

Lighting The Road To Freedom

New Orleans

Data

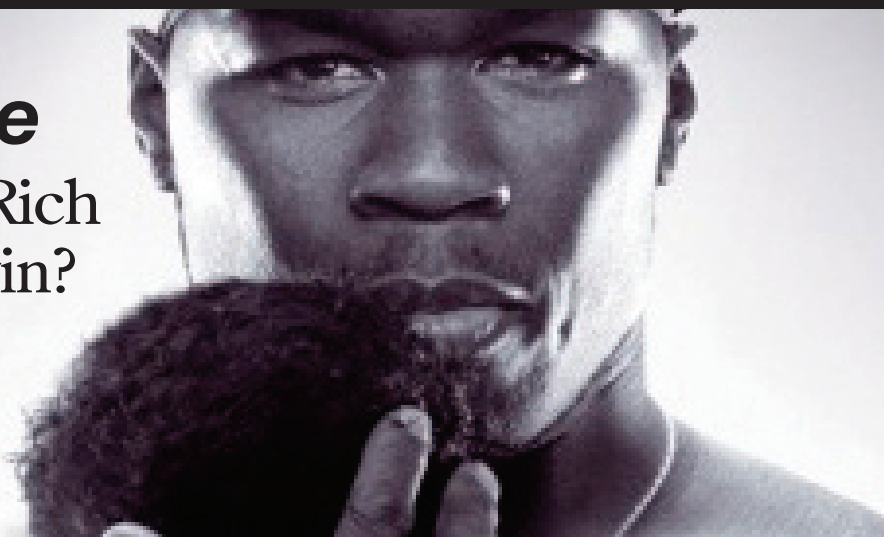
News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data Zone

Is 50 Getting Rich
or Dying Tryin'?

Highlights on
Page 8



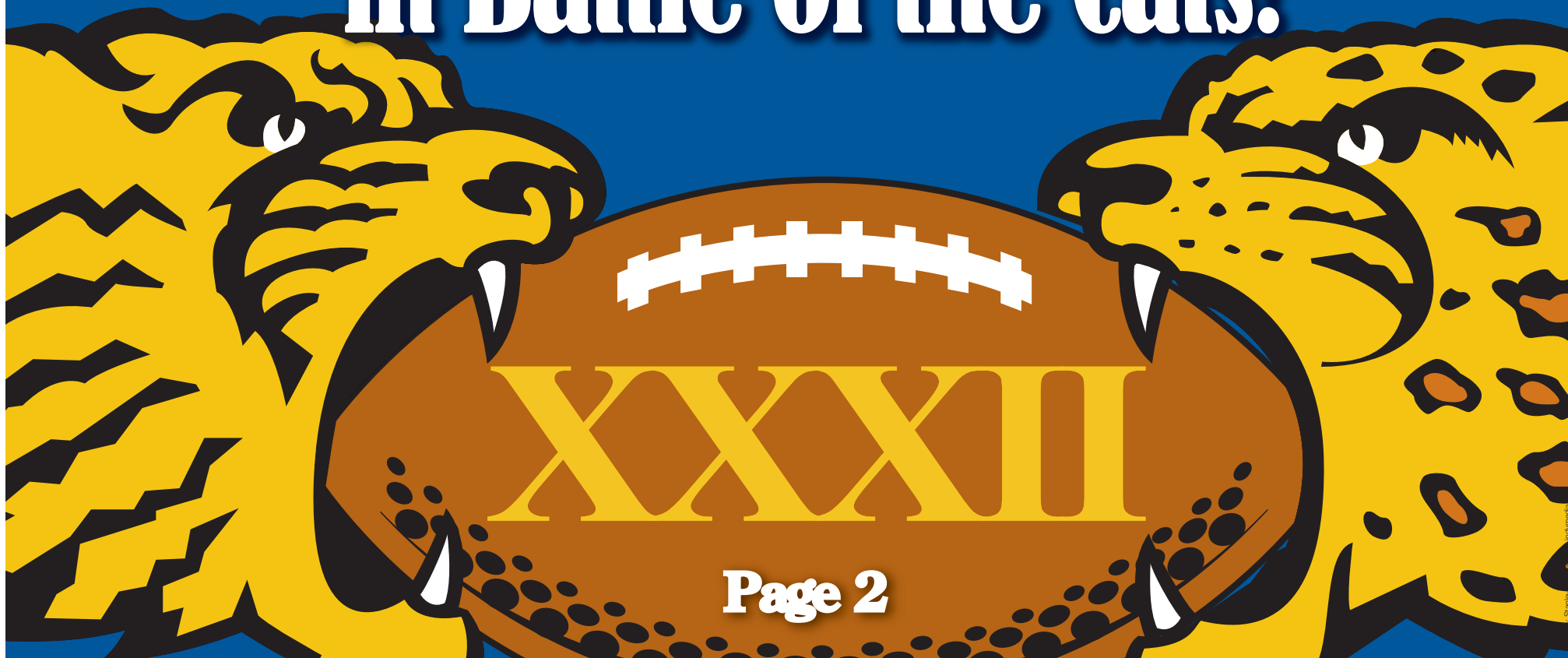
November 19, 2005

39th Year

Volume 34

The Soul of New Orleans

Classic Blows into H-Town in Battle of the Cats!



Page 2

NEWS



**Joe Fuller
Receives
Leadership
Award
at Classic**
Page 3

NEWSMAKER

**New Orleans Housing
Future Hangs in the
Balance**

Page 4



COVER STORY

Classic Blows into H-Town in Battle of the Cats!

It won't be just displaced residents from New Orleans relocating to Houston in wake of Hurricane Katrina. The long time rivalry football game featuring the Southern Jaguars and the Grambling Tigers heads into town because its home since conception, the Louisiana Superdome is undergoing repair having suffered damage by the wits of the storm. Don't by any means be alarmed, for the excitement, pageantry, reunion of alumni and special Guest will remain the same. And you can bet, the entire city will throw out its red carpet long and wide enough assuring this year's extravaganza.

If you ask why, both Houston and Atlanta has been wooing Classis organizers to their respective towns for years, only to be turned down by the ambience of the "Big Easy" along with the luxury packaging of the Superdome. While the game is only set to play at Reliant Stadium this year, Superdome officials are confidant the facility will be repaired for the game to return there next year.

Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story
Bayou
Classic Blows
into Houston
page 2

National News
Newsmaker: Housing
in the Aftermath
page 4

State & Local News
page 7

Data Zone
Entertainment
page 7

Opinions
page 7

Trailblazer
page 15

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

Mailing Address: PO Box 51933, New Orleans, LA 70151
(504) 822-4433 Fax (504) 821-0320 datanews@bellsouth.net
Editorial & Business Office: 170 Northside Drive, Suite 507, Atlanta, GA 30313

Terry B. Jones
CEO/Publisher

Jawna Williams
Business Manager,
Advertising Director

Renetta Perry
Editor-in-Chief

Cheryl Mainor
Managing Editor

Contributors
Edwin Buggage
Ty Green
Kandice Phillips

Contributing
Photographers
AP, BET.com

Cover Story Photos
XXXXX

Art Direction
& Production
Paul Mainor for
MainorMedia

Please call (404) 223-5958 for subscription information.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing
or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Now the game: Let's begin with the Bayou Classic tradition, by throwing out each team's record. It's no secret the Tigers, led by New Orleanian qb Bruce Eugene (SWAC passing leader) are the hottest team, sporting an impressive 8-1 over-all record, 7-0 conference, and 4-0 in SWAC play. Eugene, who also leads the SWAC' #1 offense, has his troops clicking on all cylinders averaging 43.1 points per game including the 82-7 whipping

of Concordia two weeks ago. He has thrown 40 tds for 3,275 yds, has three rushing scores while scrambling for 221 yds. His main target is wr Henry Tolbert, who leads the conference in yards (999) and has hauled in 50 passes, 11 going for tds. On the ground, AB Kuuan is the leading rusher with 691 yds on the season, while scoring 7 tds in the process. Defensively, Demitrus Carr is the leading tackler with 47 for the G-Men

who ranks third over-all in the conference

For the Jaguars, their roller coaster season supports the dismal 4-4 over-all record along with a 4-4 conference finish. Heading into this cat fight, the Jags have an ace signal caller of its own, in sophomore qb Joseph Lewis, who has thrown for 2,195 yards and 17 tds. He has proven he can beat you with his legs, having rushed for 245 yds (third on team)

and scored three rushing on the ground. His ace target is wr James Vernon, who has hauled in 39 passes for 553 yds, with 7 counting for scores. On the ground, SU has gone to a run by committee, using Larry Nicholls (5 tds, 284 yds) and Steel Adams (2 tds 280 yds). Defensively, linebacker Michael Williams has led the charge with 33 solos, followed by the defensive efforts of James Vernon, who has 26 tackles.

The G-Men want a victory that they can carry the momentum heading to the SWAC Championship, while the Jags just want to win, avoiding two straight Classic losses and momentum heading into next season. And its no secret what Houston officials are hoping for, and a reason for the game to return to H-Town next year and many other years to come!

Network Coalition Honors Fuller and Messiah-Jiles During Bayou Classic Weekend

By Anastasia Leigh Semien
Special to DATA NEWS



Louisiana statesman Joe Fuller and Houston Defender publisher Sonceria "Sonny" Messiah-Jiles will be honored at a private reception during the Bayou Classic weekend, November 25, 2005. Both are recipients of the Network 2005 Coalition Leadership Award.

For maintaining an impeccable record as Louisiana Police Jury Association president and as

president of the National Association of Black County Officials, Fuller will be honored as "The General Chairman" before a crowd of hundreds.

Messiah-Jiles, who is publisher of Houston's premier Black newspaper, will be recognized for her service as president of the nation's largest organization of Black publishers, the National Newspaper Publishers of America. Messiah-Jiles will receive the Black Publisher of the Year Award.

"I am humbled by the illustrious recognition and what this award signifies," says Fuller, police juror from Rapides Parish in Alexandria, Louisiana.

The Network Coalition is an association of Black elected and appointed officials, as well as corporate decision makers throughout Louisiana and the nation. Annually, the Coalition's Weekend Gala is held during the State Farm Bayou Classic Weekend-the single largest Black athletic event in the country.

Past honorees of interest have included Oscar and Tom Joyner, Louisiana author Ernest Gaines, tennis great Chanda Rubin, the New Orleans Hornets, and multi-Stellar-Award winner Bishop Paul S. Morton. Toe Coalition has also honored football legend Doug Williams during a special Super Bowl Tribute.

Event organizers say this is one of the hottest tickets of the entire weekend. The invitation-only reception and gala will be held at the regal St. Regis Hotel, Houston. Michael Foster Project will serve as entertainment during the gala. This year, the Network Coalition teamed with BellSouth, Acadian Ambulance, Artform, Homes by Johnson Development, Nottingham Construction, The Burrell Group, and Jozef PA of Louisiana for sponsorship of this event.

SCHOLARSHIP MATERIAL?



It's the person, not the package. That's why Anheuser-Busch invests in promising young men and women who are working toward the bright future they deserve.

Through the United Negro College Fund, Tom Joyner Foundation and other community based organizations, we support students whose individual style makes them unique in every way.

Check us out at: www.africanamericanbud.com

© 2005 Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Budweiser® Beer, St. Louis, MO



NEWSMAKER

The Future of New Orleans Housing

By: Edwin Buggage

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina many New Orleanians have spent the last two months in various living situations across the nation. Many survived the horrendous conditions of the Superdome and the Convention Center, and now have relocated to numerous cities across the United States. Many of the cities residents feel were mistreated during and after the storm, and some have vowed they will not return to the crescent city, but there are many more who have voiced that they are in fact willing to return.

As jobs are plentiful and many employers are asking employees to come back, those who desire to return are finding problems finding housing. For those who have returned they have found a tight housing market, where rents have skyrocketed rivaling cities like New York, San Francisco, Boston, and Los Angeles. Jeffrey May, former Executive Director of The Fair Housing Action Center of New Orleans, and presently working as a housing specialist for DB Consulting Group in Silver Springs Maryland asserts, "That the problem of affordable housing actually is nothing new, in fact there was a

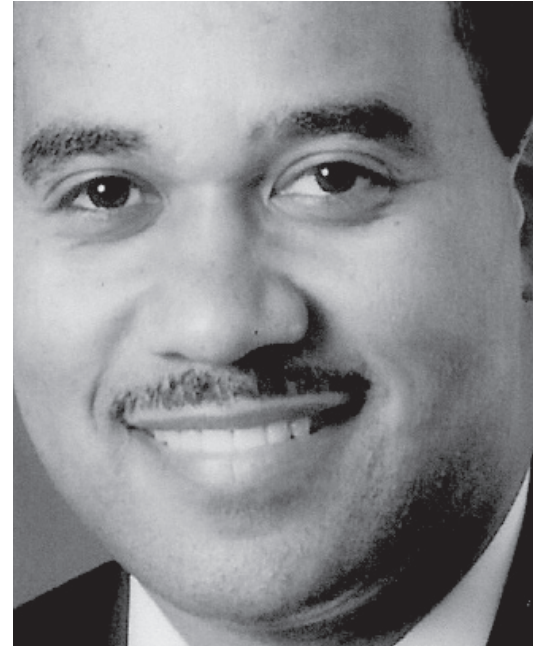
shortage of affordable housing pre-Katrina." He continues, "But in the aftermath of the storm the problem has become more prevalent."

Assessor Darren Mire of the First Municipal District of New Orleans agrees with May's assessment and adds in his opinion that the city will experience gentrification like never before. Speaking of Central City which is one of the areas he represents he says, "Gentrification is alive and well." He continues, "Basically you can see many parts of uptown New Orleans were pretty dry although you may have had some wind damage

and people realize a lot of those residents may not be coming back, and what's going to happen is that predators are going to come in and buy these properties. And you will see some gentrification, because some of the African-Americans in some of these communities do not have the resources to restore their homes, so

definitely I see gentrified neighborhoods being part of the future of New Orleans."

And as many residents who have returned quickly realized that the price spikes in the rental housing market have discovered this is not something that will be going away in the near future. In turn delaying the repopulation of New Orleans by many of it residents. Some landlords in the city now see an opportunity to maximize the profit potential of their properties with the costs of rental property recently ballooning, but not all landlords feel it's fair to take advantage of this situation. One such person is Margaret Fleming, a Faubourg Marigny resident, and owner of three rental properties. She bluntly states, "I think the landlords that price gouge suck, I think a lot of these people are money grubbers." She continues, "Many New Orleans landlords are more like slumlords, I keep my properties up, I've also seen places that use to rent for like 600 dollars that are now renting for 1000 to 1500 dollars." "I don't think it's fair to take advantage of people that way; my rents will stay the same. I don't believe



Assessor Darren Mire expects for gentrification to take place in New Orleans in the heavily African-American areas of the city.

just because you have an opportunity to make money you should victimize people who are already suffering and trying to put their lives back together, it's like kicking someone when they're down."

As Mayor Ray Nagin continues his plea for residents to return to New Orleans, many would like to heed his call, but the question for those returning becomes, "Where will I live?" This is something Charles Vaughn, a New Orleans graphics and visual artist grapples with daily. While still not able to find permanent housing he sits in an Atlanta Georgia hotel room and ponders his future. He says, "I like the city of Atlanta, but I really would prefer being in New Orleans, I miss the stuff that made living in it special and unique; The Second Lines, Mardi Gras Indians the food and the people." He continues, "And now unlike before they're opportunities for people to make a decent living, but the irony is there is not a lot of affordable housing."

Upon returning to the city there is a noticeable decrease in the number of African-Americans. Assessor Mire sees a correlation between

Not having people like this would've been an even greater disaster.



>>

The worst of times can bring out the best in everyone. BellSouth would like to salute the numerous emergency personnel who have been working long hours in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. And we would like to recognize our own employees for their tireless efforts to restore telephone service as quickly as possible. BellSouth is proud to be a part of this community. Nature may be a powerful force, but there is no force more powerful than people. Together, we can rebuild Southeast Louisiana.

 **BELLSOUTH**
Listening. Answering.®
bellsouth.com

©2005 BellSouth Corporation.

Continued on page 13.

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR AARP SERVICES?

Contact us at 1-888-OUR-AARP.

AARP Louisiana estimates that nearly 60% of our members have been displaced by the storms. If you have questions about services through AARP, please call 1-888-OUR-AARP. Let the operator know you are a displaced AARP member and that you are requesting information about a service you have purchased such as insurance or pharmaceutical services. AARP volunteers will also be visiting shelters around the state with this information.



www.aarp.org/la

NATIONAL NEWS

Jesse Jackson tells Bush to scrap hurricane deadlines

Washington, DC - The U.S. government must extend its December 1 deadline to stop paying hotel bills for many victims of Hurricane Katrina and come up with a proper plan for people to return home, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said on Saturday.

Jackson, a fierce critic of the federal response to the hurricanes, says that eviction orders must be based

on needs rather than on a government deadline.

"It would be disgraceful to cut funding off (for) housing without a plan for people to go someplace," he said. "They were victims of a hurricane, through no fault of their own... They are exiled in 41 states and living in injurious circumstances. There should be a plan for them to return home."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, the coordinator of Washington's relief efforts, said on Wednesday that it would stop paying for hotels for many refugees, who are scattered across the country, starting December 1. The deadline prompted outrage from people who will have to look for new housing during the Thanksgiving holiday.

The rules, which FEMA says only confirm a previously announced deadline, will not apply to hurricane victims still living in the worst-hit states of Louisiana and Mississippi, because alternative housing is simply not available, FEMA said.

Continued on page 13.



Rev Jesse L. Jackson is asking that FEMA disregard their previous statement of intention to cut off funding for hotel residents displaced by Katrina currently scheduled for December 1.

Connected to the Community



At Miller Brewing Company,

our goal is to support and enhance the lives of people in the communities in which we live and work. We are dedicated to working with retailers, wholesalers, suppliers and community groups to assure that we are living up to this responsibility.



MILLER BREWING CO

SINCE 1855

MILWAUKEE, WIS. USA

For more information about Miller Brewing Company and our community involvement, log onto www.MillerBrewing.com.

Senate Asks White House to Explain Iraq Plans

Washington, DC - The Senate on Tuesday passed Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's plan calling for Iraqis to take greater control of their country's security in 2006 so more American troops can come home.

The approval of the proposal came after the Republican-controlled Senate defeated 58-40 a Democratic-led effort to have the Bush administration outline a timetable for withdrawing all U.S. troops from Iraq.

The alternative measure cosponsored by Sen. Frist, R-Tenn., and Sen. John Warner, R-Va., said 2006 "should be a period of significant transition to full Iraqi sovereignty."

Sen. Frist called the defeated Democratic proposal a "cut-and-run exit strategy." He said terrorists would wait out a published timeline and overwhelm Iraq's new democracy after U.S. troops depart. "It is dangerous and irresponsible to tell the terrorists in Iraq what our plans are for U.S. forces," Sen. Frist said during a speech on the Senate floor. "Such a scenario would play nicely into the plans of al-Qaida."

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Americans want to see a change of direction in Iraq



Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said Americans want to see a change of direction in Iraq

"Our troops deserve a strategy in Iraq that is worthy of their sacrifice," he said. "With more than 2,050 Americans killed, more than \$250 billion spent and no end in sight after three years of war, staying

Continued on page 13.



Miller Brewing Company, Milwaukee, WI



STATE & LOCAL NEWS

Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus demands FEMA's list of hurricane evacuees

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus has demanded that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) release its list of people displaced by hurricanes, saying they need to contact and consult with evacuees whom they represent in the Capitol.

Seventeen senators and representatives, members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus, issued a letter Wednesday they sent to FEMA's acting director, R. David Paulison, requesting the list. They held a news conference on the Capitol steps Thursday, threatening to sue the agency.

"If FEMA will not release the names and locations of our family, friends and constituents, we will absolutely file suit," said Rep. Cedric Richmond, D-New Orleans, the caucus' chair. A FEMA spokeswoman said federal privacy laws bar the agency from releasing its list, but added that the agency could forward information from the lawmakers to the evacuees at their new addresses.



Rep Cedric Richmond LLBC Chairman, announces group's demand to receive names of displaced New Orleans Residents from FEMA.

"We just can't give them our list," spokeswoman Nicol Andrews said. "We can work with them to supply the people on those lists with information. I'm sure we would be happy to provide information from the caucus to these constituents."

Richmond and most of the others who signed the

letter represent areas of New Orleans that were inundated with floodwater after Hurricane Katrina hit on Aug. 29. Thousands of their constituents now live elsewhere.

The letter to FEMA acknowledges the obstacle of privacy laws, but added

that the lawmakers need the information to get "advice and counsel from their constituents." "It cannot be that the disclosure of constituents' contact data to their legislators" would violate privacy laws, the letter said.

FEMA earlier rejected a request from the secretary of

state's office to hand over its evacuee list so the state could contact registered voters now living at new addresses. Instead, FEMA is contacting the voters on behalf of the state.

On Nov. 4, FEMA won a lawsuit in a related case in Florida. A federal judge sided with the agency in three newspapers' suit seeking names of people who received FEMA aid after four hurricanes hit the state last year. The newspapers argued they needed the information to examine alleged inequities and fraud in the distribution of more than \$1.5 billion in assistance.

U.S. District Judge John E. Steele ruled against the papers, agreeing with government lawyers who contended FEMA needed to protect the privacy of disaster victims to comply with the federal Privacy Act of 1974.



DA Eddie Jordan, Jr., has prosecutors focused on reviving cases pending prior to Katrina.

(NEW ORLEANS) – To date, Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie J. Jordan, Jr. has charged 457 people with crimes committed pre-Hurricane Katrina.

Since the Clerk of Criminal District Court's Office reopened on November 8, 2005, hundreds of bills of information have been filed, charging defendants with crimes that range from simple possession of drugs to armed robbery.

Assistant District Attorneys are screening approximately 130 cases

DA Charges 457 People in Crimes Committed Pre Katrina

per day in their makeshift office at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. Most of those cases are drug related, which include possession of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, paraphernalia and the intent to distribute those drugs.

"My prosecutors are working diligently to carefully screen all pending cases in my office. We have every intension of prosecuting every person arrested before the storm who can be prosecuted," said Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie J. Jordan, Jr.



Louisiana Governor partners with Operation Hope

Focuses on economic recovery initiative for hurricane victims

Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and Operation HOPE's founder and CEO John Bryant today invited

banking, finance, accounting, insurance and credit union professionals in Louisiana to be part of the first economic recovery initiative for hurricane victims, Project Restore HOPE.

The Governor recently partnered

with Operation HOPE to implement Project Restore HOPE in Louisiana. The program is managed through HOPE's economic recovery and response division HOPE Coalition America, and offers registered disaster victims one-on-one financial counseling and advice through on-the-ground assistance, toll-free financial help lines, informational resources and online case management.

Continued on page 14.

DATA ZONE Entertainment

When Life Imitates 50-Cent Art

By. Andre Coe



Rapper 50 Cent stars in violent biopic Get Rich or Die Tryin'

(NNPA) – The movie *Get Rich or Die Tryin'*, based on the life of multi-platinum rapper Curtis “50 Cent” Jackson, hit theaters last week with a bang. The movie opened just as local residents and community leaders called for an end to the violence in Dallas. Residents said nothing illustrates the need for peace more than the tragic death of Joseph Anthony Davis Jr. after the annual Prairie View-Grambling football game.

Davis, 18, came to Dallas from Mississippi not too long ago before his death to accomplish something many youngsters his age often attempt to do – make a better life for himself. Davis’ dreams were cut short the night of Oct. 2, when a large group of men approached him and two relatives in a parking lot outside the Adam’s Mark Hotel in downtown Dallas where a football after-party

was being held.

According to Dallas Police Department reports, Davis was found face-down behind a parked vehicle after he and his uncle and cousin were chased down and beaten by the group of men. Davis was later pronounced dead at Baylor Hospital.

In the weeks after Davis’ death, violence became a hot topic of discussion,

as news of shootings after several area high school football games and deadly robberies around town flooded the news. Davis’ death spurred State Sen. Royce West and 97.9 “The Beat” radio host Rickey Smiley into action. The two men, along with Davis’ father, Joseph Anthony Davis Sr., Commissioner John Wiley Price and local law enforcement participated in a town hall meeting at

The Black Academy of Arts and Letters last month. This gave local residents and community leaders a chance to discuss violence, drugs, gangs, parenting and wayward youth in their community. These are issues, they say, that need to be addressed right away, before the problem gets worse.

In Pennsylvania, the Loews Theater chain pulled

50 Cent’s movie from its Pittsburgh theaters after a shooting left 30-year-old Shelton Flowers dead in the lobby, according to news reports. And the AMC movie chain last week reported that a number of fistfights broke out at a number of theaters showing the movie in its first week, something the theatres did not consider that unusual, according to a Reuters story.

Continued on page 11.



Yes, Virginia, New Orleans will have Mardi Gras in 2006!

Despite the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, we welcome all of you back to the “City that Care Forgot” for Mardi Gras 2006 – we will again open our arms with Southern hospitality to everyone who loves New Orleans!

To those who already love New Orleans and to those who would like to experience Mardi Gras in New Orleans ... as well as our unique culture,

our delicious restaurants, jazz in the streets of the French Quarter, riverboat cruises and more of the excitement only New Orleans can offer ... please plan to visit us!

Mardi Gras parade routes, dates, locations, packages and available hotels will be online very soon on mardigrasneworleans.com.



\$5⁹⁷

Base sold separately

18 in.

Majestic Pine Mini Tree

•18 in. height •63 tip count •Tabletop #122741

Burlap Base #122797 **\$3.97**

Round Plastic Stand #122747 **\$3.97**



\$13⁹⁷

18 ft.

50-light Illuminated Garland

•Pre-lit garland •Includes 2 replacement bulbs and 2 additional fuses #85294, 67700

Selection may vary. See stores for details.



from \$5⁹⁷ to \$7⁹⁷

23 oz. Fragranced Jar Candles

•Glass candle jar with wood lid
•Scented holiday fragrances #3949, 155053

Selection may vary. See stores for details.



\$4⁹⁷

20 in.

Blank Wreath

•Natural looking two-tone green color with 170 tips
•Indoor/Outdoor •Can be lit with mini UL1 approved indoor/outdoor lights #99144

Selection may vary. See stores for details.



YOUR CHOICE \$19⁹⁷ each

Spinning Snowflake Pooh Bear

•4 AA batteries included •16" tall •Plays "Deck the Halls"
•Dances to music •Spins snowflake string #5203

Tigger Playing Guitar #121522



SHOP EARLY

FOR VALUES 4 DAYS ONLY!

NOVEMBER 17-20



American Red Cross

Through donations and matching funds, Lowe's and its customers have donated over \$8 million to the American Red Cross disaster relief fund. Thank you for helping to make a difference.

EVERYDAY LOW PRICES GUARANTEED

If you happen to find a lower price on the identical stock item at any local retail competitor, and provide confirmation of that price, we'll match it and beat their price by an additional 10%.

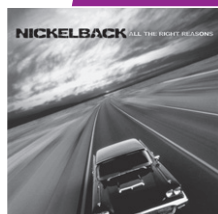
For the Lowe's nearest you, call 1-800-993-4416 or visit us online at Lowe's.com

Prices may vary after November 20, 2005, if there are market variations. "Was" prices in this advertisement were in effect on November 10, 2005 and may vary based on Lowe's Everyday Low Price policy. See store for details regarding product warranties. We reserve the right to limit quantities. ©2005 by Lowe's. All rights reserved. Lowe's and the gable design are registered trademarks of LF, LLC. 0501102

Only from Alltel
Get the **FREE** *JamPack*

when you buy the **NOKIA 6255i**

FREE
STEREO HEADSET,
MEMORY CARD & MORE



preloaded memory card features
NICKELBACK
— *Photograph* video from
All the Right Reasons CD
PLUS
exclusive acoustic versions
of *Savin' Me*
and *Someday*
alltel.com/jampack

JamPack also includes:

» 2 **FREE**
Wallpapers



Blue Mountain
Wallpaper

» 30 Days
FREE



Zuma® by PopCap

» 2 **FREE**
MusicTones



Modtones DJ™

» 30 Days
FREE



World Poker Tour
Texas Hold 'Em

Airtime charges may apply.

axcess
messages info tones fun



MP3 Player / FM Radio
Flash Camera & Video Phone
Bluetooth® Connectivity

\$84⁹⁹

after \$30 mail-in rebate
with 2-year service agreement
Screen images are simulated.

add lines
\$9⁹⁹
mo
on plans \$59.99 & higher.

come and get your love™

alltel
wireless

alltel.com 1-800-alltel9

Alltel Retail Stores

Algiers
3869 General DeGaulle
(504) 368-4300

Covington
808 Hwy. 190, Ste. B
(985) 893-7313

Houma
1043 W. Tunnel Blvd.
(985) 851-2355

Kenner
1000 W. Esplanade Ave.,
Ste. 106
(504) 468-8334

Metairie
2701 N. Causeway Blvd.
(504) 835-1105

New Orleans
211 Carondelet
(504) 524-4194

Thibodaux
906 Canal Blvd.
(985) 448-2600

Slidell
1302 Corporate Sq.,
Ste. 2016
(985) 847-0891

Business Sales
1-877-BIZ-CNTR
(249-2687)

**Official Wireless Provider
of the New Orleans Saints**



Chalmette
3220 Paris Rd.
(504) 277-7395

Harvey
1818 Manhattan Blvd.,
Bldg. B
(504) 367-0897

Southland Mall
5953 W. Park Ave.
(985) 804-2355

Larose
115 W. 10th St.
(985) 798-2323

Phone Promotion: Phone available at sale price to new customers & eligible existing customers. Contact Alltel to determine if you are eligible. Limit 1 rebate per qualifying purchase. Phone cannot be returned once mail-in rebate certificate has been submitted. Customer pays applicable taxes. See rebate certificate for details. **\$9.99 Add Lines:** 1 line must be a primary line of service on select rate plans \$59.99 & higher, with no more than 4 secondary lines at \$9.99/month each. 2-year service agreement required for each line in conjunction with a phone promotion. **Additional Information:** Limited-time offer at participating locations. While supplies last. Activation of a qualifying Alltel rate plan, credit approval & approved handset required. \$20 non-refundable activation fee applies per line. \$200 early termination fee may apply per line. Nickelback photo & "All the Right Reasons" cover art ©2005 The All Blacks B.V. Nokia & Nokia 6255i are trademarks or registered trademarks of Nokia Corporation. Bluetooth is registered trademark of Bluetooth, SIG, Inc. Offers are subject to the Alltel Terms & Conditions for Communications Services available at any Alltel store or alltel.com. All product & service marks referenced are the names, trade names, trademarks & logos of their respective owners.



New Orleans
DATA
News Weekly

The People's Paper

DATA ZONE

Continued from page 8.

Loews president Travis Reid was quoted saying "...I'm skeptical that the film itself incited it..."

Whether the film itself is able to cause violence, many cringe at the idea that the movie seems to hype up violence and glorifies gangs. In the movie, 50 Cent's mother is burned alive by a rival drug dealer, and it isn't until later that moviegoers learn that the rival drug dealer also raped her before soaking her body in gasoline and lighting a match.

In another movie scene, one of 50's partners is shot while at a nightclub and left paralyzed from the waist down. Even after being left paralyzed, the man still remains loyal to his crew and signals to them whenever the cops are around. In a revenge shooting, 50 walks right up to a group of men responsible for his partner's paralyzed condition and fires on them at point blank range. And just before 50 walks on stage to a packed club audience to give a performance, a gun goes off behind the rapper, signifying that one of his partners has

just shot and killed the man who killed 50's mother.

Local audience reaction to the movie was mixed. At various points, mothers left the theater with their young children close behind them. Others left the theater while the movie was still playing, and few came back. At other times, people chuckled at some of the more bizarre, but feasible, scenes.

While that may be 50's story, its implications have some people concerned.

In Los Angeles, community leaders have protested billboards and posters advertising the movie near neighborhood schools and in their communities. They complained that the advertisements showing the rapper stripped to the waist, tattooed and bullet-scarred, holding a microphone in one hand and a gun in another, glorified gangs and violence. Paramount Motion Pictures pulled some billboards in response to the community protests.

Diageo Partners with Boss Soul Aquarius to Aid Communities Affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita



Stylist Sonya Crockett, one of the Baileys Beauty Shops professional volunteers, is pictured here providing a little comfort and pampering to a New Orleans resident.

— In a show of continued humanitarian support, Diageo, the world's leading premium drinks company, has partnered with Boss Soul Aquarius, a New Orleans-based barbershop, to deploy special mobile versions of its Crown Royal Barbershops and Baileys Beauty Shops.

The special mobile relief vehicles offer haircuts and

grooming services performed by licensed barbers and stylists who are all residents of New Orleans. The vehicles also provide complimentary phone lines, Internet access and email services to hurricane victims anxious to contact their loved ones. The Crown Royal and Baileys mobile relief vehicles were first deployed in Mobile, Alabama, in early October and will travel through December to additional impacted areas in the Gulf Coast region.

Diageo's participation in this effort is part of its ongoing Spirit of the Americas Humanitarian Aid Missions, which have provided humanitarian aid and support for victims of Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, as well as to hundreds of orphans in war-torn Afghanistan and Iraq.

However, some say that whether Hollywood wants to admit it or not, the on-screen violence is finding its way into America's communities. "A lot of people don't want to hear the truth," said Smiley, a victim of gun violence himself when three men shot him in a phone booth. Violence also

struck Smiley when he was 6-years-old; that's when someone murdered his father, he said after the town hall meeting last month.

So when he says, "violence is out" in the commercial, his message has added personal significance.

"People are scared of the truth and we don't like change," he said, referring to messages directed at Black people taking responsibility for their youth, "...but I was taught to stand for what is right, even if it is not popular."



STRONG COMMUNITIES ARE BUILT WITH COMMITMENT.

At Coors Brewing Company,



we've made a

solid commitment to support the efforts of people dedicated to



strengthening their communities. **WE ARE PROUD**

TO INVEST IN THE vision and dedication *of these individuals*

striving to make a difference — FROM OUR COMMUNITY TO YOURS.



STRENGTH, SUPPORT, COMMITMENT

WWW.COORS.COM

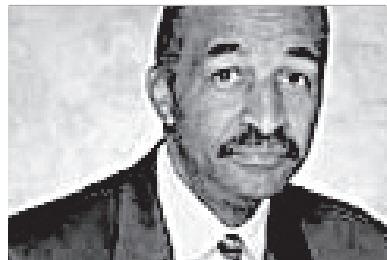


© 2004 Coors Brewing Company, Golden, Colorado 80401 • Brewer of Fine Quality Beers Since 1873 • BEER



OPINION

The Bush White House: Sleaze with Ease



James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

Has there ever been a time in this country when the “ruling” administration has done so much dirt, right before our very eyes, with such arrogance, such disdain, and such outright disregard for “the people”?

Think about it. For a guy who was appointed president by the Supreme Court after a crooked election process in his brother’s state of Florida, and even after that debacle this same guy took his road show to Ohio for the next “selection” and did another in-your-face on “the people,” your boy George Bush really has it goin’ on. Can you believe some of the stuff he has gotten away with during the past five years? And the hits just keep on comin’.

Bush is bad enough, with his absolute dismal ratings among “the people,” but to add insult to injury, his boys and girls are worse than he is. Talk about sleaze with ease; they get the prize. Even before they joined Bush, Jr.’s camp, guys like Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney were busy doing their dirt under Ronald Reagan, the Great Communicator.

The lovely and talented “Condi” Rice was doing the bidding of George Bush, Sr. All the while, waiting in the wings (or was it a dugout, or maybe a bar) was George Jr., Karl Rove, Karen Hughes, Alberto “Speedy” Gonzales, and all the others who have participated in raping this country – and several others. And where did they find Scott McClellan?

A laundry list of shenanigans will only scratch the surface of what they have done.

They came in with war on their minds. They entered the scene determined to commandeer the energy market. They lied, cheated, misled, pilfered, and smiled while they were doing their dirt. They continue to do the nastiest things to the neediest people of this country and we continue to allow it.

The Bushites are now mired in quagmires in Iraq and in this country, and they are trying desperately to get into others in Iran and Syria.

They face indictments, charges, trials, and convictions. They are Rovin’ like a bunch of wild animals to see whom they can devour. They are “Scootin” around, in attempts to deploy “dirty tricks” to destroy those on their “enemies list.”

The Bushmen and Bushwomen have cut the benefits of those they say they love, respect, and revere. The soldiers fighting their war for them are facing a bankruptcy law that now makes it much more difficult to file.

The top dog, or should I say, “The Top Gun,” George Bush, has set himself up as an infallible, unapologetic, arrogant, capital spending (“I earned capital and I am going to spend it.”) gunslinger from the wild, wild west. To really take the cake, he now thinks of himself as God. Did you hear him when he spoke of Russian leader, Vladimir Putin?

Wasn’t it something to the effect that he “looked into his eyes” and saw Putin’s soul? And then his latest God-like announcement, as he spoke of his failed Supreme-to-be, Harriet Myers, “I know her heart.” The last time I checked, knowing someone’s heart was God’s job.

It would take a book, a series of books, to write about all the things these guys and girls have done to “the people,” but let’s just take a few more of Bush’s words and let them suffice. Recently, he responded to a question about his low ratings and the terrible job he is doing.

He said, “There’s some background noise here, a lot of chatter, a lot of speculation and opining, but the American people expect me to do my job and I’m going to do it.” (When?) Hey, George, the American people” as you call us, are the ones who rated your performance to a toilet-low in the first place.

Is this guy even awake when he makes those kinds of comments?

If it were not so serious it would be funny, but this is far from funny. Our future hangs in the balance, and the best we can seem to do is have George Bush and his den of thieves in charge of our fate. Lord help us, because they have adopted a “Sleaze With Ease” campaign, and they are on the rampage.

Why? The same answer Clinton gave when asked why he had his dalliance with Monica; they do it because they can.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati’s African American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce

Not Serious Even Yet

by Muhammad Yungai

Lately much ink has been expended on the acute fissures of caste (race) and class (poverty) that were exposed in bold relief by hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately, this trend seems likely to go the way of tradition when it comes to race and class in America; much sound and fury signifying nothing. This is a sad predisposition of white America; to avoid measures requiring it to make sacrifices in order to ameliorate or mitigate the greatest continuing controversy in American history. “What to do with the Negro”, as one 1960’s writer put it.

The specious mantra of “personal responsibility” touted by the apologists of an inequitable system, is used to cover up the historic fact that so-called African Americans were by law deprived of property and capital for centuries in this most capitalistic of systems. This, compounded by the fact that we were also deprived of education during those same centuries, has created the glaring deficiencies observed today regarding our people in almost every area of American life.

Those who know the history have conspired to keep it out of the consciousness of both black and white in order to protect the inherited booty from the slavery/segregation era and prevent measures, which would require those beneficiaries to make any sacrifices. Unfortunately this booty has been widely distributed across a wide swath of white America, even if very thinly amongst those in the middle and near the bottom of the capitalistic economic pyramid. Thus most white Americans feel economic solidarity with the rich against a stigmatized, largely black underclass.

Since the 60’s, neither those who have railed against the welfare state or those who helped construct it have advocated or acted on the necessary measures to bring African Americans into the full measure and dignity of American labor, commerce and industry. When hundreds of thousands of African Americans wound up living in America’s urban housing projects, why were they not educated in trades to maintain them? Why were not the second and third generations there trained in the management, financing and building of new units? All of these things were demanded by black leaders (that a segment of the white community says we don’t need) over the past several decades. But it seems that history is being repeated in New Orleans. In the current rush to grab lucrative contracts to rebuild the city, the residents and citizens themselves are being left out and long-term solutions are not being thought out!

America seems to only pay attention to the plight of the so-called Negro when it becomes internationally embarrassed as it is now during this current Katrina exposure. But if history is any guide, it will be business as usual as soon as the spotlight is turned off.

The social and economic costs of a dysfunctional African American and indeed impoverished community of any race are too numerous to mention here, but time is very short to quit sweeping the problem under the rug and get serious!

NEWS

Senate, Continued from page 6.

the course is no longer an option."

Sen. Frist said the measure recognizes Congress is charged with the oversight of the executive branch. The Republican plan, which passed 79-19, asks the Bush administration to explain its strategy for successful completion of the Iraq mission. The Republican plan calls for quarterly reporting about the progress U.S. troops and the Iraqi military and government are making in Iraq. The Democrat proposal was similar to the Republican measure, except it also asked the administration to set a timetable for withdrawal.

The progress reports are to include updates on the compromises by Iraq's political parties to create a stable government, the status of basic services in Iraq and the number of Iraqi army and police forces that can function independently. The plan says American troops should not stay in Iraq any longer than required.

*Jesse Jackson,
Continued from page 6.*

Jackson said the administration could house some evacuees in disused military bases in the New Orleans area, allowing them to be close to their homes and close to the reconstruction jobs that are opening up across the devastated city.

"This is a radical dislocation," he said. "These are people who want to work. The government must not grow impatient with their misery."

In an open letter to U.S. President George W. Bush, Jackson said the eviction order was not the "help" the president promised in the days after the catastrophe, which flooded much of low-lying New Orleans and forced residents to flee.

"This latest action by FEMA will leave thousands of displaced families homeless," he said. "It will make a disaster out of the disaster relief efforts."

*Newsmaker,
Continued from page 4.*

the lack of affordable housing and the potential of a smaller African-American population in New Orleans. "I see a very different city in the future if the present trends in the housing market continue." Adding, "Although I don't think the city will immediately see a white majority, I feel the number of African-Americans will decrease." With the potential of exponential profits for some home owners and developers, he says he is receiving calls daily inquiring about available properties.

Jeffrey May worries that these trends could be problematic and that the city could potentially lose one of its most valuable resources, its people, "So much of the thing that makes New Orleans a special place is its citizens who contribute so much to the culture, and what I say to the

developers; remember it's not all about profits, it's also about people."

Presently, the city is in the beginning stages of this new development. It is still unknown exactly the long term affects of this recent surge in the interest in New Orleans real estate will continue and what will happen to many of the city's residents who would like to return who find themselves in similar situations as Charles Vaughn, who from afar see countless opportunities for employment, but unable to find affordable housing. And if what's going on presently is any indication of the future of the housing market in the city, whether one is African-American or White, it is certain that they will definitely need more green to live in the new Big Easy.



Be A Disaster Relief Hero

Victims of the recent hurricane need help immediately. The American Red Cross is on the scene—providing shelter, food and counseling. But your help is urgently needed. Your contribution will help the victims of the recent hurricane and thousands of other disasters across the country each year.

Make a financial contribution
to the Disaster Relief Fund.
Please contact the Red Cross at
1-800-HELP NOW
redcross.org

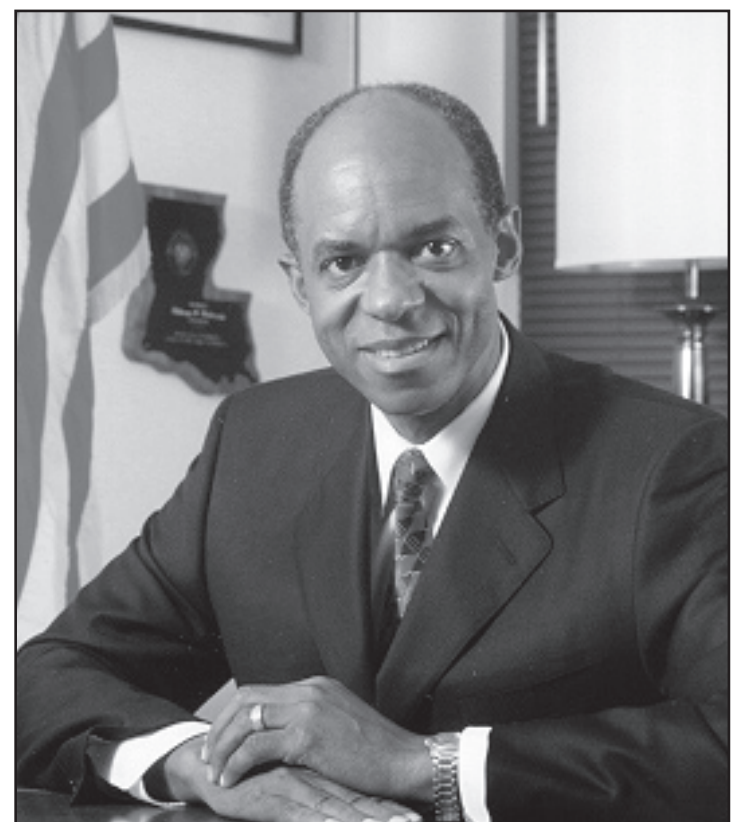


American Red Cross
Together, we can save a life

Happy Thanksgiving

Congratulations to the Southern
University Jaguars, and the
Grambling State University
Tigers on the 32nd Annual State
Farm Bayou Classic.

Congressman William J. Jefferson



NEWS

Subscribe to the
Data News Weekly.
 Have it mailed directly to you

Get all the news and updates from home from your trusted source! Bi-weekly issues 26 times per year for only \$35.00

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Address 2: _____
 City/State/Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number: _____
 Email address: _____

Send your check or money order to:
 Data News Weekly, P.O. Box 5033, Atlanta, GA 30302
 (404) 223-5958

Data News Weekly: Serving the New Orleans
 Community for over 39 years.....

Former NOPD officer charged
 in missing Cadillacs case

A former New Orleans police officer is facing federal charges for allegedly driving a vehicle looted from a Cadillac dealership across state lines.

Willie Earl Bickham Jr., 36, was charged with felony interstate transportation of a stolen vehicle after his arrest in Houston, U.S. Attorney Jim Letten said Wednesday. Bickham, who resigned from the police department the week after Hurricane Katrina, faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Houston police said Bickham admitted taking the truck.

Letten said crossing state lines in a stolen vehicle threw the matter into his jurisdiction. The federal government is trying to send a message that any effort to profit from the storm will be dealt with aggressively, Letten said.

During Hurricane Katrina, more than 200 vehicles, including 88 new Cadillacs and Chevrolets, were taken from a dealership. Police acknowledged that some of

the cars were taken to replace flooded police cars.

Two men who were not police officers have been charged with looting, burglary, theft and possession of stolen property. They were charged as part of an investigation of the incident by the state attorney general's office.

The dealership is still missing 11 new cars, 37 used cars and 11 customers' cars, dealership president Doug Stead said on Wednesday.

New Orleans Companies Struggle With Worker Shortage

NEW ORLEANS – Almost three months after Hurricane Katrina, a labor shortage in New Orleans is slowing the city's rebuilding progress.

With thousands of residents still homeless and many more having fled the area, there's a chronic shortage of workers. So employers have gotten creative in attracting a work force.

One New Orleans shipyard has set up dockside dormitories to house workers. About 80 percent of them are homeless. Workers are provided phones and computers to keep in touch with family, and work only four-day weeks so they can travel back to rebuild their homes.

One shipyard worker told Sky News he feels useful again now that he's doing something.

"I'm contributing to the families, I can do something for the kids," he said.

Shipyard manager George Yount said with everything in their lives destroyed, "It is really a bit therapeutic to come to work."

Meantime, one Burger King is even offering a \$6,000 bonus for staff who stay for one year.

Fair Housing files complaint against Housing
 Authority of New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS – The Fair Housing Center has filed a complaint against the Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) for not complying with an agreement signed by the two agencies in 2003.

That contract refers to St. Thomas Housing development residents who should be allowed back to live in the mixed income neighborhood, the River Garden.

But in this post-Katrina world, so many things have changed. James Perry, Executive Director of Fair Housing says, "What adds to our frustration rather than allowing St. Thomas residents to move in, folks who are supposed to be given preference, HANO employees are living in the properties." Pre-Katrina there were 750 families on a waiting list to get into public housing. Post-Katrina, Perry says, the number of available units has drastically decreased to only 9 percent of units going to affordable housing.

TIME MAGAZINE PROCLAIMS
**"IT'S ONE OF THE FUNNIEST
 AND MOST EXHILARATING
 MOVIES IN YEARS."**
 - RICHARD CORLISS



WALT DISNEY
 PICTURES PRESENTS
**CHICKEN
 LITTLE**
**WE'LL SEE WHO'S CHICKEN
 NOV. 4**

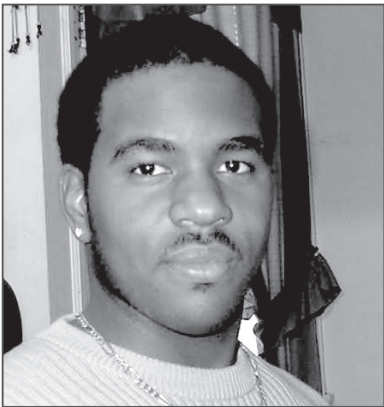
G GENERAL AUDIENCES
 All Ages Admitted

SOUNDBY TRACK FEATURES
 Bare Naked Ladies • The Cheesha Girls
 Five For Fighting
 Patti LaBelle and Joss Stone
 R.E.M. • Diana Ross
 AVAILABLE NOV. 4, 2005

disney.com/chickenlittle

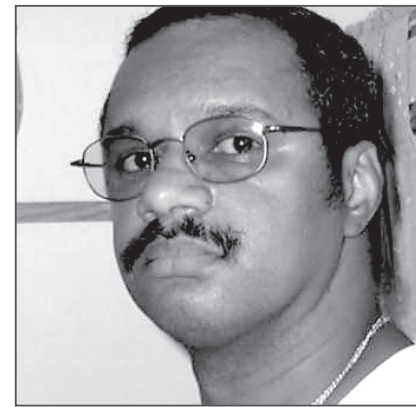
News Orleans Data News Weekly

TRAIL BLAZERS



Chris Mercadel, Jr. (CJ)

Christopher Mercadel



Chris Mercadel, Sr.

If a hero is defined as one who is selfless, courageous, and calm under pressure then Christopher Mercadel is one and then some. During the time when the city of New Orleans succumbed to the treacherous winds and rains of Hurricane Katrina, and after the levees broke leaving our city vulnerable as the flood waters rose and panic spread across the city and many feared for their lives. Mercadel took out his boat, along with his son Christopher Jr. and his neighbor Michael Chachere captaining a rescue mission that eventually saved at least a dozen lives.

No stranger to saving and protecting lives Mercadel is a retired police officer who also spent several years in the U.S. Army. When asked about his selfless act he simply says, "It's something I felt I needed to do to help people in their time of need." He continued, "It's something I've been doing my entire life, helping people." For him this rescue mission was even more special as his son who he says while laughing in retrospect, "It's so ironic my son asked me to go, given he usually gets sick anytime he's on a boat" accompanied him on his mission. But during this mission he persevered and they saved many a lives. As he talks about this episode as a father and son bonding moment, it brought him back to his childhood when at the age of 11 too young to accompany his father and brother as they performed a similar rescue operation during Hurricane Betsy, saving the lives of many of the residents of the Ninth Ward.

His selfless act did not go unnoticed, as he has become a celebrity of sorts as one of his passengers during his mission was CNN reporter Mark Biello who also accompanied him during his journey which at one point his camera provided the only light once the sun went down as they heard voices in the dark crying for help. As many lives laid in the balance, Mercadel fearlessly toiled on his rescue mission, and even came back to assist more people after making sure his family was safe.

He spoke of the people he helped rescue many of which he doesn't remember, but the one he does remember the most was the owner of the now well known photo of a dog on a roof which was photographed by Mercadel.

"The owner of the dog was a double amputee who was hanging in a tree for over fourteen hours." Continuing his thought he lightheartedly says, "I'm still receiving e-mail asking what happened to the dog."

For him this mission did not end the days after he and his crew rescued the people in the downtown area. When he looks in his backyard he is reminded of the devastation by the four trailers that now serve as temporary homes for several of his friends and relatives. Reflecting on his experience and the future of the city of New Orleans, "It's going to be a while before the city will be back. How long I don't know, but if I had to estimate it maybe 15 or twenty years."

Today as we near Thanksgiving it is true many have lost a lot, but should be thankful for their lives and their health, and for at least a dozen people, they have to thank Christopher Mercadel, his son Chris Jr. and his neighbor Michael Chachere who courageously and unselfishly went out to help people when their lives lay in the balance. He says of his heroic journey going back to seeing his father and brother perform a similar mission, "This is something that was instilled into me as a child, it's in my blood." Christopher Mercadel is the true definition of a trailblazer and a hero.

presented by

COX
COMMUNICATIONS

RENEW ORLEANS

GMAC FINANCIAL SERVICES

Renewing a community is challenging. But, with perseverance, patience and persistence, those challenges can be met by bringing people together to rebuild homes, restore buildings, reopen businesses and make transportation available and accessible to everyone. As you look toward recovery, know that you are in the thoughts of all of us here at GMAC, the financial services people of General Motors.

gmacfs.com SmartEdgebyGMAC.com

GMAC Automotive Financing • GMAC Commercial Finance • GMAC Commercial Mortgage • GMAC Global Relocation Services
GMAC Insurance • GMAC Bank • GMAC Mortgage Corporation • GMAC Real Estate • GMAC Residential Funding Corporation