

News

Rev. William Barber Tells Black Press: 'Bowing Down Is Not an Option'

By Freddie Allen
Managing Editor, NNPA Newswire

Reverend William Barber, the president of the North Carolina state chapter of the NAACP and leader of the Moral Mondays movement, delivered a rousing keynote address to open the 2017 Mid-Winter Conference of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

The theme of the conference was "Strengthening Black-owned Newspapers through Training, Innovation and Technology." The NNPA partnered with General Motors, Chevrolet, Ford Motor Company, Reynolds American Inc. (RAI), and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to host the conference; Volkswagen, Ascension, Coca-Cola, and the American Association for Cancer Research supported the event as sponsors.

During his speech titled, "Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?" Barber tackled voter suppression in the aftermath of Shelby v. Holder, White evangelicalism and the current political environment in the age of "alternative facts."

Noting that President Woodrow Wilson played the White supremacist propaganda film "Birth of a Nation" in the Oval office in 1911, Barber said that Trump's ascension and election is not an anomaly in American history.

"This is not the first time that White supremacy has occupied The White House. This is not the first time that



Reverend William Barber II, president of the North Carolina state chapter of the NAACP, delivered an electrifying speech during the 2017 NNPA Mid-Winter Conference in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

America has elected a racist egomaniac," said Barber, reminding the audience that President Wilson, a former college president, played "Birth" to signal that Reconstruction was over. "Education doesn't necessarily get racism out of you."

To a chorus of "Amen," Barber said that the one thing that we have to first decide to do in this moment is that bowing down is not an option.

Recognizing that he was addressing a room full of journalists and publishers, Barber pitched ideas for a number of articles and commentaries.

"Somebody has to unpack 'so-called' White evangelicalism that is illogical malpractice and heresy," said Barber. "We've got to have some papers that write and do some investigative work

See BARBER on page 10

Toxic Chocolate Kisses

By Jasmine Streeter,
DVM
Special to The Skanner
News

The United States ranks 9th in the world on chocolate consumption. According to Forbes, Switzerland ranks number one, which isn't that much of a surprise when you discover that many favorites like Lindt, Toblerone, and Woolworths are Swiss chocolates. Even Nestle chocolates are American-Swiss made. Based on a recent trip through the store, I surmise the 9.5 lb of chocolate consumed by the average American occurs



Dr. Jasmine Streeter, Veterinarian and her dog Sheba

bakers chocolate batter on the spoon or finish up your least favorite assorted chocolate out the box, but don't give in. On the scale of most to least potent, Baking chocolate ranks number one, followed by dark, milk, and white chocolate.

chocolate, contact your veterinarian as soon as possible to see how to proceed with treatment.

To avoid a near death experience or hundreds of dollars in health care costs, keep a watchful eye on your pet when chocolate is nearby. If

“On the scale of most to least potent, Baking chocolate ranks number one, followed by dark, milk, and white chocolate

predominantly around Valentine's day or the months leading up to it. Dipped strawberries, chocolate kisses, cookies, and heart shaped fudgy goodness around the supermarkets, boutiques, and bakeries. So, why should you care as a pet owner? Chocolate can be toxic and even deadly to pets!

Most people can't dispute the wonderful taste of chocolate double dipped "anything". I however am not a huge fan of chocolate, but that is another topic for another day. You may be tempted to let your puppy lick up that last bit of

The major toxic component in chocolate is theobromine. Caffeine is many times found in chocolate products and can be toxic as well. The ingestion of theobromine affects the central nervous system and heart. A dog that has recently ingested chocolate may exhibit excitement, rapid breathing and heartbeat, jerky spasm like movements, delirium or even seizure. You may witness vomiting, diarrhea or urinary incontinence. In severe cases, heart attacks may occur causing sudden death. If you suspect your pet has eaten

small children are in the vicinity, give them a little lesson on not feeding the dog chocolate.

Teaching them that sharing a twix or splitting a cupcake with the dog can make them sick might be all you need to keep Fido out of the hospital. Place wrapped uneaten candies in a sealed bag or container out of reach and place lids on cookies that contain chocolate components. If you have a pet who constantly gets into the trash, take out the trash immediately after adding chocolate or place a baby gate to keep them at arms-length.

Whether you have a Valentine or not, you will most likely consume at least one drop of chocolate before the month of February is over. I say indulge and make it good. Hopefully you discover the sweetest, tastiest, chocolatiest morsel that has ever been created, just make sure your pet doesn't get any chocolate kisses afterwards.

Send your pet questions to drjasmine@theskanner.com.

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