

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



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VOLUME 69 NUMBER 19

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

February 9 - 15, 2017

Hey, Black Child

by Countee Cullen

Hey Black Child
Do you know who you are
Who you really are
Do you know you can be
What you want to be
If you try to be
What you can be

Hey Black Child
Do you know where
you are going
Where you're really going
Do you know
you can learn
What you want to learn
If you try to learn
What you can learn

Hey Black Child
Do you know
you are strong
I mean really strong
Do you know you can do
What you want to do
If you try to do
What you can do

Hey Black Child
Be what you can be
Learn what
you must learn
Do what you can do
And tomorrow
your nation
Will be what you
what it to be

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



James Baldwin in *I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO*, a Magnolia Pictures release.
Photo courtesy of Magnolia Pictures. Photo Credit: © Dan Budnik, all rights reserved.

By Lauren Victoria Burke (NNPA Newswire Contributor)

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.

Director 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 birthday. 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.

Continues on Page 2

Rep. Cedric Richmond Brings New Leadership to the CBC



Congressman Cedric Richmond

By Danny J. Bakewell, Jr. (Executive Editor, Los Angeles Sentinel)

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 look like in the new environment of the Trump Administration and realized that the CBC was going to have to take the lead roll in ensuring African Americans have a loud and active voice."

Continues on Page 2

What Parents and Students Should Know about Charter Schools

By Anitra Brown (Managing Editor, The New Orleans Tribune)

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 charter schools. 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 the opening of additional charter schools nationwide, they suggested only that the impact of the publicly-funded, privately-operated institutions on both equity and excellence in education deserved further scrutiny before another dollar was spent or another public school student was sacrificed in the name of so-called education reform.

They have not asked for a permanent end to charters.

They have not asked that all existing charters be shutdown.

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AVAILABLE ONLINE



Film Review: 100 Streets
By Dwight Brown (NNPA Newswire Film Critic)

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Brady leads epic comeback,
Patriots win Super Bowl LI

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"DIPPED IN CHOCOLATE,
BRONZED IN ELEGANCE,
ENAMELED WITH GRACE,
TOASTED WITH BEAUTY.
MY LORD, SHE'S A BLACK
WOMAN."

DR. YOSEF BEN-JOCHANNAN

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

PROVERBS 31:25



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EDITORIAL PAGE



Rev. Johnny C. Smith
 Editorial Columnist

“A Hallelujah Hymn of Israel”

Psalm 113:1-9

This blessed psalm of praise was sung during three great feasts of Israel: Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacle. This majestic psalm is among the group of Hallel psalms (Psalm 113-118). The word “hallel” means praise. The psalm before us calls for majestic praise and worship of our God because of who He is and certainly what He has done. In this psalm of splendor our God is exalted and praised because He is both the Creator and the Redeemer. Yes, our Lord is worthy of all of our praise and adoration, and let us exalt His name with the psalmist in Psalm 105:1-5, when he says: “O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon His name: make known His deeds among the people. Sing unto Him, sing psalms unto Him: talk ye of all His wondrous works.

Glory ye in His holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the LORD. Seek the LORD, and His strength: seek His face evermore. Remember His marvellous works that He hath done; His wonders, and the judgments of His mouth.”

In addition, we ought to praise Him for saving our souls through Jesus Christ, for I John 5:11-13 says: “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

In verses 1-3, the wonderful psalm before us begins and ends with the expres-

sion “Praise ye the Lord.” Notice verse 1 states: “Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD.” The psalmist calls on the servants to praise the Lord’s name. The Lord’s name should be praised everywhere, from the east to the west as verse 2 puts it: “From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD’s name is to be praised.”

His name represents His attributes such as His holiness, justice, mercy, love, immutability, kindness, omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence. These are some of the attributes that come to my mind; however, these are not all of the attributes that He alone possesses.

In verses 4 and 5, the psalmist says that the Lord should be praised because

He is exalted: “The LORD is high above all nations, and His glory above the heavens” (v. 4). Our God is transcendent, for verses 6-9 states that He is indeed gracious in that He condescends to those of low estate.

In reading these verses, I am so thankful that the Lord condescended to the lowly descendants of Adam (Romans 5:12) by taking on human flesh to die for our sins, for II Corinthians 5:21 states: “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.” This marvelous psalm ends with the same expression as its beginning – “Praise ye the Lord.”

May God Bless!

REP. CEDRIC RICHMOND BRINGS NEW LEADERSHIP TO THE CBC

Continues from Page 1

The congressman felt he was up to the challenge, and in November, his colleagues in the House of Representatives and in the United States Senate elected him to serve as chairman of the caucus.

Richmond knows that the next two years are going to be crucial and that the only way things are going to get accomplished for African Americans and other disenfranchised communities, is if the leadership and members of the caucus have strategic thinking, strategic planning and strategic execution.

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi asked that all Democrats defer to senior members in crucial leadership roles. Congressman Richmond didn’t see this request as a deterrent from running to lead the CBC and ultimately becoming chairman.

“The CBC has never been an organization led or deferred to by seniority and I believed I was best suited to take on this role,” stated the three-term congressional leader; obviously, his colleagues agreed.

As part of Congressman Richmond’s leadership, he has vowed to support the Black Press and Black media throughout the country. He has formed an alliance with past NNPA Chairman Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. and NNPA President Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr., to ensure that African American media is included and plays an active role in sharing important news about national government with the communities that they serve.

Congressman Richmond is a supporter of the Black Press and when asked why he feels it is necessary to take on this challenge the congressman had this to say: “Black Media and particularly the Black Press play an extraordinary role in getting our message out to our communities, print media especially plays an important role, because the Black Press is highly regarded within our communities and people have a greater trust on the information that they receive via the Black Press.”

Richmond continued: “Now that we no longer have a President [Obama], who can or is, willing to call a press conference and get

information out to our people, we must be strategic in working with the Black Press to get our information and our stories to the people.”

Congressman Richmond understands the power and role the federal government plays in supporting all media, and he feels that supporting the Black Press is a key tool in ensuring that the African American community is not ignored in this process.

“The federal government is the largest advertiser in the country and for us to ignore, not support, or cripple our Black Newspapers would be a travesty,” said Richmond. “If we don’t advertise in the Black Press we are not taking advantage of a way to communicate to the millions of African Americans throughout the country. We cannot allow the Black Press to go away or be weakened and I am committed to working with Danny [Bakewell Sr.] and the NNPA to get the federal government more active in advertising in Black newspapers.”

Diversity is a word that, in today’s political climate, is thrown around in almost

every government and corporate office, but rarely have African Americans benefited from these discussions about diversity. Chairman Richmond intends to hold everyone accountable when it comes to making sure that African Americans are part of the diversity discussion.

“Just as we discuss and take diversity very seriously within the House, in regards to employment, we must also lobby for diversity in advertising and take that just as seriously,” said Richmond.

Richmond said that restoring the Voting Rights Act, fighting to raise the minimum wage and creating economic opportunities for African Americans are critical objectives on the CBC’s agenda. He recently met with the national leaders of most of the major African American civil rights groups and they have agreed to meet regularly to organize and function in unison to move forward with a unified Black Agenda.

Richmond said, “We have been through tough times before and this is no different.”

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

Continues from Page 1

Peck credits Baldwin with changing his life after he read "The Fire Next Time" when he was a teenager.

"The starting point of the movie are the words of a person, a great author, James Baldwin," Peck said at the The Hollywood Reporter's Documentary Oscar Roundtable. "My job was to put myself in the background. I knew those words since I was 15 years old.

"If I can summarize the essential part of Baldwin, it is the ability and obligation to always question whatever

truth is put in front of you. Beginning with images, beginning with stories, beginning with cinema. This is something that I learned very early on," Peck told a reporter last week. "And Baldwin gave me the words and the instruments to do that, to be able to deconstruct whatever was put in front of me—ideology, stories, narrative—very concretely."

Baldwin was an American social critic, novelist, essayist, playwright and poet. His essays, as collected in "Notes of a Native Son" (1955), explore issues of race and class differences in

a poignant, sometimes provocative way. His books include "The Fire Next Time" (1963), "Giovanni's Room" (1965), "No Name in the Street" (1972), and "The Devil Finds Work" (1976).

There hasn't been anyone who has been able to duplicate the power of Baldwin since his death at 63 in France in 1987. Baldwin confronted the "moral monsters" of racism in the United States and dealt with the complex social and psychological pressures confronting Black people in America. Baldwin often challenged White Americans on the question of racism.

"It does matter any longer what you do to me," Baldwin said in an interview in 1965. "The problem now is how are you going to save yourselves?"

Lauren Victoria Burke is a political analyst who speaks on politics and African American leadership. She is also a frequent contributor to the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com. Connect with Lauren by email at LBurke007@gmail.com and on Twitter at @LVBurke.

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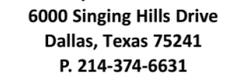
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Schedule of Activities

Sunday

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Church School- 9AM
Morning Worship- 10AM

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Harlee Glover
Fred Green
Raymond Hart
David Phillips, Jr.
Johnnie Rodgers, Sr.

Schedule of Services

SUNDAY
Early Morning Worship
8:00 a.m.
Bible Class
9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship
10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship
6:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service - 7:00 p.m.
Bible Class - 7:30 p.m.
THURSDAY
Bible Class - 11:00 a.m.

Dallas West Church of Christ

3510 N. Hampton Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75212
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Website: www.dwcoc.com



Sammie Berry
Minister

Calendar of Events

Sunday Bible School
8:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday Song Practice
7:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Class
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9:30 a.m.
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Wednesdays @ 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Carver Heights Baptist Church

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Pastor, Darryl R. Carter

Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.
Early Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship - 7:00 p.m.

Greater Cornerstone Baptist Church

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Dr. David E. Wilson, Pastor/Teacher

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Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Brotherhood (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Senior Mission (1st & 3rd Wed.) - 8:00 p.m.
Adult & Youth Bible Study (Fri.) - 7:00 p.m.

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SPORTS PAGE

7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

Thursday, February 9	Friday, February 10	Saturday, February 11	Sunday, February 12	Monday, February 13	Tuesday, February 14	Wednesday, February 15
H-62° L-46°	H-72° L-61°	H-84° L-63°	H-68° L-49°	H-62° L-47°	H-62° L-46°	H-64° L-44°

Brady leads epic comeback, Patriots win Super Bowl LI

By **BARRY WILNER**, AP Sports Writer

(AP) — Tom Brady led one of the greatest comebacks in sports history highlighted by an unbelievable Julian Edelman catch that helped lift New England from a 25-point hole against the Atlanta Falcons to the Patriots' fifth Super Bowl victory, the first ever in overtime.

The Patriots scored 19 points in the final quarter, including a pair of 2-point conversions, then marched relentlessly to James White's 2-yard touchdown run in overtime to beat the Atlanta Falcons 34-28 Sunday night.

Brady, the first quarterback with five Super Bowl rings, guided the Patriots (17-2) through a tiring Atlanta defense for fourth-quarter touchdowns on a 6-yard pass to Danny Amendola and a 1-yard run by White, which came with 57 seconds remaining in regulation. White ran for

the first 2-pointer and Amendola did the deed with a reception on the second.

Brady, winning Super Bowl MVP for a record fourth-time, finished 43 for 62, the most attempts in Super Bowl history, for 466 yards, also a record, and two touchdowns.

"You know, we all brought each other back," Brady said. "We never felt out of it. It was a tough battle. They have a great team. I give them a lot of credit. We just made a few more plays than them."

Before the stunning rally — New England already held the biggest comeback in the final period when it turned around a 10-point deficit to beat Seattle two years ago — the Falcons (13-6) appeared poised to take their first NFL championship in 51 seasons. Having never been in such a pressurized environment, their previously staunch pass rush disappeared, they stumbled on

offense and Brady tore them apart.

"Deflategate" far behind them, Brady and coach Bill Belichick won their 25th postseason game, by far a record. The Falcons added to Atlanta's long history of pro sports frustration.

Belichick became the first coach with five Super Bowl crowns.

The Patriots won the coin toss for overtime and it was no contest. Brady completed six passes against an overmatched Falcons secondary. A pass interference call took the ball to the 2, and White scooted to his right and barely over the goal line.

His teammates streamed off the sideline to engulf White as confetti streamed down from the NRG Stadium rafters.

It was almost an impossible dream for the Patriots a bit earlier. But helped by Matt Ryan's fumble on a sack, a Edelman's catch off of a defender's shoe, and Brady's passing, they never

stopped coming.

White scored three touchdowns and had 14 receptions for 110 yards, but Brady hit seven different receivers.

Until the Patriots took charge with their late surge, league MVP Ryan was outplaying Brady. It didn't last.

Atlanta's string of touchdowns on its opening drive ended at eight, though Devonta Freeman sprinted for 37 yards on the Falcons' first offensive play. The drive was stunted when Ryan was sacked by Trey Flowers, New England's leader in that category.

Then it was Atlanta's D that went sacks-happy, getting two on the Patriots' next drive in what would be a scoreless opening quarter. Who expected that? Well, New England has not scored a point in the first 15 minutes in Brady's seven Super Bowls.

It sure looked as if the Patriots would get on the

board immediately in the second period as Brady and Edelman connected twice for 40 yards. But Blount's fumble turned the momentum to the Falcons, who then took their biggest lead in a Super Bowl — yeah, we know, they have been here only twice — on Freeman's 5-yard run to cap a quick 71-yard drive on which Jones came alive.

Jones showed why he is an All-Pro receiver with a tough leaping catch over the middle for 19 yards, then got open on the sideline for 23. Freeman did the rest.

Before New England could catch its breath, Ryan had the Falcons up by 14. Using the no-huddle attack to perfection, he threw for 51 yards on a 52-yard drive, hitting Hooper with a pinpoint pass in the left side of the end zone.

Then Brady was victimized by his own poor decision, a rarity on the big stage. Atlanta was called

for defensive holding three times on third downs to keep the drive alive. From the Falcons 23, under pressure Brady tried to squeeze a throw to Danny Amendola. Alford stepped in and sprinted, then glided 82 yards for the second-longest pick-6 in a Super Bowl — and Brady's first.

Shocking, it was 21-0. New England gathered its wits for a 52-yard drive to Stephen Gostkowski's 41-yard field goal. Still, it was 21-3 when Lady Gaga took the stage.

There was smoke hanging over the field when both teams had three-and-outs to open the third quarter. It was a mirage regarding Ryan and Co., who marched 85 yards to Coleman's 6-yard TD catch on a swing pass. While New England scored the next nine points on James White's 5-yard TD reception — the extra point was missed by Gostkowski, who later made a 33-yard field goal.

Women's hockey stars not discouraged by NWHL setbacks

(AP) — Women's hockey stars Meghan Duggan and Hilary Knight say they aren't concerned about the future of the National Women's Hockey League despite a turbulent second season.

Duggan told The Associated Press on Tuesday night she still expects "big things for the league" despite a pair of setbacks in recent months. The four-team NWHL is the first North American women's hockey league to pay its players, but in November those salaries were cut by half. Then last week, the league announced this season will be cut short before national team players leave for the world championships, which begin March 31 in Plymouth, Michigan.

"It's a startup. It's the growing pains of it all," Duggan said. "I think if you look back ... the NHL and how it all started, or any of the pro sports leagues around the country, it's just growing pains. We're doing everything we can to keep the product great on the ice."

The league, which pays players between \$10,000 and \$26,000 per season, also announced last week that all four franchises — New York; Boston; Stamford, Connecticut; and Buffalo, New York — will return for a third season.

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African American Archives project launched!

By **W. Marvin Dulaney**

In collaboration with the Dallas African American Museum in Fair Park, the African American Education Archives and History Program (AAEAHP) is launching a new initiative to collect, document and preserve archives related to the history of African Americans in Dallas County. For fifteen years, the African American Education Archives and History Program has collected artifacts, documents, photographs, and oral histories related to the educational experience of African Americans in Dallas County. The AAEAHP Collection at the Dallas African American Museum contains correspondence, personal profiles, newspaper clippings, funeral programs, and oral histories that document the lives and contributions of over 180 educators and others who contributed to the history of African Americans in Dallas County.

With this new initiative, the AAEAHP will continue its mission and seek the archival collections of both recently retired educators as well as others who have made contributions to this important area of the African-American experience. This is a very important initiative. By collecting the documents and artifacts of African Americans in Dallas County the AAEAHP seeks to preserve an aspect of local

history that has traditionally been ignored by archival institutions, libraries and "mainstream" historical associations. Most importantly, this initiative seeks to preserve an aspect and perspective of Dallas history that has been ignored historically and neglected.

The AAEAHP is collaborating with the Dallas African American Museum to carry out this new initiative. Indeed, the Dallas African American Museum will house and make available to the public, scholars and students the archival collections that the AAEAHP collects in this new initiative to collect and preserve the history and culture of African Americans in Dallas County. The African American Museum was founded in 1974 as a part of the Special Collections at Bishop College, a Historically Black College that closed in 1988. The Museum has operated independently since 1979. The \$7 million edifice was funded through private donations and a 1985 Dallas City bond election that provided \$1.2 million for the construction of the new facility. The African American Museum is the only one of its kind in the Southwestern Region devoted to the preservation and display of African American artistic, cultural and historical materials. It has one of the largest African American Folk Art collections in the United States.

For the past fifteen years, the African American Museum

has partnered with the African American Education Archives and History Program to collect, catalog, process, preserve, and house the archives that it collects.

The African American Museum and the AAEAHP are proud to launch this new beginning to collect, document, and preserve the history and contributions of African American educators and others in Dallas County. Articles on African Americans who have made significations to the life and history of North Texas will be featured in weekly newspaper articles throughout the year.

Dr. W. Marvin Dulaney, Associate Professor Emeritus, former chair of the Department of History at the University of Texas at Arlington and Interim of the Center for African American Studies at UTA, will lead this new initiative. In addition to teaching History at UTA for eighteen years, Dr. Dulaney has also served as the Executive Director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston for fourteen years. During his tenure, the Avery Center increased its archival collections from 110 in 1994 to over 300 in 2008 when he returned to teaching at UTA. He is responsible for the acquisition of the A. Maceo Smith Collection at the African American Museum and the Cleveland Sellers Collection at the Avery Research Center.

What Parents and Students Should Know about Charter Schools

Continued from Page 1

They have asked, as best 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 schools cease expelling students that public schools have a duty to educate.

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

That seems fair 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. And we are especially angry as the architects of the fake reform movement put their money and power behind convincing Black people that the NAACP is wrong and trying to hurt them. Scratch that. We are mad as hell at all 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 thump the NAACP without having a deep understanding of how the littering 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 all-charter school district and the epi-center 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 opposite, the results of charter schools are hardly remarkable.

According to recent school performance measures, the 50 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's — 0
- B's — 7
- C's — 19
- D's — 16
- F's — 6
- T's — 2

Let's analyze this. Two of the 50 are graded "T", meaning they are in transition from one charter operator to another and have been given additional time before SPS scores and grades are applied to the campus.

Nineteen (19) of the schools have earned a "C"; and last we checked,

a "C" meant that a performance level was not perfect, not great, just average. So, "average" traditionally-operated public schools have been replaced by "average," privately-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 6s Plus and getting stuck with a silver colored iPhone 6s 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 only in recent months begun to follow 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 school performance scores that gave them a "B" letter grade. Wait, before you blow up the balloons, hang streamers and cut the cake, let's get a few more facts straight as to how the school closures, takeovers, so-called reform and the charter explosion happened in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

To Be Continued Next Week...

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Dr. J. Ester Davis
Editorial Columnist

A Jewel in Hamilton Park

Several years ago, Dallas County Commissioners recognized and commended the Hamilton Park Community for preserving their historic "living" legacy. Thomas Jefferson, President of the Hamilton Park Civic League, and a resident for 59 years, accepted the resolution in open court with other outstanding residents attending. Hamilton Park is the first African American development in the City of Dallas. It is still viable today due solely to community leadership, raw pride, the first homeowners and their will to preserve their ownership heritage. A resolution was adopted, presented and signed by the county judge and commissioners. Hamilton Park Community is back in the news again this year as a proposed recipient of a Texas Historic marker. WOW!!!

I think a little bit of Hamilton Park resides in all African Americans. The resolution captures the essential fortitude and says it best. The resolution appropriately addresses the name; "The Hamilton Park Community is named for Dr. Richard T. Hamilton, a physician and African American civic leader. The community was dedicated in October 1953 and formally opened in May, 1954. By 1961, Hamilton Park was completed with 742 single-family dwellings, shopping center, churches, a park with a playground, swimming pool, tennis court and baseball diamond".

The initial purchase was a 233 acre site for an African American middle class community. At this time in our history African Americans could not purchase land in certain parts of American cities. That was the case in North Dallas. The Dallas County Resolution highlights their courage and vision by stating: "These determined African American men and women, some of whom were returning to Dallas having bravely served their country during World War II, ventured to North Dallas to purchase land and nurture a family-oriented community of two-parent households, with shared values, morals and traditions (a marriage certificate was required to purchase a home in Hamilton Park)". Most amazing, which is not in the resolution is a reflection, filled with pride, from a devoted community member, who grew up in the community that there were no defaults on mortgages in this entire community.

Paragraph Five of the resolution says "Hamilton Park has been a jewel in North Dallas for nearly 60 years. Hamilton Park is known as a quiet, stable and responsible area with dedicated professionals, educators, clergyman, business owners, entertainers, scholars and blue collars workers. It has enriched this historic community through partnerships and collaborations with several non-profits, private corporations, and with the support of the Dallas Police Department to provide a safe community".

And finally the resolution concludes with the future; "In these changing times, the new generations guided by the teachings of their parents and mentors, continue to serve in a variety of community and civic roles throughout Dallas County and the world".

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