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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data Zone

Page 9

Good Bye "G"

November 18, 2006

40th Year

Volume 36

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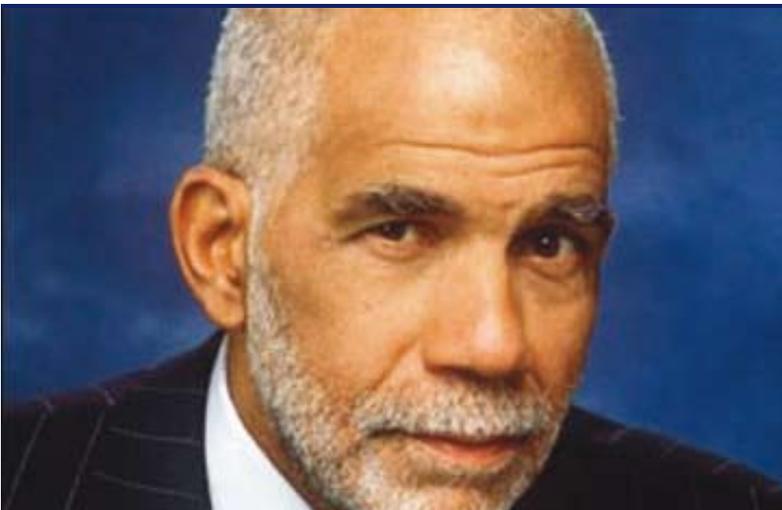
The Soul of New Orleans

Welcome Back



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COVER STORY

Home where it belongs:

Bayou Classic gets reacquainted with New Orleans

By Eddie Francis



When the Bayou Classic first kicked off in Tulane Stadium in 1974 it immediately impacted the Crescent City as evidenced by the 76,753 fans who attended the game. New Orleans may have become known as the "City That Care Forgot" but fans of the Bayou Classic care a lot and have never

forgotten. A one-year absence seems to have made the collective Bayou Classic heart grow fonder.

When Southern University and Grambling State University fans converge on New Orleans on the weekend of November 24th they will bring all that the Bayou Classic offers.

Although the Grambling Tigers will arrive with a 3-6 overall record and the Southern Jaguars will arrive with a 4-6 overall record, each team will consider their record 0-0 when the ball goes into the air at 1 p.m. on Saturday, November 25th. Southern leads the series 16-14 but try not to tell Grambling fans that. They

are as confident that the Tigers will make it 16-15 as Jaguar fans are that the record will be 17-14 when the clock reads 00:00 in the 4th quarter.

Everyone who knows college football knows that the Bayou Classic is more than a game. The Bayou Classic has been the prototype for big time black

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COVER STORY

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college sports. Organizers have surrounded the football game with the Battle of the Bands and Greek Show, and have added the job and college fairs in recent years enhancing both institutions' connection to the community at large.

The Bayou Classic is a pioneering event. It is the first nationally televised black college sports event and last year earned the distinction of being the first black college football game to get a visit from the wildly popular ESPN "Gameday" television

show. Add to that the fact that the weekend has injected an estimated \$52 million into the New Orleans economy in recent years and you have a phenomenon. And the consensus is the Bayou Classic is back where it belongs—the City That Heritage Loves.

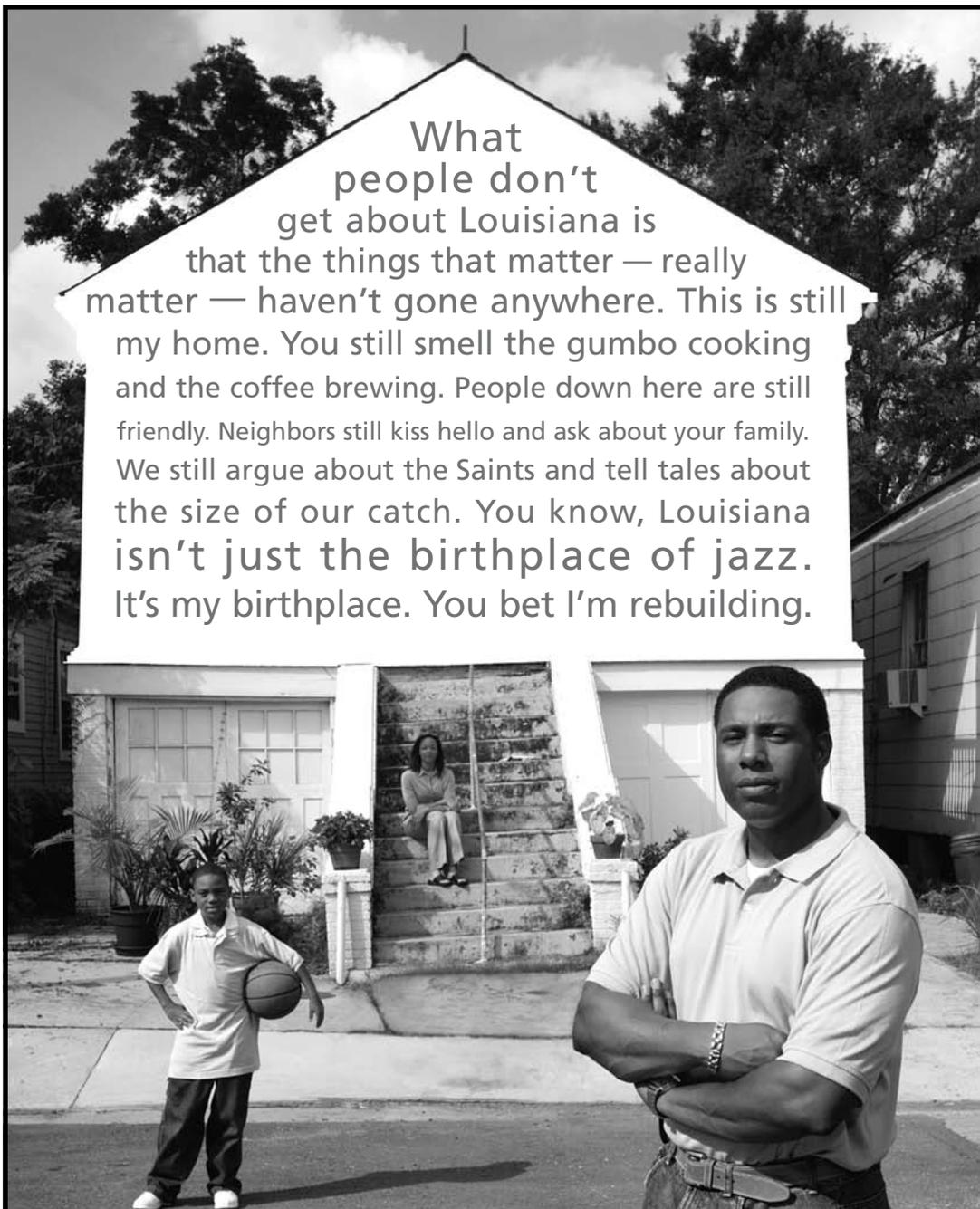
The Feeling Is Mutual

Ever since the first few businesses got up and running after Hurricane Katrina New Orleans seems to have been America's charity case. With the city financially on its knees citizens around the world have shown

genuine concern for the city's well being through volunteerism, donations and business action. Regardless of the rest of the world's concern the missing piece in rebuilding New Orleans has been a lack of tourism.

For all of the criticism that

Continued next page.



What people don't get about Louisiana is that the things that matter — really matter — haven't gone anywhere. This is still my home. You still smell the gumbo cooking and the coffee brewing. People down here are still friendly. Neighbors still kiss hello and ask about your family. We still argue about the Saints and tell tales about the size of our catch. You know, Louisiana isn't just the birthplace of jazz. It's my birthplace. You bet I'm rebuilding.

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NEWSMAKER

Louisiana Holds Historic Elections



After placing first in the primary Congressman Jefferson talks to a crowded room of supporters while surrounded by his family.



Candidate Karen Carter speaking to supporters.

By Edwin Buggage
 Photos By Glenn Summers and Jamie Jones

As the political tide shifts nationally and new faces of leadership arise among the ranks; similarly New Orleans voters have put many new faces in office among many of the familiar faces who led pre-Katrina. Now as the city faces monumental challenges of rebuilding voters from across the city came out to have their voices heard at the polls. The citizens made a major statement when they voted overwhelmingly to consolidate the assessor's office from seven down to one. In a tight race for the seat of State Representative District 97 in a bare knuckle brawl between J.P. Morrell and Brian Egana, Morrell won by a narrow margin to occupy the seat vacated by his father the longtime representative of the district Arthur Morrell.

But the most watched race was for the Congressional seat in District Two where the previously unbeatable U.S. Congressman William Jefferson faced a slew of notable challengers who ran viable campaigns in an attempt to unseat Jefferson. Of those many competitors State Representative Karen Carter ran second to Jefferson, and now the are set to face off in the Dec. 9th run-off election. Data News Weekly was there at both candidates campaign celebrations on this historic night.



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New Orleans native trumpeter and composer Terence Blanchard and wife Robin.

NEWSMAKER



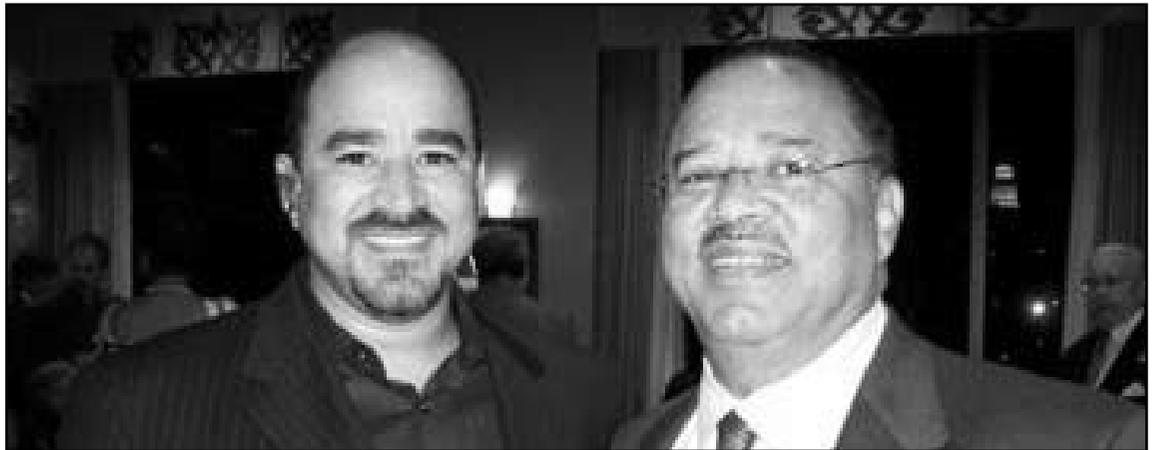
City Councilperson Cynthia Willard-Lewis in a show of support for Congressman William Jefferson.



Congressman William Jefferson being congratulated by former Orleans Parish School Board Member Elliot Willard.



Mayor Ray Nagin talking to media.



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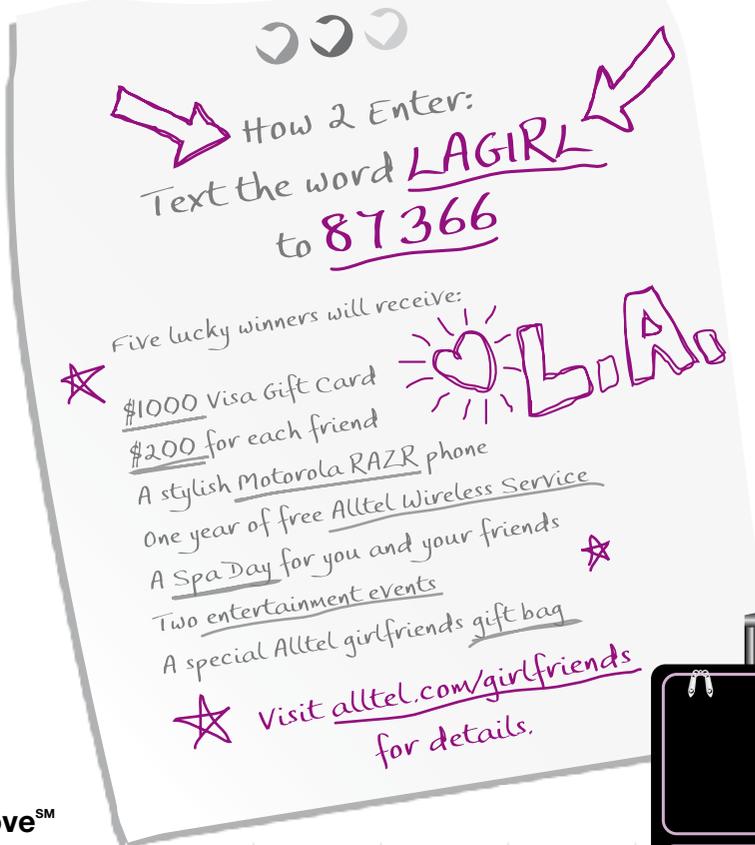
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Gerald Levert dies: Gruff-voiced, ever smooth

Gerald Levert, the gruff-voiced everyman and second-generation R&B star who died Friday November 11, of a heart attack at age 40, was one of R&B's most consistent singer/songwriters of the past 20 years.

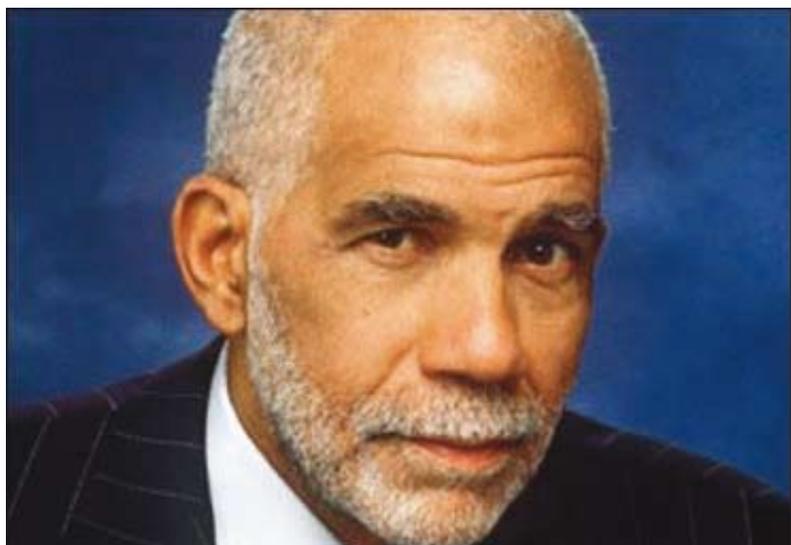
He arrived during the New Jack Swing era of the mid-1980s as part of the group LeVert (a trio with his brother Sean and Marc Gordon) and scored a string of hits, including (Pop, Pop, Pop,

Pop) Goes My Mind, Casanova and Just Coolin'. Gerald went solo in 1991 with the No. 1 R&B album Private Line, though he continued to contribute to the trio's albums.

Stylistically, he struck a balance between the smoothness of Luther Vandross and the raw sexuality of R. Kelly. Gerald, was known to his millions of fans affectionately as the "G-Bear" for his cuddly persona, and his penchant for tossing out teddy bears to his adoring female fans at concerts. Most recently he was touring

with a stage play, and training for a reality show in which the contestants lose weight.

Over the years, R&B incorporated more of hip-hop's thug-love sensibilities, but Levert remained true to vintage traditions, delivering powerful ballads with working-class aspirations similar to those expressed by his legendary father, The O'Jays' Eddie Levert. Gerald is the father of one young daughter who resides in Atlanta, GA.



The world mourns the passing of Legendary TV Journalist Ed Bradley

Ed Bradley, one of television's most prominent African-American journalists, died of complications from leukemia Thursday, November 10. He was 65 years old.

A longtime correspondent for CBS News' "60 Minutes," Bradley's probing questions and salt-and-pepper beard distinguished him for millions of TV viewers. He died this morning at Mount Sinai hospital in New York City.

Bradley was diagnosed with leukemia two years ago but was in remission. He apparently took a turn for the worse two weeks ago, contracting pneumonia and succumbing to the disease.

Colleagues and fans remembered him fondly. "He was the equal of all the celebrities he interviewed, which is why he got so much rich material out of them ... because they knew he understood them," said ABC's "Nightline" correspondent Vicki Mabrey, who worked with Bradley at CBS. "I used to call him Mr. Cool."

Bradley, who first joined "60 Minutes" in 1981, won 19 Emmy Awards, a Peabody Award, a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and the Paul White Award from the Radio and Television News Directors Association for his reports. The Philadelphia native started out as a DJ, making \$1.50 an hour spinning Miles Davis and Billie Holiday records.

Bradley's last "60 Minutes" story — interviews with suspects and witnesses in the Duke rape case — made headlines. During his

long career, Bradley interviewed a panoply of personalities — Michael Jordan, Muhammad Ali, Michael Jackson. Bradley got the only TV interview that Timothy McVeigh, the Oklahoma City bomber, granted to television.

Although one of the first African-American reporters on national TV, Bradley refused to be pigeonholed by his race and doesn't remember letting racism intimidate him. "I probably was too naive to be afraid [when I started out]; that's because there was no one really ahead of me as a trailblazer," Bradley told USA Weekend. "I mean, I had nuns in school who always said to me, from the fourth grade on, 'You can be whatever you want to be.' I guess I believed them."

Bradley was known for his love of jazz, which first touched his heart when he heard "Teach Me Tonight" from Errol Garner's "Concert by the Sea." He frequently attended the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, and often sat in with the musicians. Bradley was lured back into DJ work when he recently hosted the "Jazz at Lincoln Center" radio show.

Accordingly, Bradley has said that his most memorable interview was with jazz legend Lena Horne. The intimate portrait, in which he alternated Horne's performances with his questions, became a "textbook example of what a great television interview can be," wrote TV Guide. "Lena" earned Bradley his first Emmy.

Bradley was married to the artist Patricia Blanchett and had homes in Woody Creek, Colo., and New York City.

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Photos by Glenn Summers



Kindred

Movers, shakers and career seekers gathered together at the Astor Hotel in New Orleans on Friday November 3, 2006 for a night of networking, public forums, political campaigning and fantastic entertainment. At the same time, Congressional candidates seized the opportunity to solicit votes for the November 7th election 2006. William Jefferson, Karen Carter's campaign team, and Regina Bartholomew were among those persuading votes and socializing with the people. While Soulful Melodic sounds of jazz and R&B performed by the Troy Sawyer Quartet, Jaguar Wright and Kindred the Family Soul absorb the night atmosphere.

Local company showcased their latest trends and what to expect from a competitive job market. As well as the Challenges one may face in a scarce job market that's recovering from major disaster.

First Friday is an event held on the first Friday of each month created so that professionals and career seeker are informed about the latest economic and technological trends. It also strategize solutions within a rapidly growing and elusive financial infrastructure especially one that has been financially devastated. This progressive, informative and effective networking forum is one the premier professional resources held each month for locals pursuing financial wealth. Local companies, such as, Cox Communications, the Ritz Carlton, Universal Mortgage Lending, and Eric Hill Nissan were among businesses recruiting career seekers.

The event also covered topics on the plight and the future of New Orleanians, particularly, the job situation. Moreover, will the tug of war of economic development delay the city progress for that matter who will come out on top. Will foreign minorities overshadow American minorities for the pursuit of the New Orleans financial pie? Financial stability is a distant and drench reality some New Orleanians. The question also is will those who were affected by the storms destruction prevail in the equation of economic development. Furthermore will the indiginous culture be preserved. These are issues and topics discussed at First Fridays.

Nevertheless citizen should have control or some type of insight how their neighborhood and business will be impacted; besides they have vested interest in this city growth process.

New Orleans must continue the search for creative and affective ways to rebuild this sacred and indigenious culture. Nevertheless, First Friday is one of the premier networking and social forums that exhibits significant topics of such magnitude. Therefore, making an event of kind an affective and informative mechanism that may potentially heal the community's scars of displacement and despair. It is an outlet dedicated to the public.

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COMMENTARY

Ed Bradley: A Beautiful Life



Edwin Buggage
Data Editor

'Renaissance Man' is a term that is today thrown around with reckless abandon; where the phrase many are called but few are chosen is more the rule than the exception. But recently the world truly lost someone who is the definition of this elusive term and then some; Ed Bradley was the true embodiment of a renaissance man, he was articulate, intelligent, as well as accessible, affable, and had a certain panache and savior faire that was undeniable and unmatched.

In the world of television journalism he was a trailblazer in a field where few African-Americans reached the upper echelons of reporting. His career was a series of firsts and his accomplishments were stellar to say the least. He was the first Senior White House Correspondent as well as the first African-American correspondent on the highly rated CBS News Magazine 60 Minutes. Throughout his illustrious career he won numerous Emmy Awards for his work. He changed the face and style of the 60 minutes interviews where previously the cantankerous combative styles of Mike Wallace and then correspondent Dan Rather were the de rigueur. His arrival provided a sea change as he transformed this trend with his cool demeanor he would interview his subjects in a friendly conversational tone while asking tough hard hitting questions. A style I find myself employing during the countless interviews I've conducted over the years.

In my own career as a journalist where I've worked in television as well as print Ed Bradley has been my greatest influence. I remember being young and watching him when television news was a much more serious medium; this striking sepia toned figure reporting stories of importance to

the world. A man who didn't allow himself to be boxed in simply as the lone African-American reporting on events specific to African-Americans, but a man who was a competent journalist who would cover events across the world from Vietnam to Cambodia, strife in the inner city, interview dignitaries from around the world, and hang out with rock stars or at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival getting down with everyday people.

At last year Jazz Fest I was fortunate enough to have a few words with Mr. Bradley backstage on the Congo Square stage, and although our conversation was brief I felt honored to have experienced someone who has inspired me to become a serious journalist and attempt to make an impact on peoples lives. And as I sometimes find myself talking to people who approach me to give their thanks, gratitude or feedback on something I've written or presented as a television personality, I feel humbled, and I think about how important our jobs are as journalist; as we chronicle these events that one day will help shape how people see us tomorrow.

Throughout his life Ed Bradley has inspired and help many young people particularly African-Americans to dream, and I as I can attest his life has inspired me and I hope that in the days to come his legacy can live on. And while he was a native of Philadelphia, he loved our city dearly and was one of its biggest proponents, admires and advocates, so in his passing I feel we have lost a relative and a kindred spirit. And in this time as we take on the task of rebuilding this fractured yet magnificent cultural jewel of a city let us not forget all those who have perished, for all our lives have changed forever. But in this human tragedy let us be inspired to make this city and ourselves better, and with the passing of Ed Bradley, I as one who shares not only the same initials, but a commitment to excellence will continue to be inspired by the resilient people of my city and by a man who truly lived a beautiful life, and as his physical body has transcended may his spirit rest in eternal peace.



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MEANS 21

HEALTH NEWS

Smoke-free Laws Save Lives



Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

a stillbirth, and have a higher rate of infant mortality. Smoking during pregnancy is also associated with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), poor lung development, asthma, and other negative consequences for child health and development. Increasing access to prenatal care is one key to helping address negative behavioral habits like smoking that can harm children. There is good news here: the percentage of women who smoke during pregnancy has declined during the last decade. But in 2002, more than one in ten women giving birth still reported smoking during pregnancy, so there's much more work to be done.

The struggle to stop children and youths from smoking is even fiercer. The nonprofit Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids is at the forefront of the fight to prevent young people from developing dangerous smoking habits, help smokers quit, and protect everyone from secondhand smoke. They've studied all the facts about children and smoking and have a long list of compelling reasons why it's important to protect children now.

Every year, the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids sponsors a "Kick Butts Day" to expose and counter the tobacco industry's marketing strategies aimed at young people. Students of all ages take part in events like youth-led rallies in state capitals, surveys of tobacco advertising in local stores, and street activism.

Many organizations provide materials specifically to help parents teach their children about the dangers of smoking. And all of us can pay attention to and support more ballot measures like the ones that passed this year. Together, we can make a real difference in protecting more children from secondhand smoke and reducing the number of children who start smoking—two key steps in giving more children the Healthy Start in life they all deserve.

Marian Wright Edelman is President and Founder of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

In the midst of all the focus on the war in Iraq and current moral scandals among some of our political and religious leaders, a different issue was quietly appearing on ballots across the country on Election Day. Voters in Arizona, Florida, Nevada, Ohio, and South Dakota all approved statewide ballot measures that either required smoke-free workplaces, increased state tobacco taxes to fund needs like health care and early child development programs, and/or funded tobacco prevention programs.

Local smoke-free laws also were passed or upheld in communities across the country. The Children's Defense Fund was disappointed that an initiative was defeated in California that would have used a tobacco tax increase to fund health coverage for all uninsured California children and for tobacco prevention and health care programs in the state. Tobacco companies and other powerful special interest allies spent millions of dollars fighting against these measures, including more than \$65 million in California alone. But the fact that more and more states and communities are passing new laws like these which are critical for children's health should renew our courage to keep fighting against tobacco companies whose deadly product costs many thousands of lives every year.

Smoking can harm children before they are born. Women who smoke during pregnancy are at greater risk for having a premature birth, pregnancy complications, low birthweight infants, or

DOLLARS & SENSE

Your Age and Your Finances

At different stages of life, different financial issues may be most important.



Donald Smith
Data Columnist
GE-35655 (04/06) (Exp.04/08")

Managing your finances is a lifelong process. It usually begins with savings—ideally as a child. Once you have a regular income of your own and have started saving on a regular basis, you'll have to decide how to invest the money you are saving.

Investors in their twenties are often advised to put more of their savings in investments that have potential to grow. Even though these investments may carry more risk of loss, a younger person has time to potentially make up any losses they may experience early on. Conversely, those who are investing for more immediate goals are often advised to put more of their savings in fixed income investments. These may not grow as fast but are less likely to lose money.

Strategies For Common Life Events

Everyone lives their lives differently, and everyone has complicated emotions about money, so investment decisions are highly personal and unique to each individual. Nonetheless, throughout their lives, most investors face some similar situations. Where are you in the cycle? The following are examples of common life events and some things you might consider when making investment decisions.

Your first full-time job

- Start a savings account to build a cash reserve.
- Start a retirement fund and make regular monthly contributions, no matter how small.

Marriage

- Examine your joint investment contributions and allocations, taking into account your combined income and expenses.
- Consider opening a short-term investment account specifically to help fund your down payment on your home and pay closing and moving costs.

Children

- If you don't yet have life insurance, now's the time.
- Start a college savings fund.

New job

- Review your investment strategy and asset allocation to accommodate a new salary and a different benefits package.
- Consider rolling over your previous company's 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan or a Rollover IRA. Within 10 years of retirement
- Review your retirement fund asset allocation to accommodate the shorter time frame for your investments.
- Increase savings for retirement.

Retirement

- Study your distribution options to maximize assets and tax benefits.
- Reallocate your investments to provide the income you need while still potentially offering some growth in capital to help beat inflation and fund your later years.

For more help at every stage of your financial life cycle, talk to your financial professional.

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

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NATIONAL NEWS

2006: Anything but 'The Year of the Black Republican'

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - As Democrats recaptured control of the House and Senate last week, Black Democrats won more than half of the 13 statewide offices they competed for while Black Republicans won none, debunking what the GOP had billed as "the year of the Black Republican".

The Black Democratic wins yielded one governor, two lieutenant governors, one attorney general, one secretary of state, one state treasurer and one commissioner of labor. Black Republicans ran for governor in Ohio and Pennsylvania and for the U. S. Senate in Maryland.

"It was a great year for Democrats," says David Bositis, senior analyst for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, referring to both Black and White party members. Only 11 percent of Blacks voted for Republican congressional candidates, according to exit polls conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International for the Associated Press and television networks. That percentage is consistent with share won by Republicans in the 2004 presidential race.

Terone B. Green, a Black Republican operative in Virginia widely known for his outspokenness and activism, says the Black Republican losses were fueled by more than just opposition to extended U.S. presence in Iraq.

"People are going to say it's the war, but Republicans just don't have a solid strategy to prevail in the Black community," he explained. "You can run a Black Republican all you want to, but it's clearly evident that Black folks don't believe in them because Black Republicans do not prop up African-Americans in any significant way. Black people just don't trust Republicans. That's the bottom line."

Much of that distrust comes from the failure of Republicans to support issues favored by African-Americans. On the last NAACP Report Card, 98 percent of all Republicans in Congress received Fs, compared to only 2 percent of Democrats.

In recent years, only two Black Republicans have won U. S. House seats. They are former Connecticut Rep. Gary Franks (1992-1997) and Oklahoma Rep.

J.C. Watts (1994-2003). They were the only Blacks elected to the House since 1932 and both won in districts that were at least 90 percent White districts. The only Black Republican elected to the Senate since Reconstruction was Sen. Ed Brooke who served from 1967 to 1979.

Republican Party Chairman Ken Mehlman, who had boasted that this would be the "year of

made strides," she says. You can compare that with the last Republican that ran for that seat in '88...I think we've made great strides."

That candidate was conservative Republican activist Allen Keyes, who got 14 percent of the Black vote in that campaign, losing to incumbent Democrat Paul Sarbanes.



Maryland Lt. Governor Michael Steele ran a close but unsuccessful to become the first Black Republican Senator.

Continued page 15



Daniella Gibbs Leger, Communications Director for the Center for American Progress

the Black Republican," now says he will leave the chairmanship by January after this year proved to be the year of neither the Black nor White Republican.

"Give us a chance, and we'll give you a choice," he told the annual conference of the Conservative Political Action Committee in Washington, D.C. in February. Blacks rejected that choice, according to exit surveys.

Green says, "They just don't get it. They want people that they feel comfortable with. But they need to find Black candidates that can really identify with the Black community." So far, that has been an uphill struggle.

All three of the statewide Black Republican candidates failed to get more than 25 percent of the Black vote. They were: Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, who lost his gubernatorial bid with 20 percent of the Black vote; former Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Lynn Swann, who lost his Pennsylvania gubernatorial bid with 13 percent of the Black vote; and Maryland Lt. Gov. Michael Steele, who lost his senatorial bid received 25 percent of the Black vote. No Black Republicans ran for lower statewide offices.

Republican National Committee spokeswoman Tara Wall argued that this election represented progress.

"That's historic for any Republican to get 25 percent of the Black vote. We have definitely

Continued on page 15.

It's your vision for
NEW ORLEANS.
Make sure it stays that way.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT ORGANIZATION MEETINGS: Keep up on the planning process.

New Orleans is your home. As the city rebuilds it's important to stay involved every step of the way—for instance, by attending the Community Support Organization (CSO) meetings at the New Orleans City Council Chamber.

The CSO is the committee responsible for overseeing the progress of the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP), the city's unified rebuilding effort. Comprised of representatives from the Mayor's office, City Council, the City Planning Commission, the Greater New Orleans Foundation and a resident from each of the city's five voting districts, the CSO is in place to keep you informed as the planning process continues.



CSO MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2006
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The Unified
New Orleans Plan

For more information about UNOP, please visit
www.unifiedneworleansplan.org or
call **Louisiana Rebuilds** toll-free at **877-527-3284**.

STATE & LOCAL

Landrieu Announces Grant For Homeless Veterans

Funds transitional housing for veterans in Lafayette.

WASHINGTON – United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., today announced a \$164,383 Department of Veterans Affairs grant for Lafayette Catholic Service Centers that will provide transitional housing in Lafayette for homeless veterans.

A building on St. John Street will be renovated to house 12 veterans at a time.

“Two days ago was Veterans’ Day, a day to honor our veterans for the sacrifices they make for our nation,” Sen. Landrieu said.

“As our veterans have stood

up for us, so too must we stand up for them. In Lafayette, there will now be a place for homeless veterans to go and sleep at night, giving them a well-deserved opportunity to rebuild their lives.”

New Orleans weighs fate of historic public housing

By Ellen Wulforst
Reuters News Service

Edna Carter happily smoked a cigarette on the porch of her apartment building, relieved to be back home from Houston, where she fled after Hurricane Katrina.

“I was so doggone depressed there. A graveyard has more life,” said Carter, 59, wearing a flowered housedress. “I’m used to sitting outside on the porch, talking to people.”

But Carter’s space may be short-lived. Officials plan to demolish thousands of publicly funded

said Alexander von Hoffman, author of “House by House, Block by Block: The Rebirth of America’s Urban Neighborhoods.”

“It’s a failure of will and imagination,” he said.

Residents of four early 1940s complexes, some of the oldest public housing in America, filed a lawsuit this summer after the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Housing Authority of New Orleans announced demolition proposals.

Officials argue the projects were

When we speak
TOGETHER,
no one can ignore our voice.



COMMUNITY CONGRESS: See the plan as a whole.

New Orleans is coming together. From Broadmoor to Gentilly, Lakeview to the Lower Ninth, including citizens dispersed throughout neighboring cities—all New Orleanians will bring our city back. Though many communities in New Orleans have completed neighborhood plans, critical infrastructure issues that stretch across the city must be addressed collectively on a city-wide level. That’s why the Unified New Orleans Plan (UNOP) will be holding Community Congresses.

The UNOP is a process designed to create a unified, city-wide recovery plan. This necessary plan, built on completed plans to date, will be utilized for additional private and public funding to continue the strategic rebuilding of our communities in Orleans Parish.

In these Community Congresses, New Orleanians here and in other key cities will discuss the broad infrastructure issues and receive updates on UNOP’s overall progress. The meetings, facilitated by AmericaSpeaks, will take place simultaneously in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Dallas, Houston and Atlanta. All the meetings will be linked by video conference, and, using your own voice and keypad technology, we all will have the opportunity to weigh in on the future of our city.



COMMUNITY CONGRESS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2006
FROM 9:00 AM TO 3:30 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 AM)
ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER
900 CONVENTION CENTER BLVD.
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Transportation, childcare and translation will also be available.

Meetings will also be held on December 2, 2006 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM in Baton Rouge, Dallas, Houston and Atlanta, and will all be linked via video conference. For the locations of all the meetings, please call **866-940-1095**.



For more information about UNOP or to register for the second Community Congress, please visit www.unifiedneworleansplan.org or call toll-free at **866-940-1095**.

The Unified New Orleans Plan is funded by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Greater New Orleans Foundation and the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.



A girl walks up stairs at the B.W. Cooper housing project in New Orleans, November 5, 2006.

apartments like hers, a proposal that has sparked impassioned debate in a city where affordable housing is in short supply and jobs in construction and tourism go unfilled because workers have nowhere to live.

Experts see the buildings, largely vacant since Katrina, helping address these severe housing shortage. Preservationists hope to save the historic buildings. And displaced residents just yearn to come home.

Those residents get what could be one of their last chances to speak up formally in coming days. Housing officials have promised a federal judge they will seek more public input by November 14 before finalizing any demolition plans.

More than 5,000 people lived in New Orleans public housing before the levees failed and the city flooded in August 2005.

“I don’t think it’s a good idea in a time of a tight housing market in New Orleans to tear down units,”

eyesores and islands of poverty and crime. Before Katrina, New Orleans was ranked as one of the nation’s most dangerous cities.

Calling the projects “deteriorated, obsolete, high-density public housing developments located in areas of racial and poverty isolation” and too costly to repair, federal and city housing officials, with the support of Mayor Ray Nagin, hope to build mixed-income housing and commercial development instead.

Advocates argue that leaves residents displaced in a city where rents have skyrocketed. Public housing residents pay 30 percent of their income for rent in New Orleans and on average pay \$85 monthly, according to one report.

Residents see their future being determined by bureaucrats, politicians and developers, said Idell Walker, who was helping her elderly mother return to her public housing apartment this week. Several dozen apartments are reopened, but thousands

Continued on next page.

NEWS

State & Local, Continued from previous page

are shuttered while their fate is determined.

"If you haven't lived it and take pride in it, if you're just sitting behind a desk and looking at it, you may have missed something," said Walker.

Advocates for the former residents, most of whom are black, see dire motives behind redevelopment.

"This is about prime property. It's about moving black people out of the city, especially poor black people," said Judith Browne-Dianis, an attorney for the residents. "You can't redevelop and make New Orleans into Disney World with public housing smack-dab in the middle of the city.

With many low-skilled jobs available, she added, "This presents an opportunity for poor working folks to be able to make it out of poverty."

The move to reduce public housing in New Orleans is not new. The city had more than 13,000 such units in 1996 but roughly half that number prior to Katrina.

Suggestions for reusing these complexes range from screening applicants to cut down on crime to reserving the housing for people with jobs.

"New Orleans is in an emergency situation," said von Hoffman. "They need to house working people ... if they want to get the economy up and running."

Saving the brick, garden-style apartment buildings, which suffered far less flood damage than much of the city, would preserve key pieces of cultural heritage, said James Dugan, head of the Louisiana Landmarks Society.

Of the complexes in question, one called Lafitte is a strong candidate for the preservationist group's next list of endangered historic sites in New Orleans, he added.

"They have architectural significance. They have historical significance," Dugan said. "They are really living artifacts and, more to the point, they are perfectly viable structures."

Photo cap

National News, Continued from page 13



Defeated Pennsylvania Republican gubernatorial candidate Lynn Swann speaks with the press during a campaign stop at a voting location in Scranton, Pa.

"So, I think you see that there is an increase of the number of African-Americans who are voting for Republicans," says Wall. "This is just the beginning. This is not the end. These three folks have very bright futures in this party."

Of 13 Democrats who ran in the Nov. 7 elections, seven won: Deval Patrick Massachusetts' governor-elect; David Patterson, New York Lt. Gov.-elect; Anthony Brown, Maryland Lt. Gov.-elect; and three who were re-elected, Thurbert Baker, Georgia attorney general; Jesse White, Illinois secretary of state; Denise Napier, Connecticut treasurer and Michael Thurmond, Georgia commissioner of labor.

The six losing Democrats were: U. S. Rep. Harold Ford (D-Tenn.), candidate for U. S. Senate; Mississippi senatorial candidate Erik Fleming; Georgia state superintendent of education candidate Denise Majette, a former congresswoman; South Carolina secretary of state candidate Cheryl Footman; Ohio state auditor candidate Barbara Sykes; and Ohio Supreme Court candidate Ben Espy.

Bositis says the problems of the three statewide Black Republican candidates extended beyond their race.

"Blackwell made big enemies of everybody else in the Republican Party and so they really wanted him to lose," Bositis explains.

Largely credited with Bush's controversial win in the 2004 presidential race, Blackwell has been beleaguered with legal problems afterward, including a suit that found that Ohio election officials had, in violation of state law, informed former felons that they could not vote. He also directed his office to only accept

voter-registration forms printed on paper of at least 80-pound weight, a decision that he later reversed under pressure from voting rights groups. This year, Blackwell issued an advisory that said voter identification cards must have their current addresses, a requirement that was contrary to state law.

Bositis continued, "Lynn Swann wasn't going to win. The Republicans were desperate when they picked him. I mean, he's a football player, what do you want? And Michael Steele, you know, Maryland is a Democratic state, that's why he lost."

Democratic wins in Congress are ultimately expected to amount to a 232-203 majority in the House and a 51-49 majority in the Senate. That majority will probably be expanded with support coming from independent Bernie Sanders, a socialist; and Joseph Lieberman, a Democrat-turned-independent. Both have said they will caucus with Democrats.

Democratic governors are also celebrating a majority they have not had in 12 years. They now have a 28-22 edge in statehouses. Ohio, Colorado and Arkansas are among states that returned to Democratic hands after eight years or more of Republican occupation.

"Lost in all this talk about the House and the Senate is the governorships," says Daniella Gibbs Leger, a spokeswoman for the Center for American Progress. "Often you have a lot of governors complaining that they are shouldering the burden of a lot of domestic issues because they can't get the help that they need from Congress."

States look to the federal government for help on many issues impacting low income communities, such as money for educational shortfalls, after school programs, Head Start and community development block grants.

"The 109th Congress has been the do-nothing Congress," says Leger. "And I think that with a new progressive Congress in power, they will understand the struggles that the states are going through and they won't leave the states out there to hang, basically, and try to fulfill all of these duties without help from the federal government."

And candidates running for president might benefit from that shift as well. If presidential voting mirrors the votes for governors, 295 electoral votes could go to a Democratic candidate president, 169 more than they had. The presidency is won with 270 electoral votes.

Even with early speculations that the presidential race is shaping up to possibly include Black Republican Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Green says he is tiring of trying to change the party from within.

"The ones they do prop up, like Colin Powell, he carried the water for Bush and now that he's out of there he's beginning to tell how he really felt," Green says. "He should have had the courage to tell how he felt while he was sitting there with that power...I'm not there because I believe in what they say. I'm there because somebody's got to be there to tell them that they are wrong."

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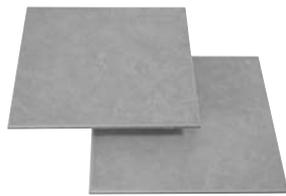


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