

The
**Culture
Report**

Q3 2025



* Trump Tariffs Ruled Illegal

A federal court ruled most Trump tariffs illegal, striking a blow to trade policy. The decision could ease pressure on supply chains and consumer pricing.

Source



* AI Disrupts Entry-Level Jobs

Fed Chair Jerome Powell acknowledged AI is eliminating entry-level jobs, complicating career starts for graduates — many of them Black.

Source

Fashion & Art



* Ralph Lauren's Oak Bluffs Collection

Ralph Lauren launched a capsule collection honoring Oak Bluffs, the historic Black beach community on Martha's Vineyard. The campaign sold out online quickly and highlighted the growing consumer demand for authenticity in storytelling.

[Source](#)



* Jaden Smith Named Creative Director at Louboutin

Christian Louboutin appointed Jaden Smith as its first men's creative director. The move underscores Black creative leadership shaping luxury fashion on a global scale.

[Source](#)



* SZA Joins Vans

Singer SZA entered a multi-year partnership with Vans as their Artistic Director. The role blends music, fashion, and youth culture, cementing her influence in lifestyle spaces.

[Source](#)



* Dapper Dan in Vogue Met Gala Doc

A new Vogue documentary on the 2025 Met Gala issue features Harlem designer Dapper Dan. His inclusion reaffirms the role of Black designers in defining American fashion history.

[Source](#)

Sports & Entertainment



* Jalen Hurts x Sprite

Philadelphia Eagles QB Jalen Hurts signed with Sprite, becoming the first NFL athlete to do so. The deal shows the continued rise of Black athletes as cross-cultural brand leaders.

Source



* Angel Reese x Reebok “Fuel”

Reebok’s new “Fuel” campaign stars basketball phenom Angel Reese. The campaign highlights her cultural impact and connects Reebok’s brand revival to a new generation of fans.

Source



* Brandy & Monica Tour

The iconic R&B duo reunited for a national tour, drawing multi-generational nostalgia and major brand sponsorships. The tour affirms the staying power of Black women in shaping music culture.

Source



* CLISPE had the most traditional album rollout in years - and it worked

Blog-era rap fans were treated to a wealth of interviews and teasers ahead of the album, which proved to be Clipse's best-performing record yet

Source

Business & Entrepreneurship



* Essence Fest x Target Backlash

Essence Fest drew criticism for its Target partnership, with some questioning brand authenticity in cultural spaces. The reaction highlights the risk of misalignment when corporations engage Black communities.

Source



* American Eagle “Good Jeans” Campaign

American Eagle’s campaign stirred debate but helped drive a 25% surge in stock price. It’s a case study in how controversy can still deliver business results.

Source



* Cracker Barrel Logo Controversy

Cracker Barrel abandoned a new minimalist logo after political backlash, including from Donald Trump. The episode shows how branding shifts are weaponized in today’s cultural climate.

Source



* Paramount/Skydance DEI Rollback

Paramount and Skydance scaled back DEI promises after restructuring. The decision reflects broader retreat from equity initiatives across media industries.

Source

Travel & Music



* Marvel Exits Georgia

Marvel announced it will move production overseas, leaving Georgia's tax incentives behind. The decision is a blow to Atlanta's booming Black film workforce.

Source



* Vancouver as Filming Hub

With cheaper production costs, Vancouver has become a magnet for U.S. film shoots. The shift has implications for Black creatives in Atlanta, long a hub for Black entertainment.

Source



* “Return to the Land” Whites-Only Communities

A group is creating whites-only enclaves across the Midwest, modeled after South Africa's Orania. This exclusionary trend underscores ongoing challenges for Black mobility and belonging.

Source



* Tiny Desk Funding Cuts

The NPR Tiny Desk series faces an uncertain future after federal funding was cut. The series has been a vital stage for emerging Black artists, making its future a cultural concern.

Source

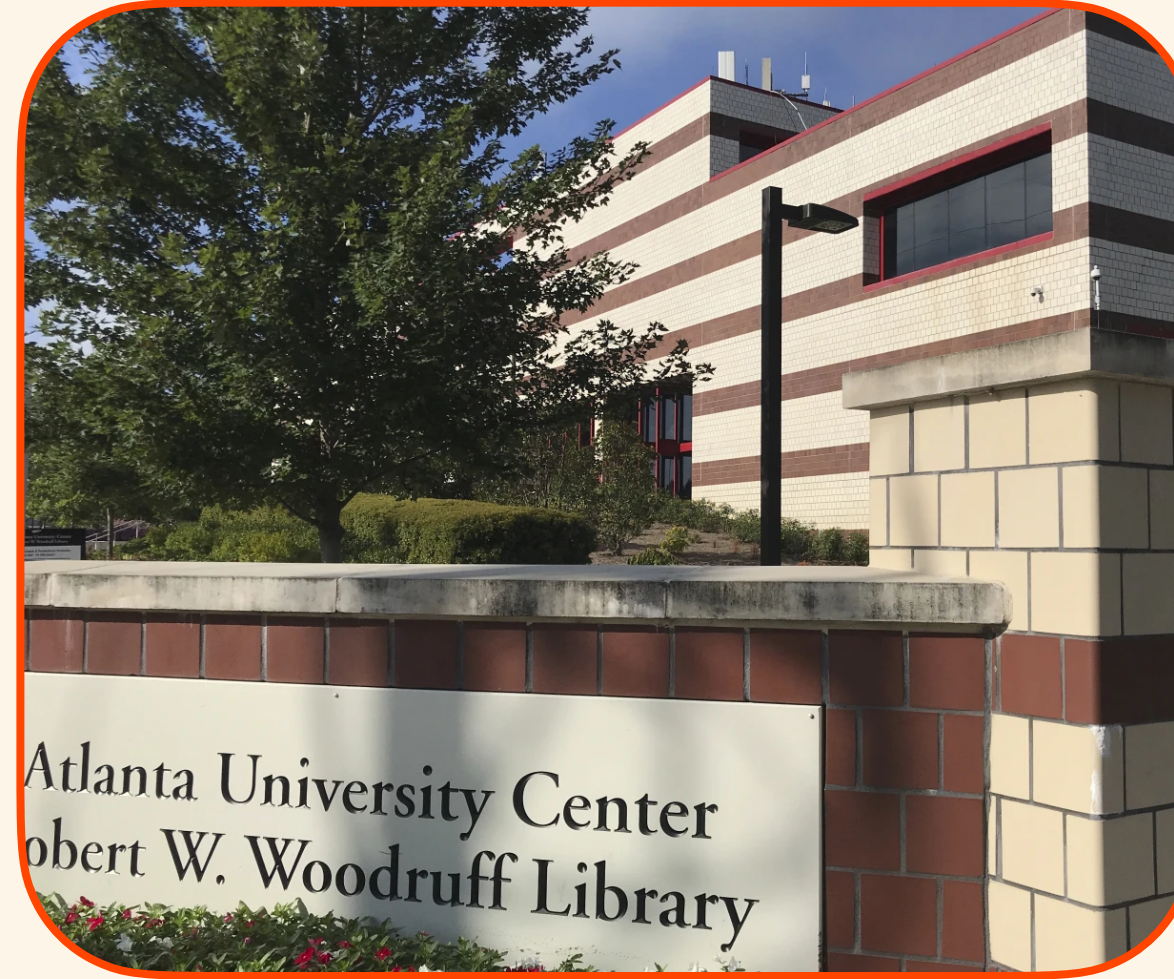
Health & Wellness



* Black Women Removed from Workforce

In a three-month span, 300,000 Black women left the labor force. Analysts tie the exits to systemic inequities and shrinking public sector opportunities.

Source



* HBCU Lockdowns

Several HBCUs went into lockdown due to threats, while the family of a Delta State student pressed for answers after his death. The incidents highlight urgent concerns about Black student safety.

Source



* Wage Growth Gap

Workers in the bottom third of the U.S. wage scale — disproportionately Black — saw growth of just 0.9% vs. 3.6% for the top third. The gap highlights persistent economic inequality.

Source



* Planned Parenthood Defunded

In July, the Defund Planned Parenthood Act, imposed a sweeping ban on Medicaid and Title X funding for clinics providing abortion services, immediately undermining access for millions of low-income and marginalized patients.

Source

Automotive *Trends*



* ICE Raid at Hyundai Metaplant

Federal agents raided Hyundai's Georgia Metaplant, detaining immigrant workers. The raid raises questions about labor practices and reputational risk.

Source



* Hyundai Palisade Recall

Hyundai is recalling 568,580 Palisade SUVs because of potentially faulty seatbelt latches. The recall population covers Palisades from the 2020 through 2025 model years.

Source



* Auto Loan Rates Trend Higher as Fed Cuts Rates

Auto loan rates climbed to 9.43% for new vehicles and 14.15% for used in September, showing that tighter supply, fewer incentives, and credit risk are keeping borrowing costs high despite Fed rate cuts.

Source



* GM Gas Pivot

GM announced it will rebalance its portfolio by adding gas vehicles back into the mix. The pivot reflects consumer hesitancy around EV adoption.

Source