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**BE A PART
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Opinion

NNPA Journalism Scholars are Breaking the News

Today, we are exposed to 10-minute news segments six times per hour in a 24-hour news cycle on television and the radio. Twitter, Facebook and other social media platforms are now used for instantaneous news, commentary, and the sharing of perspectives by hundreds of millions of people throughout the world.

Yet Black-owned newspapers in the United States remain in high demand even amidst the growing digital age of communications and multimedia news services. Social media compliments and extends the reach of the Black Press.

Thanks to Chevrolet, the Discover The Unexpected (DTU) NNPA Journalism Fellows Program is giving undergraduate student scholars from the Howard University School of Communications the opportunity to “Break News” in Detroit, Chicago, Washington, DC, and in Atlanta. Tatyana Hopkins, Sidnee King, Briahna Brown, McKenzie Marshall, Brandi Montgomery, Brelaun Douglas, Victoria Jones, and Rushawn Walters are all now working with NNPA member newspapers in the aforementioned markets.

On the ground and in the streets, these gifted and tal-



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

NNPA
President
and CEO

ented young journalists are helping not only to bridge generations concerning vital news coverage, but they are also using multiple media platforms to help reach new readers across the nation and global community. As more young readers are now con-

“These gifted and talented young journalists are helping not only to bridge generations concerning vital news coverage, but they are also using multiple media platforms to help reach new readers

suming their news, sports coverage, and cultural aspiration via the Black Press, the future sustainability of Black-owned newspapers is further assured.

The point here is that the printed Black Press in America is content rich and therefore is invaluable in today’s context of national and international content distribution. There is a substantive difference between sensationalism to get media attention and good journalism that renders objective facts and that delin-

ates informed opinions.

For more than 189 years, the Black Press in America has represented the best in presenting the facts, news, struggles and triumphs of African American life and empowerment. The baton is now being passed to a generation of journalists and publishers who are equally fearless, courageous, and articulate.

We are proud of the opportunity and the engagement that the DTU program is offering to the NNPA family and community of publishers and media owners throughout the

tiges of slavery, racism, injustice, and inequality. The Black Press is, today, the most capable and responsible vehicle to continue to strive toward fulfilling the goal of racial, social and economic equality.

President Obama stated, “Juneteenth is a time to recommit ourselves to the work that remains undone. We remember that even in the darkest hours, there is cause to hope for tomorrow’s light. Today, no matter our race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, we recommit ourselves to working to free

modern-day slaves around the world and to honoring in our own time the efforts of those who fought so hard to steer our country truer to our highest ideals.”

Learn more about the Discover The Unexpected (DTU) program at <http://www.nnpa.org/dtu/> and use the hashtag #DiscoverTheUnexpected on Twitter and Instagram. Follow us on Twitter @BlackPressUSA and @NNPA_BlackPress and like our Facebook page at NNPA Black Press.

McCain Foolishly Blames Obama for Massacre in Orlando

The cretin who took an assault weapon into Pulse, an Orlando nightclub, on “salsa night” is beneath contempt. Was his target the LGBTQ community, Latinos, or simply human beings? After all, it is somewhat reductive to simply describe Pulse as a “gay club.” It catered to the LGBTQ communities and allies. Some of those who were massacred were not gay. They just wanted to dance.

In the wake of the massacre of 49 people, and the injury of another 53, the networks have offered sunup to sundown coverage. Analysis and opinions have been more than plentiful. Some of the most disgraceful comments came from Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), who blamed President Obama for the massacre in Orlando. To be sure the Senator quickly retracted his words and said that he “misspoke.” But he started out by saying that he held President Obama “directly responsible” for the massacre in Florida. He explained that, because President Obama pulled U.S. troops out of Iraq, he created the vacuum that ISIS formed to fill.

Florida’s Republican Governor Rick Scott is another



Julianne Malveaux

NNPA
Columnist

politician who has made unfortunately inappropriate statements. Deflecting questions about assault weapons, he says he prefers to talk about eliminating ISIS. He

“While it is appropriate to talk about managing ISIS, it is also appropriate to talk about the easy access that anybody has to assault weapons

behaves as if legislators have only a one-track mind. While it is appropriate to talk about managing ISIS, it is also appropriate to talk about the easy access that anybody has to assault weapons. If you are on the no-fly list, the adage goes, you ought to be on the no-buy list. Not that it helps as much as it should – there are too many ways to buy guns, ammunition, and body armor legally and under the table.

It does not erode anyone’s

second amendment rights to restrict their right to assault weapons. One does not need a automatic weapon and thousands of rounds of ammunition to protect oneself or, for that matter, to “hunt.” Whenever those NRA folks start talking about hunting, though, I really want to know what (who) it is they want to hunt. It is entirely appropriate to restrict access to assault weapons, but for some reason rabid Republicans resist.

tragedy in Orlando. He has been consistent in calling for assault weapons bans – and his opponents have been consistent in opposing such bans. And they have been irresponsible in their rhetoric of opposition.

Sen. John McCain stands at the tip of the iceberg. Donald Trump is worse. He has said that our President is sympathetic to ISIS terrorists. Like McCain, he quickly suggested that President Obama has some culpability in the Orlando massacre.

What nonsense! Trump should be ashamed, if he is capable of such, for turning a tragedy into political manipulation. So should McCain.

In the wake of a tragedy, our nation’s leaders ought to follow our President’s leadership in offering empathy. We ought also look at ways to prevent further tragedy. Banning assault weapons is one way to offer some solutions, and some Democrats have attempted to deal with that, despite resistance. Loose lips are inappropriate in the wake of this tragedy. Shame on you, Donald Trump and John McCain, for attempting to turn tragedy to your political advantage with your foolish words.

President Barack Obama has had to take on the role of Empathizer-in-Chief several times during his presidency. In the last year, he has had to deal with the shootings at Emanuel AME Church (June 2015, nine casualties), at the Chattanooga Recruiting Center (July 2015, 4 casualties), Umpqua Community College (October 2015, 10 casualties), the San Bernardino Community Center (December 2015, 14 casualties) – and now the