his tenure, he has experienced some of the best and worst times in the country and has had a front row seat for all of the action. Now, the 43 year-old congressman has taken on a new challenge as the newly-elected chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), one of the most powerful coalitions in the nation.

When asked why he decided to take on this role the congressman explained, "I have always been interested in serving as Chair of the Caucus, but over the Thanksgiving holiday, I began to contemplate what life was going to be like in the new environment of the Trump Administration and realized that the CBC was going to have to take the lead role in ensuring African Americans have a loud and active voice."

Congressman Cedric Richmond brings new leadership to the CBC.

Continue on Page 2

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Rep. Cedric Richmond Brings New Leadership to the CBC

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Congressman Cedric Richmond brings new leadership to the CBC.

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In This Issue...

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Sports - Page 5

Film Review: 120 Streets
By Dwight Brown (NNPA Newswire Film Critic)

Ready to face anticlimactic Patriots with Super Bowl LI

Inspiration for the Week

"Dipped in chocolate, bronzed in elegance, enamelled with grace, toasted with beauty. My Lord, she's a Black Woman,"

Dr. Josey Ben-Jochannan

Scripture of the Week

Proverbs 31:25

February 9 - 15, 2017

www.BamaMomma.us

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Baldwin Documentary "I Am Not Your Negro" Receives Oscar Nod

Praise ye the Lord. Verses 1 states: "They that be pure in heart, they shall see God."

February 9 - 15, 2017 Page 2

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Church Directory

Greater New Zion Baptist Church
2230 Pine Street, Dallas, TX 75216
Phone: 214-371-2024

Services
Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Church School – 9:00 a.m.
Adult Worship – 8:45 a.m.
Church School – 9:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Missionary Baptist Church
3918 Crozier Street
Dallas, TX 75215
Phone: 214-428-3797

Services
Morning Worship – 10:40 a.m.
Church School – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Adult Worship – 8:45 a.m.
Church School – 9:00 a.m.

Church of Christ
5300 Marvin D. Love Freeway, Dallas, TX 75232
Phone: 214-333-3597

Schedule of Services
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.
Children’s Church – 9:15 a.m.
Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.

Church of Christ
6000 Singing Hills Drive, Dallas, TX 75284
Phone: 214-274-6631

Services
Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.
Church School – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.
Adult Worship – 10:45 a.m.
Church School – 11:00 a.m.

Church of Christ
6800 S. Central Expwy., Dallas, TX 75225
Phone: 214-421-0226

Services
Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.
Church School – 10:15 a.m.

Church of Christ
2813 Marsalis Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75216
Phone: 214-631-5480

Services
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Church School – 10:15 a.m.
Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.
Church School – 11:15 a.m.

Church of Christ
3015 N. Hampton Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75212
Phone: 214-631-5480

Services
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Church School – 10:15 a.m.
Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.
Church School – 11:15 a.m.

Church of Christ
3015 S. Greeland Ave.
Richardson, TX 75081
Phone: 972-483-2567, 972-664-0467

Services
Sunday Morning Worship – 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Church School – 10:15 a.m.
Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.
Church School – 11:15 a.m.

Church of Christ
4000 R.L. Majesty Dr.
Dallas, Texas 75234
Phone: 214-274-6631

Services
Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.
Church School – 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:15 a.m.
Adult Worship – 10:45 a.m.
Church School – 11:00 a.m.

Church of Christ
6800 S. Central Expwy.
Dallas, TX 75225
Phone: 214-421-0226

Services
Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.
Church School – 10:15 a.m.

Church of Christ
3015 N. Hampton Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75212
Phone: 214-631-5480

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Sunday Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:00 a.m.
Church School – 10:15 a.m.
Adult Worship – 11:00 a.m.
Church School – 11:15 a.m.

Church of Christ
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What Parents and Students Should Know about Charter Schools

Continued from Page 1

They have asked, as we can surmise, only that we stop, take a collective breath, and actually determine what has been accomplished or damaged in public education as a result of the proliferation of charter schools across the nation before another charter is granted by a state or local education agency until the following demands are met:

1. Charter schools are subject to the same transparency and accountability standards as public schools.

2. Public funds are not diverted to charter schools at the expense of the public school system.

3. Charter school parents exercise student choice and public schools have a duty to educate.

4. Charter schools cease to perpetuate the facts of segregation of the highest performing children from those whose aspirations may be high, but whose talents are not as obvious.

That seems far enough. In fact, it is more than fair, especially when we consider the impact of this corporate-driven education reform model and the proliferation of charter schools here in New Orleans. If we are especially anxious as the architects of the fake reform movement put their money and programs and convincing Black people that the NAACP is wrong and they must help them. Scratch that. We are mad as hell at the Black folk falling for that narrative.

Indeed, it’s the editorial writers at both The Post and The Times that need to go straight to the principal’s office for attempting to trump the NAACP without having a deep understanding of how the targeting of the public education landscape with charter schools has adversely impacted disenfranchised and marginalized communities.

Make no mistake, New Orleans—home to the nation’s first and only charter school district and the epicenter of a corporate-driven reform effort—serves as the example of why a stop, temporary or otherwise, to charters is needed. Despite grand claims to the contrary, the results of charter schools are available and need to be examined.

According to recent school performance data, the 50 charter schools currently under control of the all-charter Recovery School District for which school performance data is available have earned letter grades as follows:

- A = 0
- B = 7
- C = 16
- D = 19
- F = 6

Let’s analyze this. Two of the 50 are graded “A”; meaning they are in transition from one charter operation to another and have been given additional time before SPS agrees and grades are applied to the campus.

Nineteen (19) of the schools have earned a “C”; and last week, a “C” meant that a performance level was not perfect, not great, just average. So, “average” traditional, locally operated public schools have been labeled “average” by a publicly managed, publicly funded charter operations with non-elected boards that do not have to answer to voters or taxpayers. For the record, that’s like going to your phone service provider to upgrade your gold colored iPhone 6 Plus and getting stuck with a silver color iPhone 6 Plus, with a Siri app that doesn't respond to your voice commands. To be sure, there are charter school boards operating in New Orleans for years that have not seen recent mandates in 50 low state law as it relates to the public posting of their meetings and minutes. Now, if that wasn’t enough to make folk want to pump the brakes on charter schools, consider this: A full 22 of the 50 charter schools operated by the all-charter RSD in New Orleans are either D or F schools, meaning they are close to failing or have failed.

Of course, it’s not all bleak. There are seven charter schools overseen by the RSD that earned performance scores that made them the “B” letter grade. Wait, before you blow up the balloons, hang up the streamers and cut the cake, let’s get a few more facts straight as to why the school closures, takeovers, so-called reform and the charter explosion happened back in 2005 and are still in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

To Be Continued Next Week.