



Newsmaker | Data 's 40th Anniversary Extravaganza



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COVER STORY

New Orleans: The Road to Recovery

(Katrina One Year Later: A Retrospective)

By: Edwin Buggage Photos by: Chris Mercadel, Sr.





As we approach the one year anniversary of the horrific experience of Hurricane Katrina, and its aftermath; one that nearly destroyed a city which in all its rustic antiquated splendor remained the cultural jewel of the south and also held the distinction as America's most interesting city. Our recent past in the crescent city has been a gumbo of tragedy, irony, and comedy, and where triumph is goal yet fulfilled. But one year later trash strewn streets, abandoned buildings, and the overall wreckage of our damaged city is still with us, and as the future remains uncertain, and as the city attempts to recover from one of the most tragic disasters in American history, the question is what is actually being done to expedite the recovery?

Opinions about the pace of the recovery are of varying degrees, but all agree that the process has been less than excellent. City Council President Oliver Thomas told Data, "It's not as good as it should be, but it's better than most people thought it would be." Although it is understandable that rebuilding a city is a gargantuan undertaking that is going to take time, but the 64,000 dollar question is how much time? Shedrick White, a former mayoral candidate and activist says, "I believe misplaced political priorities have slowed down the process, and a lack of focus on the part of the present administration." "They are in the process of planning a jazz theme park and other large scale projects, but what about the citizens, it seems this administration is focused too heavily on large business development, but not on the citizens and the rebuilding of communities." He adds, "Which in my mind reinforces that they are still placing emphasis on New Orleans as a place that's good to visit, but not a good city

to live in."

As citizens struggle to return to the city, small business who were once the foundation that supported the economic house that is New Orleans, are also having a hard time, an are presently experiencing financial woes as they valiantly try to maintain themselves during these hard economic times as the city is in recovery mode. Duke LoCicero owner and chef of Café Giovanni who also hosts a talk radio show on 1350A.M. called 'Dig In' where they discuss issues pertaining to New Orleans talks about the struggles of small business as they try to survive in New Orleans in a post-Katrina economy. "I don't see enough help at the local level to help small businesses in the city." "Also I think politics is getting in the way of recovery; during 9-11 businesses received grants to help them along after the attack, but we are

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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COVER STORY

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still trying to get help and we haven't gotten it not even in the form of tax breaks."

Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond is an adamant critic of what seems like the snails pace of the relief effort, saying he has become frustrated with the process of recovery, citing the rift between Gov. Blanco and Mayor Nagin, as an impediment to the recovery. Evaluating the situation over the events of the past year he gives the citizens an 'A' for their commitment to coming home and rebuild. He says, "I'll give FEMA an 'F' and the city government a 'C.' As problems still abound one year later beyond the walls of city hall about the future of the New Orleans Richmond says, "It is still a fight about who can come back, and who we will make provisions for, people are still talking about which communities should come back, and whether we're going to be smaller, but I think we need a definite plan to rebuild and definitive answers."

But placing politics aside, truly the continuing road to recovery will be in the hands and in the will of the people themselves and in the coming months as they ask themselves some really hard questions; do they want to return to the crescent city? Do they want to return to a place where murder, malice and mayhem still remain? A place that despite its rich culture as a historical mecca of the western hemisphere

has distinguished itself with the seemingly unshakable reputation as a cesspool of political corruption and corporate greed. As put so poignantly by LoCicero, "For every two steps up we take two steps back."

In essence as we try to move forward we must not stand still, we cannot hold on to some of the things of the New Orleans of old and expect to progress. As this year have past we have seen the worst of times, but the best of times still lie ahead as New Orleanians are a resilient people and in spite of our reputation for decadence we are a spiritual people. And there is light at the end of the tunnel, for one man, woman or a governmental or civic body cannot stop the will of a people as proven by the recent Mayoral Election. And as we mourn this tragic day of our city, we must celebrate the lives of our loved ones whether they are here physically or have transcended, remembering the connective

bonds that tie us to a reality that was a city like no other. The good times we shared over the best food and music the world has to offer, the communal spirit of our people, and ancestral bonds that connects all the citizens of different races and ethnicities to a common culture that is New Orleans. And wherever we are in the world as New Orleanians, we will always be bonded together and on August 29th may we share in prayer, for our city and in our hearts we are 5-0-Forever.







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NEWSMAKER

Data News Weekly Announces It's Headliners for the 40th Anniversary Gala Event

By: Cheryl Mainor | Photos by: Skip Bolen and Norman Leonard

Celebrating 40 years of publishing "The People's Paper" Data News Weekly is hosting the Gala Event on Friday, August 25th at the New Orleans African American Museum. Expecting one of the largest attendances to date, Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones stated, "This year's Gala Event, is our most exciting we have had the honor to host. We are proud and honored to have had the ability to continue to serve our community especially now, Post-Katrina, and to bring information to our people, wherever they are now." Citing the launch of the paper's new website, www.ladatanews. com, Jones says he is proud to be a part of New Orleans history, and is looking forward to 40 more years in the City's yet to be determined future. "Whatever the future holds, said Jones, Data will be there, telling the stories of our community which have gone untold, have been mistold, or

those needing to be retold. This is our charge, this is our mission, this is our purpose."

Entertainment for the Gala Event, is sure to bring you to your feet, whether you are into R&B, Jazz, or Root's music, this event has something for everyone. Headlining the event are; The Julius Handy Quartet, the acclaimed song stylings of Samirah Evans, New Orleans Afrocenteric **Roots-Rhythms** artists Zion Trinity, New Orleans Jazz violinist Michael Ward and the world renowned Jazz musician Kermit Ruffins. Other musical performances by Jazz artist Phillip Manuel and by the Kumbuka Dance and Drumming Collective round out this great evening of entertainment.

Tickets for this event are only \$35 and can be purchased at the door, with the Gala Event beginning at 7:00 p.m. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Joseph M. Jones (JMJ) Continuing

Education Fund, which for 10 years has been assisting New deserving African-Orleans' American college students with the cost of their education at local New Orleans colleges and universities.



Samirah Evans

The sultry sophisticated voice of Samirah Evans captivates audiences across the globe. In New Orleans, Samirah is one

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of its most popular jazz & blues vocalists. She has shared stages with a multitude of legendary national artists from B.B. King, the Godfather of Soul. James Brown, to New Orleans own Queen of Soul, Irma Thomas.

This multitalented young entertainer has delighted audiences in Europe, Asia, North and South America. Locally she has become a popular attraction at prestigious venues such as House of Blues, Sweet Lorraine's, The Ritz Carlton Lounge and the Bombay Club and the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Michael Ward



Ralph Records recording artist Michael is a longtime favorite in New Orleans. Influenced by the music of Noel Pointer and Jean Luc Ponte while a student at Southern, Michael began his journey as a Jazz Violinist, and has never looked back.

After leaving his first group the 4am Band, Michael formed his own band and began working in New Orleans. The fans who followed him for years found him working at Pampy's, a small neighborhood bar where his band performed every Sunday, backing jazz singer Ed Perkins. He always felt as if the entire city of New Orleans was there.

Michael has toured many foreign countries and all over the U.S. He has worked with many well-known musicians and played many of the worlds finest venues. His music has touched the hearts of many and has gained him the respect of his peers around the world. His fans grow in numbers after each of his performances, as does his love for his Violin and music, and his gratitude for the gifts that life has brought him.

Kermit Ruffins





New Orleans-based trumpeter, bandleader, singer and songwriter Kermit Ruffins is an ever-inventive musician who projects a warmth from the stage and has become a favorite son of his native city.

Fortunately for fans of contemporary New Orleans music and the annual New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Ruffins, a mainstay of both arenas, has been picked up and marketed and distributed in recent years by the Crescent City-based Basin Street Records. He formed the Barbecue Swingers in 1992. Basin Street has issued a steady stream of very well-recorded albums by Ruffins and his Barbecue Swingers throughout the 1990's.

He began playing trumpet as a young teenager, but didn't discover the possibilities of jazz and blues until he first heard Louis Armstrong when he was 19. He began playing songs by Armstrong and other classic jazz figures associated with New Orleans, for tips with a friend in Jackson Square.

Ruffins is famous at home in New Orleans for his frequent barbecue bashes at the bars he and his band perform in. In recent years, Ruffins and his band have been able to take their act out on the road on summer weekends. playing at festivals across the country, introducing new fans to his unique jazz stylings which are so distinctly New Orleans.

For more information on the Data News Weekly 40th Anniversary Gala Event, call (504) 891-4991. Mark you calendars and make plans to attend. You won't want to miss it



www.ladatanews.com

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

Reggie Out the Bush, **Having a Good Camp**



By Ty Green

After missing four days of practice, a flight in route to the team's training facilities in Jackson, Miss, Saints rookie sensation running back Reggie Bush is in camp and has flourished as expected. Bush was the second overall player selected in the draft behind defensive end Mario Williams, who was taken first by the Houston Texans, inked the biggest contract in team history.

Bush signed a deal that guarantees him \$26.325 million in option and bonuses and base salary, slightly more then Williams, who was selected ahead of him. The six-year pact has a total value of \$62 million, \$175,000 to \$200,000 less then his predecessor in the May Draft. "I'm definitely very happy with the contract, Bush said, we got firstpick money. You can't complain with that."

With the deal signed and sealed, new Saints Head Coach Sean Payton, players, staff, and fans alike, are ready for the former Heisman Trophy winner to deliver.

Coach Payton used Bush in various formations at practice, which also included special team play, returning punts and kickoffs. Bush never missed a beat despite the time missed away due to the delay with his contract. The players noticed how he ran with the flow, showing why he was selected the team's top player. Payton and his staff conceded, no

special treatment will be given the USC Trojan grad, treating him just like the other 85 players listed on the roster.

"We have rules for this camp and parameters we operate from, Payton said. He (Bush) understands that, and so does everyone, all the way down to the last free agent we signed."

Bush has caught the eyes of Saints all-pro veteran widereceiver Joe Horn, who watched the rookie prize slip through would be tacklers, dipping and dodging players, and was amazed by a spectacular one handed catch. He nick named him the "Matrix". Horn said he's in a zone by himself. "I always feel like I have something to prove, Bush said. That's how I play. I think that's what made me successful."

While he has proven he can shine on Prime Time, still, he has to prove to himself and his teammates he's ready to turn on that blazing speed at the professional level, where the players are bigger and faster. Thus far in practice, he's doing just that.

With ace starting runningback Deuce McAlister still on the mend from knee surgery and his playing status for the pre-season opener suspect, Bush may see a little more then the normal first quarter appearance by veteran players and starters. Both are expected to share the duties during the regular season, however, it is likely both will

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New Orleans Evacuees Convene in Atlanta A Weekend Of Entertainment, Empowerment And Economic Development Aug 25 - 27, 2006

Atlanta, GA - As the one year anniversary of America's single greatest natural disaster approaches, Hurricane Katrina, displaced survivors are gathering in Atlanta, Georgia August 25 -27,2006 to reunite, reflect and remember the day their lives changed forever.

event, according to ChiQ Simms restart, rebuild and recover one of DIVAdend Entertainment the year later. It is important that we event organizer, is to celebrate have an entertaining experience, survival, pay respect to those but we also want this weekend who perished, incorporate New Orleans music in the Atlanta individual responsibility and market, and to find solutions to the challenges that evacuees continue

"The objective for this weekend to face in attempt to return, to empower people to take an initiative to become more selfreliant." New Orleans weekend

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DATA ZONE

When The Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts

Spike Lee's Epic HBO Documentary



WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE: A REQUIEM IN FOUR ACTS: Spike Lee (right).

When The Levees Broke: A Requiem In Four Acts is an epic portrait of New Orleans in the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. The film recounts the heartbreaking personal stories of those who lived to tell about the disaster and provides a detailed chronology of events – from the tragic failure of the levees, to the massive evacuation efforts, to the lack of action that followed. A chronicle of profound loss, the film also focuses on the

triumphantspiritofNew Orleanians as the city rises from the depths of despair with the help of its rich cultural legacy. The movie premieres on Wed. August 16, in New Orleans free of charge to 15,000 New Orleans.

"It is our hope that When The Levees Broke gives the diverse people of New Orleans a platform for their voice,"

says Lee. In making the film, Lee and his team selected nearly 100 people from diverse backgrounds, representing a wide range of opinions to be featured in the film, including Louisiana Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Harry Belafonte, Wynton Marsalis, CNN's Soledad O'Brien, Terence Blanchard, Rev. Al Sharpton, Sean Penn, Kanye West, local media

and other New Orleans residents. Acts I and II debut Monday, Aug 21 (9:00 - 11:00 p.m. ET/PT), on HBO, followed by Acts II and IV on Tuesday, Aug. 22 (9:00 - 11:00 p.m.). All four acts will be seen Tuesday, Aug. 29 (8:00 p.m. – midnight), the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

When The Levees Broke: A residents of the city of Requiem In Four Acts is Spike Lee's third collaboration with HBO, following 1998's "4 Little Girls," which was Oscar nominated in the Documentary Feature category, and 2002's "Jim Brown: All American," Sam Pollard ("Eye on the Prize II: America at the Racial Crossroads") produced and edited the film. Terence Blanchard ("Inside Man"), who hails from New Orleans and frequently collaborates with Lee, is composer of the music, as well as being featured in the film.

> When The Levees Broke: A Requiem In Four Acts is a Spike Lee Film and a 40 Acres & A Mule Filmworks Production. Directed and produced by Spike Lee.



WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE: A REQUIEM IN FOUR ACTS: Spike Lee.



WHEN THE LEVEES BROKE: A REQUIEM IN FOUR ACTS: Terence Blanchard.



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DATA ZONE

Annie Mae's Café and Shut Up and Dance



King, Etta James, New Orleans Queen of Soul Irma Thomas and many others. The characters were amusing and entertaining as they lip-synched to these odes capturing the loves, hurts, pains, and joyful ecstasy of the blues.

The set design resembled an old café with a jukebox and had the feel of an old juke joint, Bean excellently captured the ambiance of these places where originally Stetson and Dobbs hats were tilted to the side and shiny Stacey Adams slid coolly across dance floors with ladies who were adorned in beautiful dresses

delight. Bean's point resonated with the crowd as they swayed along to the infectious songs of yesteryear and young people came to discover the commonalities between the music of the past and the present. It is a play that is enjoyable for all ages and was a truly a delightful spectacle as the kids put on an amazing performance.

Shut Up and Dance was a large scale 25 minute dance performance

as young men performed acrobatic feats and the ladies gracefully and provocatively moved to the sounds of today's hottest songs; skillfully incorporating the local dance music bounce with its infectious hypnotic beats and the movements of the dancers captivated the crowd with some audience members standing up and dancing joining in the excitement of the music. Shut Up and Dance was



Review by: Edwin Buggage Photos by: Glenn Summers

Anthony Bean Theater is on a winning streak that seemingly sees no end in the near future. A packed house was in attendance to witness the plays Annie Mae's Café and Shut Up and Dance. These productions displayed the amazing talents of kids ranging from the ages young as six to their late teens.

The play Annie Mae's Café written by Anthony Bean is a crossgenerational exploration of the blues in an imaginary place called Annie Mae's Café where a group of youngsters are transported and experience the living breathing spirit of the blues through the performance of young people who are transformed into these characters that embody the soul of past musical greats such as Otis Redding, B.B.



with their hair primped to perfection. In this production the spirit of those glorious days were ever present, with dim red lights flickering as soulful music blared through the speakers during this ninety minutes of aural piece choreographed by young dance sensation Arieuna McGee. The production captured the essence of contemporary and modern dance. The young people brought elements of street dancing to a higher art form a great experiment for this young up and comer and serves as an innovative piece of dance where the world of music video meets theater.

Mr. Bean's company seems to know no bounds, with his latest production seems to be headed down the road to greatness as he moves towards a more multifaceted company incorporating more contemporary and experimental ideas into the mix. And with a theater season that will include more productions it will be exciting to see what he comes with next. Because in the present world of New Orleans Theater he is our Hank Aaron the homerun king, and with these two productions he has shown again that he has what it takes to knock it over the fence.



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OPINION

Water In The Well



The Love Dr. Data Columnist

I had the flu this week. I had to work anyway. (That's what happens when you work for yourself.) However, in between task, I did my best to get in bed and rest. Boo was wonderful. She made sure I ate, had my fluids and then did some of the work that I usually do. Actually, I was thanking God for Boo, a few minutes ago, when her kindness reminded me of a friend's situation and how he would be a great example for this week's Love Doctor Column.

I know, you single guys think vou have it made and many of you are avoiding family life like the plague. At a wedding recently, the groom couldn't get any of the single men to line up to catch the garter (you know, like the ladies catch the bouquet). It was disgusting. It seems that many of you are unaware of the fact that you are in the cycle of life and one day your situation will change. You go from "needing and taking" as a child to what you should be "providing for needs" in prime of your adulthood to "needing" again, eventually, in old age.

(Ever wonder why you see more old men sleeping on the street than old women? (Hmmm...) I always wonder how many have no children, or children for whom they've done little.)

There's an old song that goes, "You don't miss your water, 'till the well runs dry.", but I have a dear friend whose situation has made me turn those words around to reflect a positive rather than negative situation. One day someone should write a happy song that goes, "When your mouth is dry and you need a sip, if you built a well all you do is dip." Such was the case for my friend.

This week's column is intended to congratulate those men readers who have managed to keep things together in their families, and to warn those who, so far, have found themselves unable to submerge themselves in the responsibilities of family life. Come on, don't stop reading now! The column may open your eyes to benefits of the family lifestyle of which you were unaware

Unfortunately, in our society, the value of the family lifestyle seems to have been thrown out in the sixties with the Vietnam War. We've gotten into this "do your own thing" attitude, in which some folks actually believe that they can face the world alone. It's easy to understand since television and movies have portrayed the family as a stone around one's neck. After all, people without families don't have to buy food and clothes for kids or provide housing, medical care and education. No one spills ice cream on the seat of their BMW (or Hyundai) and they never have to go to a parent teacher meeting.

The problem is aggravated by the fact that people in the family forming years of their lives often have a mistaken sense of invulnerability, a feeling that they will always be able to do everything that they do now. That's understandable for they have no personal evidence to the contrary... everything still works. During this period of our lives we have very few needs that we cannot fulfill ourselves (or with another consenting adult).

Let's get back to my friend. Here he is... mid forties, well educated, in great physical condition, good job, and reasonably good looking (OK, what do you want me to say, the dude is my friend.) What makes his story relevant is the fact that he was a "well builder", one who accepted the responsibilities of a family. He wasn't one of those "lone rangers", men unattached or only loosely attached to a family. Friend is a Family Man (note the capital letters).

Friend had no way of knowing that in the peak of his years he was about to find himself vulnerable and in a position of temporary "need" long before the anticipated arrival of old age.

After a near fatal auto accident on the night he and his wife celebrated their anniversary, Friend found himself temporarily disabled. Unable to do almost anything for himself, he needed help to do everything. If ever

a man found himself suddenly thirsting for human kindness and support, Friend was that man. Fate had thrown him a curve which had turned his life upside down. He would have to go to his well, his family, and depend on whatever he found there. What he found was a well overflowing with the quenching coolness that springs from the Oasis of a family that loved and respected its husband and father. (Boy isn't that poetic)

As we acknowledge the goodness of Friend's support team (which includes his motherin- law despite the television stereotypes), let's consider how different things might have been if Friend had not been a solid Family Man. What if Friend had chosen not to have a family at all? What if he had deserted the wife and kids to enjoy the pleasures of the "free life"? Somehow, under different circumstances, I don't really believe that I would be able to have pleasant visits with a guy gaining weight from the home cooking prepared by his motherin-law, joking his way past the pains caused by the pins in his leg, feeling warm and secure in the knowledge that whenever he is thirsty he can get a drink. It's nice to have a full well.

Other things come from that well, the pride in children who seek to live up to your expectations, the warmth of father's day breakfast in bed, the getting older and having someone who doesn't see your age. A good well fills up with memories of wide eyes seeing things never seen before on the vacations made possible only by well builders. Its pleasant work building a good solid and deep well and you'll never know when you might need a drink.

If you like the column, His Way Works, is a collection in indexed book form and is available online at www.lovedirections. com or at many fine bookstores. Lloyd Dennis is available as a speaker; email him at Id@lovedirections.com





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HEALTH NEWS Living with **Parkinson's Disease**



Larry Lucas Data Columnist

Someone very wise once said, "Getting old is a privilege, but it sure is an inconvenience." And for many, these inconveniences are largely due to poor or failing health – from difficulty driving a car because of poor vision, to aches and pains from arthritis.

Don't get me wrong. We are fortunate to live in an era where Americans are living longer, generally healthier lives than the generation that came before. But as life expectancy increases, older Americans face new challenges to their health, productivity and independence.

Studies show that older patients are particularly susceptible to many neurological diseases including Parkinson's disease. Parkinson's disease is a disorder that damages dopamine-producing cells, causing symptoms like trembling in hands, arms, legs, jaw and face; rigidity or stiffness in the legs; slow movement and impaired balance and coordination. Many people think that these symptoms could be the normal effects of aging, but if you notice symptoms become pronounced or worsen over time, you should see a doctor.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, approximately one million Americans have Parkinson's disease, including three out of every 100 people over the age of 60. At this time, no treatment has been shown to slow or stop the progression of Parkinson's, but there are a number of effective medicines that help to ease the symptoms. An increasing number of new treatment options are on the horizon; according to a new survey, America's pharmaceutical research companies are currently developing 241 medicines to treat neurological diseases - including Parkinson's.

Most symptoms of Parkinson's disease - muffled speech, shuffling walk, tremors - are caused by a lack of dopamine. The medicines most commonly used will attempt to either replace or mimic dopamine, which improves the tremor, rigidity and slowness associated with Parkinson's disease. For

example, a potential new medicine for Parkinson's is a novel cell therapy that utilizes normal human cells attached to microcarriers to enhance brain levels of the dopamine deficient in Parkinson's patients.

As with most conditions, there are many lifestyle choices that make a significant impact on living a full, healthy life when faced with a diagnosis of Parkinson's The National Parkinson disease. Foundation (NPF) suggests establishing an exercise program, learning the most efficient methods to perform routine activities of daily living, and improving your diet. Learning to pace yourself, prioritize goals, and make use of therapies can make a real difference in how you enjoy life and maintain your independence.

Famous figures like Muhammad Ali and Michael J. Fox are great examples for living active lives with Parkinson's disease. In his book, Lucky Man, Michael J. Fox offers this perspective on living with the condition, "Nobody would ever choose to have this visited upon them. Still, this unexpected crisis forced a fundamental life decision: adopt a siege mentality - or embark upon a journey. Whatever it was...that finally allowed me to go down the second road... was unquestionably a gift."

Because Parkinson's disease is both chronic, meaning it persists over a long period of time, and progressive, meaning its symptoms worsen over time, your course of treatment may evolve. To help keep track of your healthcare, NPF recommends keeping a personal health file at home - including dates of any major diagnoses. pertinent test reports, immunization records, dates of serious illnesses or surgeries, allergies to medication, and a list of current medications, including nonprescription drugs and supplements.

Living with Parkinson's disease demands adaptation, not despair. In the forward of his daughter's new book, Muhammad Ali writes, "What is important is to never lose faith and to never stop living each day to the fullest extent possible." Whether or not you are living with Parkinson's disease, these are certainly words everyone can find inspiring.

Larry Lucas is the deputy vice president for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

Saving to Reach Your Financial Goals

DOLLARS & SENSE

Saving more now can mean reaching your goals faster. How can you do it?



Donald Smith Data Columnist

In order to reach your financial goals, you have to save enough on a regular basis so that the money can grow over time.

How can you find the extra cash in order to save more? Begin by looking at what you spend now. There are certain fixed expenses, such as mortgage payments, electric bills, or commuting costs that you can't avoid. Then there are the variable expenses—clothing, travel, entertainment, etc.—where you may be able to find savings. Go through your checkbook and credit card receipts and

Fixed EXPENSES

Rent/mortgage Utilities Taxes Education/child care Loan payments Insurance premiums Transportation Savings TOTAL: Fixed

make a list of your expenditures—some of the major categories are listed below.

Try to record out of pocket expenses for a week, as well. You might be surprised to learn how much of your paycheck is going to things you don't really need—the daily latte, the newest recording, gifts you don't need to buy. If you can save an extra \$50 to \$100 a month, you could be well on your way to financial independence.

How to Save More

Variable

How much of your income goes to savings each month? Consider your contributions to your retirement plan, plus any regular savings programs you participate in. The best advice for saving is "pay yourself first." Consider your savings a fixed expense, just like your car payments. Every month, put a portion of your paycheck into savings-or better yet, have the bank do it automatically. If you don't see it, you're not as likely to miss it. Experts suggest that you earmark at least 5% of your total gross monthly income for savings, if you can afford to.

Then look at your variable expenses. Where can you save? Do you eat out in restaurants often? Could you save money by bringing a bagged lunch? Do you give gifts that are more expensive than you can afford? Remember, every penny you save today can mean more when you really need it. Isn't it worth it to give up buying another pair of shoes in order to have a comfortable retirement?

Don't set spending limits that are too difficult to meet. You might get frustrated and give up your savings plan. Start with small items that are easy to do without. Once you've achieved success in one area,

Variable expenses

Groceries	
Eating out	
Clothing	
Medical (Uninsured Portion)	
Auto/house repairs	
Entertainment	
Gifts	
Miscellaneous expenses	

you can try to find other areas where you can pinch a penny or two without feeling much pain.

AXA Advisors, LLC does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your tax or legal advisor regarding your individual situation.

Donald Smith is Executive Vice President, for AXA Advisors, LLC Louisiana Branch

Donald Smith offers securities and investment advisory services through AXA Advisors, LLC, 1555 Poydras Street, Suite 2000, New Orleans, LA 70112, member NASD, SIPC, and offers annuity and insurance products through AXA Network, LLC and its subsidiaries.

NATIONAL NEWS

Senate Confirms 'Clarence Thomas 2' to Federal Bench

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday easily confirmed the nomination of Jerome Holmes of Oklahoma to be the first black judge to serve on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

By. James Wright Special to the NNPA from Afro Newspapers

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Despite opposition of civil rights groups, Jerome A. Holmes – an Oklahoma City attorney with controversial views on affirmative action, the death penalty and Black leadership – has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the newest judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals, 10th Circuit, in Denver. Holmes, who was born in the District, has been called "Clarence Thomas 2" by critics.

The vote to confirm Holmes was 67-30, with Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.), the only Black senator, voting against him. Holmes is the only Black on the 10th Circuit Court.

Holmes was thankful for the chance to be a federal appeals court judge.

"I am very gratified by the vote of the United States Senate," said Holmes. "I am grateful to President Bush for giving me the opportunity to serve my country in such an important position and thankful for the tremendous support that I have received from Sen. Coburn and Sen. Inhofe."

Holmes' views had drawn the opposition of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. In a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and the ranking Democrat on the committee, Patrick Leahy (Vt.), the LCCR stated:

"We write to express our grave concern regarding the nomination of Jerome Holmes to serve on the Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Mr. Holmes has been a longstanding and outspoken critic of affirmative action.

"His criticism of affirmative action raises serious questions about whether litigants could expect him to rule impartially and fairly on claims that turn on legal principles of affirmative action, and about Mr. Holmes' approach to anti-discrimination laws more broadly, if he is confirmed," the letter continued.

The letter was signed by organizations that included the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, NAACP, National Urban League, Alliance for Justice and the American Association for Affirmative Action.

The letter cited Holmes' criticism of the Supreme Court decision, Grutter vs. Bollinger, which upheld using race as a factor in law school admissions, stating "the court did not go far enough...the court upheld the affirmative action policy of the university's law school.

"And in so doing, it missed an important opportunity to drive the nail in the coffin of affirmative action."

Holmes, in other writings, has also criticized Black leaders such as the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Rev. Al Sharpton "and their ilk for disseminating a misguided and dangerous message of victimization for financial gain." He has also wrote that "as long as Mr. Jackson and company can successfully portray African-Americans as victims to the public at-large, they will be able to wring monetary concessions out of corporate America."

Holmes has stated publicly that he supports school vouchers and favors the death penalty.

LCCR Executive Director Wade Henderson said in reference to Holmes: "If Mr. Holmes truly believes that race and racism in America are only an 'accident of birth', then he would do well to recognize that turning a blind eye does far more to 'maintain a socially-constructed color line' than do the affirmative action resources he would like to destroy."

Holmes received a bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University in 1983 and a juris doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center in 1988.

In 2000, he earned a master's in public administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and Public Affairs.

Holmes was noted for his work as an assistant U.S. attorney in the prosecution of Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols, the convicted bombers of the federal building in Oklahoma City. Before and after that job, he worked in private practice.

Holmes specialized in white-collar criminal defense, corporate internal investigations, civil litigation and employment law.

As a director for the Oklahoma City law firm of Crowe & Dunleavy and a vice president of the Oklahoma Bar Association, Holmes is the first Black to hold an executive level position with that organization.

In addition to Oklahoma, the 10th Circuit covers Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, and has jurisdiction over Yellowstone National Park that covers Montana and Idaho.

Lieberman and McKinney: Voting Political Change

By. Ron Walters NNPA Columnist

Last week's elections brought about some substantial change in the landscape of American politics. First, the fact that Senator Joe Lieberman of Connecticut was defeated 52 percent to 48 percent by Ned Lamont was a referendum on the Iraq War. It should also be seen as a referendum on the centrist politics of the Democratic Party.

To cement that point, we should remember that Joe Lieberman, was the first Democrat to take the floor of the Senate to denounce Bill Clinton's tryst with Monica Lewinsky as immoral. And even though it was immoral, the Senate is not a church, it is a political body where the admission of weakness is seen as a sign that the wolves on the other side can move in – and they did.

Moreover, Lieberman approved school vouchers, passed on the first vote to approve Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court and opposed him only on the second vote, opposed affirmative action, joined the Bush administration in the Terry Schaivo case, refused to support a boycott on Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito and supported the administration's secretive style of operating the Guantanamo base.

On the other hand, Ned Lamont is not only an antiwar candidate. He supports universal pre-K for little children with enhanced educational resources, universal health care, opposes out-sourcing American jobs, supports increasing the minimum wage and other progressive issues. These issues are somewhat unusual for a multi-millionaire cable executive, but he gets it.

In his statement conceding but vowing to defeat, continue, Joe Lieberman characterized his defeat as the people supporting the politics of polarization. But he badly mischaracterized his defeat, because it is not just partisanship; the American people have - by a bi-partisan majority - turned against the war. And Lieberman is arrogant by not bowing to the will of the majority in this case.

At one point, he said that there is something beyond partisanship and although he is right, the question is how he defines that "something." Could it be as simple as the fact that he is taking a hit for having supported the war because it helps to protect the security of Israel. Perhaps, at the very least, that motivation should be seen against the framework of an ally that includes the United States in its strategic plans in the region, not a cowboy regime that consistently surprises its ally by initiating actions that puts it in political jeopardy with his own citizens.

Otherwise, the fact that prominent Democrats, such as the courageous Rep. Maxine Waters, Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton and others campaigned for Lamont, made this an effort to change the direction of the Democratic party, clarifying its position on the war and perhaps other issues, for those who run in the fall election and in 2008 as well.

Right now, the Lieberman/ Clinton axis has control of the Party's direction. Bill Clinton's support for Lieberman should b e seen as protecting Hilary's position on the war in her bid for the presidency. But now that axis is in jeopardy because its position has been defeated and this election has created some daylight for a new direction.

In the South, the defeat of Rep. Cynthia McKinney of Georgia's 4th District should be seen as not only the result of the peculiar Georgia election system that lets Republicans vote in the Democratic primary. The fact that she lost 58 percent to 41 percent in Rockdale, the northern part of her district where White voters are numerous, supports the cross-over theory. However, she also lost by the same margin in Dekalb County, where her base is the strongest. Perhaps there was some McKinney fatigue in the outcome. Dekalb County is bustling with the construction of new condos, with a new class of moderate middle-class Blacks moving in who are image sensitive and therefore, embarrassed by McKinney's direct style.

But this triumph of stylistic politics over the progressive issues that McKinney has championed has the earmarks of making the Black portion of the Georgia delegation more conservative by national standards. Her return to the House was too brief and was colored by the rejection of the House leadership that refused to restore her seniority - and the refusal of her colleagues to fight for her on the basis of principle. Perhaps this is a sign of something new, but one hopes not.

In any case, these elections were a signal that Democratic voters want change. Right now the message seems to be turning in the direction of the people who need government most. What kind of change they eventually get will be determined by the other elections and as they occur. Stay tuned.

Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, Director of the African American Leadership Institute and Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park.

NEWS

Facing The Futurewith Confidence

Reggie Bush, continued from page 5.

be used in the back field at the same time to create havoc for the opposing team's defense.

State Farm, Allstate and others extend the prescriptive period for policyholders to file a lawsuit

Baton Rouge. LA Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon says nearly all Louisiana's homeowners of insurance companies, including State Farm and Allstate, have complied with his order to extend the prescriptive period for policyholders to file a lawsuit as result of a hurricane-related insurance claim.

Among the state's largest homeowners insurers agreeing to an extension of the prescriptive period are: State Farm: 31.9% of the Louisiana homeowners market; Allstate: 20.2%; Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation: 7.6%; Louisiana Farm Bureau Group: 6.9%; Zurich Group, which includes Farmers Insurance Exchange and Foremost: 4.1%; Liberty Mutual Group: 3.6%; St. Paul Travelers Group: 3.2%; USAA Group: 3.1%; ANPAC: 2.0%;

Allmerica Group, which includes Hanover and Massachusetts Bay: 1.9%; AIG Group: 1.6%; Metropolitan Group: 1.5%; Allianz Group, which includes Firemans Fund: 1.4%; Chubb: 1.2%; Unitrin Group: 0.9%; Hartford Group: 0.9%; Horace Mann: 0.9%; Safeco: 0.6%; Assurant Solutions Group, which includes American Bankers of Florida and Voyager: 0.5%; National Security Group: 0.3% and Homesite Group: 0.2%.

Insurers have until close of businesstodaytomeetthedeadline imposed by Commissioner Donelon to file a stipulation with the Department of Insurance agreeing to extend the lawsuit period. "Given the unprecedented number of insurance claims filed following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, one year has not been enough time for many policyholders and insurance companies to work out a final settlement," said Donelon. The year-anniversary of Hurricane Katrina is August 29 and Hurricane Rita is September 24.

Commissioner Donelon urges policyholders with an outstanding hurricane claim to check the Department's Web site for a complete list of homeowners insurers agreeing to extend the prescriptive deadline.

The time period for extensions varies by company. Most insurers have agreed to the extra year. Some will extend the prescriptive period to two years but are reserving the limited right to give the Department 30 or 60-days written notice to rescind the stipulation, but only if a court determines that Act 802 of the 2006 Regular Session is unconstitutional. Commissioner Donelon notes that until there is a final court decision, all hurricane claimants whose companies have filed a stipulation are now fully protected because of his directive.

For more information, contact: Amy Whittington, 225-342-5423 or Bobby Ann Clark, 225-342-9892

Free Investment Seminar sponsored by Edward Jones Investments

The Constitution provides a system of checks and balances to protect every citizen to this day. Similarly, investors who have used a balanced strategy using a mixture of stocks, bond and cash have historically lowered volatility while maintaining upside potential. At this seminar, we'll profile an investment approach we call The Hartford Checks & Balances Strategy. Edward Jones Hammond Scott, Broker

FEATURED	
GUEST SPEAKER:	Tim Carr, representing
	The Hartford Mutual Funds
DATE:	Tuesday, August, 22, 2006
TIME:	6:00-8:00 p.m.
ATTIRE:	Business Casual
LOCATION:	The Honorable Judge Kern A. Reese's Court Room
	Civil District Court 3rd Floor Division "L"
	421 Loyola Avenue
	New Orleans, LA 70112
	Refreshments will be served.

Mr. Scott will also discuss the minority recruitment and career opportunities available with Edward Jones. Although the seminar is free, reservations are required. Guests are welcome.

Please R.S.V.P. by calling (Sacha Wasson) at (504) 897-3093.

The Hartford Mutual Funds are underwritten and distributed by Hartford Investment Financial Services, LLC. This seminar has been funded in whole or in part by PLANCO Financial Services, a broker dealer affiliate of The Hartford. Seminars to come in the future include: Real Estate Investment, Life Insurance, and Creating Generational Wealth.

Evacuees, continued from page 5.

will provide an environment of nostalgia and is inclusive of the authentic tradition, food and culture that New Orleans is known and loved for.

National, regional and local entertainers are traveling from all areas to be a part of New Orleans weekend, to not only entertain fans, but to seize opportunities with industry executives in Atlanta, the current mecca of entertainment. Acclaimed political expert and hot new voice of urban consciousness, Cousin Jeff Johnson, from Black Entertainment Television's hit show "The Chop Up", has been enlisted to empower and motivate evacuees. Known for challenging all concepts of reality by exposing social problems and volatile issues plaguing urban America, Jeff Johnson is a highly anticipated addition to the celebration. "It is an honor to have Jeff Johnson a part of our Celebration of Survival. shares Ben Willard, president of Young Urban Professionals and New Orleans Weekend committee member, Jeff gets to the heart of serious matters with dialogue designed to enlighten us all."

The weekend of activities are all free and open to the public. Free school supplies will be given away to New Orleans families courtesy of Whole Foods market.

FRIDAY AUGUST 25, 2006 FAMILY AND FRIENDS REUNION

New Orleans Family Day ٠ will be a reunion of friends and family and enjoy live performances from some of New Orleans best hip hop, gospel, poetry, jazz and rhythm and blues artists. Enjoy New Orleans cuisine! On sale will be boiled seafood from NOLA, red beans and rice, shrimp creole, smoked sausage etc. See a real live Mardi Gras style second line while shopping at Atlanta's premiere tourist attraction! This event will serve as our kick off event and will be hosted and commentated by BET's own Cousin Jeff Johnson from Da Chop Up. Free school supplies for New Orleans families.

Location: UNDERGROUND ATLANTA/KELLY'S ALLEY @ ISLAND OASIS Time: 3 pm

SATURDAY AUGUST 26, 2006 • MUSIC DAY

• This day has been set aside in observance of New Orleans performing artists who desire to get their music on shelves in key retail stores in the Atlanta market as well as in the hands of key on air personalities, program directors and club dj's. New Orleans artists will be able to sign autographs, update fans on their latest projects and mingle with the Atlanta entertainment community for possible collaborations and future business deals.

Location: Ear Wax Records 2 noon - 2 pm; Big Oomp Records 3 - 5pm Mid South Music and Entertainment 6 - 9 pm

SUNDAY AUGUST 27, 2006

SUPER SUNDAY

• This day has been set aside to convene as a Christian family at New Orleans' own Greater St Stephen FGBC for a worship service celebration of survival. This event will be hosted by Bishop Paul S Morton, a pillar in the international spiritual community.

• 10AM, 4185 Snapfinger Woods Drive, Decatur, GA 30035

The weekend closes with a showcase of New Orleans talent at the record breaking Eastside Poole Palace nightclub. New Orleans artists will showcase their talent in front of key ATL industry execs.

Neighborhood Associations Host Clean Ups to Help in City's Efforts

(New Orleans, LA) The City of New Orleans Department of Sanitation today announces the schedule for future neighborhood clean-ups sponsored by each Neighborhood Association. Three clean ups are scheduled through next week:

 August 12th - Gentilly Neighborhood Clean Up from 7 am - 12 pm
Beginning at Chef Menteur & Press Dr. to Leon C. Simon & Press Dr.
August 19th - Lafayette Square/Federal Court Area Clean Up 8:30am-12 pm. Meet at Lafayette Square/Camp St.

August 20th - Treme Neighborhood Clean Up from 7 am - 12 pm

Bounded by N. Rampart, St. Bernard, N. Claiborne, Orleans Avenue and Armstrong Park.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves and garbage bags to each clean up.

The Department of Sanitation continues to urge all citizens to take pride in the City's historical neighborhoods and is asking all neighborhood associations to participate in a city wide clean-up and debris removal effort.

The City of New Orleans STRONGLY encourages residents against placing debris materials on the neutral ground and other areas that are not designated as dump sites because they may face fines of up to \$10,000.00.

Additional options are currently being offered for trash and debris disposal. All residents are urged to utilize the three debris drop-off sites that are currently operating from Monday - Sunday, from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Citizens are asked to make multiple trips if necessary to dispose of residential storm debris and trash materials to all three sites located at I-10 Service Road and Crowder, 2301 Hendee Court, and at the Elysian Fields Transfer Station, located at 2826 Elysian Fields Ave.

For more information, please contact the City Information Hotline at (504) 658-2299.

Data News Weekly's

Music, Food, Dance and Entertainment

Featuring Musical Performances by:

Kermit Ruffins • Michael Ward Phillip Manuel • Samirah Evans Julius Handy Quartet • Zion Trinity

> Kumbuka Dance and Drumming Collective

Friday, August 25th 7pm – 10pm. Dancing 10pm- until Admission \$35.00 per person



New Orleans African American Museum 1418 Governor Nicholls St.





Proceeds to benefit the JMJ Continuing Education Fund For more information: (504) 891-4991

Sponsored by : Miller Brewing Company, Bell South, Glazers, JPMorgan Chase, PhRMA, RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company, WYLD FM 98,