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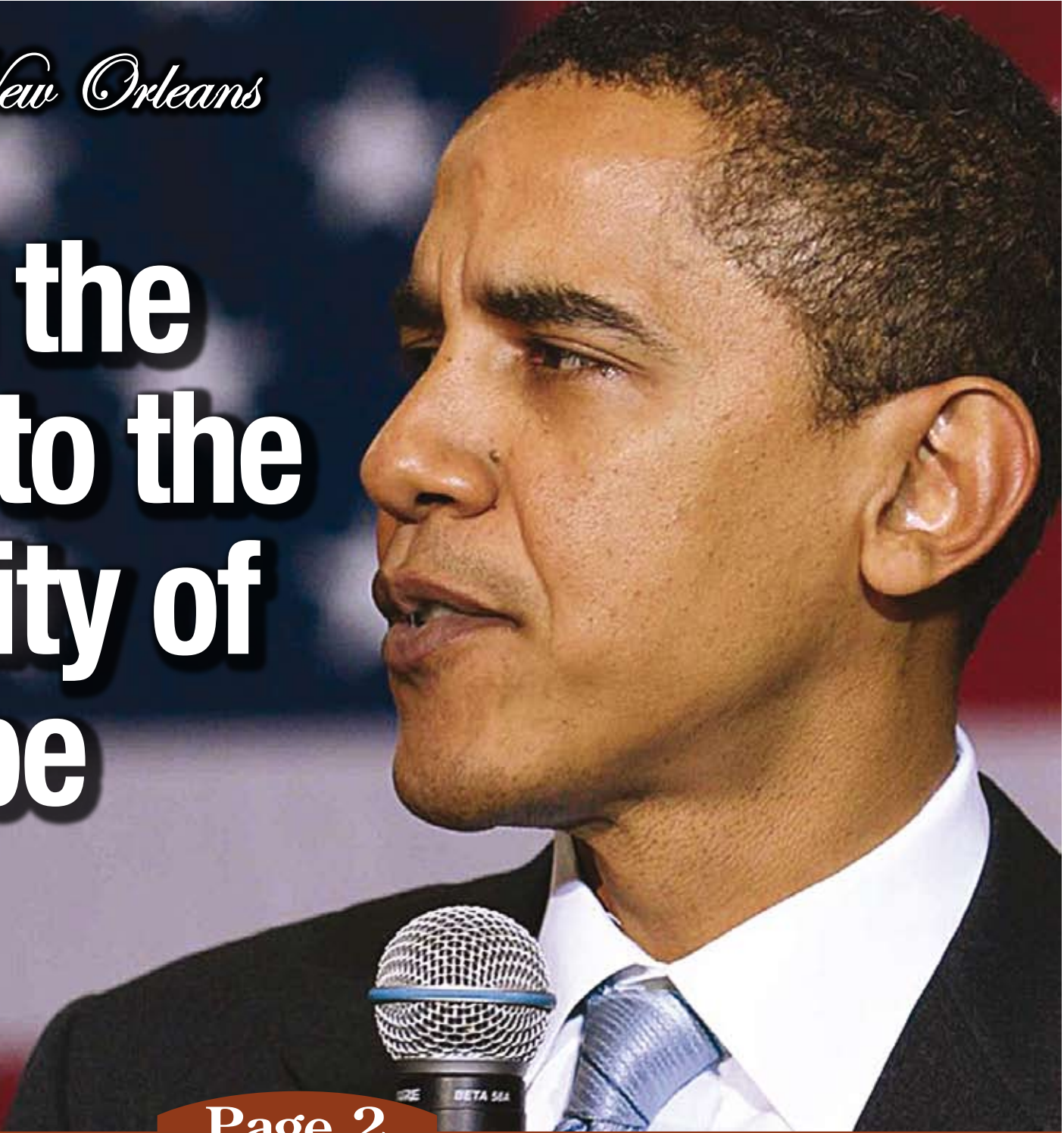
N.O. Jazz Fest Line Up

Page 8

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The Soul of New Orleans

From the Dream to the Audacity of Hope



Page 2




Trailblazer

Deforest Cornish

Page 7

Newsmaker

Jazz & Heritage Festival



Page 4

From the 'Dream' to the 'Audacity of Hope'



By Edwin Buggage

It has been forty years since an assassin's bullet ended the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a man who had the audacity to dream. To imagine a country that would be true to its creed of all people being created equal, but furthering the proposition to pose the question of all people being treated equal. To dream that this country could rid itself of the scourge of racial inequality and bigotry interwoven into the fabric of this nation and being as much part of this country's lore as apple pie. In this day in 2008 can America overcome it's past to ensure a better future for all Americans?

In this country throughout much of its history the sojourn of African-Americans has been a dream unfulfilled and an empty symbol of liberty, justice and equality. Today America still has many problems, some progress has been made, but the journey to justice and equality for all Americans is still a work in progress. 2008 is a historic election year with the country having an African-American and a woman vying for the Democratic Party's nomination for the President of the United States. Countless African-Americans have abandoned hope while another African-American stands a heartbeat away from the White House spreading a message espousing the audacity of hope; in a sense invoking Dickens' idea that these are the worst of times and the best of times for African-Americans.

The question of race has been front and center shifting in various directions during the campaign. Early in the campaign questions moved from is Barack Obama black enough to the pendulum swinging about to is he anti-American and anti-white? At various points his campaign has been an example how problems of racial misunderstanding rears its ugly head and of how in matters concerning race there are six degrees of separation between racial camaraderie and chaos. That notwithstanding, this election is still a testament of how far the nation's

Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	In The Spirit	10
Newsmaker	4	Love Dr..	11
State & Local.	5	Health.	11
Trailblazer	7	@Issue	12
Data Zone	8	National News	14

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Continued from previous page.

whites have come in forty years, and how blacks who were disenfranchised now occupy places inside the corridors of American society where whites who only a generation ago would not think of voting for an African-American now are placing their votes for Barack Obama.

But recently, the six degrees of separation proposition was tested when the issue surrounding Barack Obama and comments made by his former pastor Rev. Jeremiah Wright showed that the precarious question of moving to a raceless society is a noble yet complicated proposition. Barack Obama's historic run at the Oval Office has many thinking King's dream has come to fruition; where people can be judged not by the color of their skin but the content of their character. With his ascendance what does his candidacy mean for America moving forward? And how do you change a centuries old practice of racial divide to move a society to a place where their common humanity is more important than the superficial differences that has fanned the flames of intolerance and misunderstanding leading to animosity on both sides?

The words uttered by Rev. Wright cut like swords through the hearts of many well intentioned whites, but are very real for some blacks who came of age where their dreams could not become a reality. In a country where the words of the founding fathers about liberty and justice didn't apply to those who were considered 3/5 a person and questions of them joining the human family and having all the rights and privileges guaranteed by law didn't pass until the midway point of the twentieth century.

To some whites his words were words of someone who was ungrateful, angry, unpatriotic and racist. While what he said may not have been tactful, it says a lot about the need for whites and blacks to look honestly at one and other. To cease hiding behind the shield of politeness and political correctness to get to the meat of what it is that keep the races divided.

Is it time for whites to be able to say without fear of being called racist what they really feel about blacks, and for blacks to honestly and boldly say how they feel about their historical treatment in this country in an impassioned

unfiltered way without being labeled un-American or anti-white? Can whites, blacks and other minority groups come together in a no-holds barred discussion to talk about the things that keep us separated so that we can solve them and work towards a common destiny? Because in the final analysis most people want many of the same things, so the question becomes how do we move our race forward; the human race.

And in 2008 Obama is the man who has talked about hope has made the country think and talk about race in a way that it has not been talked about in quite some time. But this time not in an us vs. them as it was with Hurricane Katrina or other situations where race polarization was highlighted, but in a way where it is about people uniting to realize that people working together can change the direction of this country and the world.

Who would have thought during the tumultuous, turbulent times of the 1960's that the son from a marriage between an African man and a white woman from Kansas, (which was against the law in many states across the nation until 1967) would produce a son that would help bridge the racial divide. One who would transcend the issue of race and become a serious contender for the nations highest elected office. Obama has become a symbol for what America could become if like-minded people had the courage to stand together to make this country a better place, all colors, classes and races trying to move America a new place and forge ahead in a world that is getting smaller and smaller.

The words of Dr. King during the March on Washington resonate with even more urgency and clarity transcending the shores of America it is a clarion call heard around the world in a plea to come together for today is a new day, where many of the things that previous divided people in many instances are no longer relevant. Eight years into the new millennium and it is time to put centuries of racial baggage behind us. The world is a new place where globalism can move us away from the isolationism that has kept people ignorant about their neighbors in the family of humanity. It is time for us to get to a place where we can be a bastion of brotherhood. Where

we can be the fingers working together as one fist punching out the darkness of days gone by, to march together into the light as one united.

On April 4th 1968 a man died in the name of love. Today we live with the audacity to hope that the dream will be fulfilled. On the eve of Barack Obama perhaps becoming the nominee of the Democratic Party and maybe President of the United States in the November election Martin Luther King's Dream may be closer to becoming a reality. When ability and ambition trumps one's race holding them back from achieving what for previous generations of African-Americans was unthinkable. As we observe four decades after the death of Dr. King, a man who dared to dream, today it is the job of those who inherited this task to live the dream and have the 'Audacity of Hope.'



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Visual Artist on Display at Jazz Fest

By L'Oreal "Kamaria" Evans-Birden

The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival has served as the home for many local national and international up and coming artists as well as established artists. To many of the artists who sell their crafts at the event, it is one of the most extreme marketing strategies available. Jazz Fest (as it is commonly referred to by natives and annual participants) attracts a global audience, thereby affording many new artists the opportunity to receive global recognition and exposure. In addition to this it serves to preserve the culture of the Louisiana community. In doing this, it includes workshops and exhibitions by elder artisans that provide oral history along with demonstration.

The Congo Square section of the festival incorporates historical and contemporary arts in the sense that it is not uncommon to find contemporary pieces from artists that tell stories of a deeply rooted past. Often times the artists in this area rely on culture and history to depict imagery in their works. This fact is evident in the works of Jamar Pierre. Jamar Pierre often shows the direct relations of West Africa and New Orleans. In many of his New Orleans street scenes as well as Mardi Gras Indian scenes he uses West African iconography such as Adinkra symbols. In a recent interview with the New Orleans native, he states that he will introduce a new piece called Bittersweet that is within the Jazz genre. Most of the pieces that he



will include have strong jazz influences in keeping with the spirit of New Orleans.

Another Congo Square artist whose works are heavily influenced by the soulful sounds of New Orleans is Darrin Butler. Mr. Butler is celebrating his 8th year at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. Butler is a little known artist who is receiving plenty of commissions due to his ability to capture New Orleans traditions on canvas. Currently he is working with New Orleans music scene, as the Soul Rebel Brass

Band is currently his featured artist, and has expressed the desire to promote the little known New Orleans musicians further exposing the performance artists. His "Let Your Mind Be Free" painting of the Soul Rebels Brass Bands allows for a portion of the proceeds to go to the brass band. According to Butler, "Often times artist capitalize off New Orleans culture and we don't get to reap the benefits, so I'm creating a way for the brass bands, Indians, social aid and pleasure clubs to receive some income from what the art

containing their images generate." In February of 2008, Butler was commissioned by the Louisiana Lotto company to create the two dollar scratch off design called "Let the Good Times Roll". His next exhibitions include the Norfolk Virginia Bayou Boogaloo for which he designed the official 2008 poster.

Clifton Faust has been a featured artist in Congo Square for several years. Each year he astounds the festival goers with his skilled photographic paintings on wood. Faust uses color to give life to black and white images but this year he has incorporated new and innovative elements to his medium in addition to the collaboration with a new artist, Aisha Patrice a print maker and painter from Brooklyn New York. Clifton is experimenting with aluminum in his works and the result is a three dimensional illusion of art.

The Folk life section of the festival is layered with mounds of historical knowledge, Southern, Creole, Cajun tradition, and elders who have had the opportunity to serve as recorders of the past. Two such individuals are Savannah Lewis and Sylvester Francis.

Savannah Lewis is a 30 year veteran to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. She brings her skill of basket weaving along with stories of childhood memories and experiences. Ms. Lewis began weaving at the age of 6 and her storytelling is filled with 87 years of cherished memories. As her son, the former NFL Pro player Roosevelt Taylor, states, "This is her last year with the festival, she is sorry to have to give it

up but it is becoming too much." According to her son, the 93 years young weaver had to evacuate New Orleans several years ago because of the 2005 Fall storm and return to her hometown of Eudora, Arkansas.

Sylvester Francis is a native of New Orleans who has preserved through film as well as objects, the culture of the African American Mardi Gras Indian, Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs, and Brass Bands, all key elements to New Orleans Second Line Tradition. This preservation can be examined at the Backstreet Museum on St. Claude Street in Tremé for which he is the founder and director. Mr. Francis strongly emphasizes the need to capture the elements on film so that the sentiment to which the tradition strives is not forgotten and semi-comprehended. This year Mr. Sylvester states, "I'm not doing as much of the Mardi Gras Indian stuff. I'm focusing more on the Second line and the Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs." In addition to this he states that Big Chief Fi-Yi-Yi will be in attendance with drums set up so that children will have the opportunity to not only learn about them but actually play them. Through Big Chief Fi-Yi-Yi (Victor Harris) the Back Street Museum incorporates programming for the children of the New Orleans schools.

This year's New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival will incorporate both new and old artistry that place heavy emphasis on the celebration and rejuvenation of an old New Orleans.

L'Oreal "Kamaria" Evans-Birden

Friends mourn the loss of Roderick (Rod) Burke



Roderick (Rod) Burke, wife - Veronica Burke, stepson Justin Webb and his daughter Taylor Burke.

Roderick David Burke known to his friends as Rod, was a mover and shaker in the city of New Orleans. He passed on Thursday, March 20th. A graduate of Warren Easton High School, Rod worked throughout his life with several community leaders and was active with DA. Eddie Jordan's campaign and with AME Janitorial Service. After Katrina, Rod worked with many construction companies, helping to rebuild New Orleans, and was instrumental in assisting Data News Weekly to distribute papers into areas where survivors were, to bring them information which was needed. He also

worked in several capacities prior to Katrina with the paper, in public relations and advertising sales.

Rod was the father of 3 children, Javon, Roderick, Jr. & Taylor. Rod will be missed by his mother Elver Marie Burke, family, friends and Data News Weekly.



Roderick (Rod) Burke, stepson Justin Webb

Duplessis Donates Thousands Of Dollars In Equipment And Uniforms To District 2 Playgrounds

NEW ORLEANS – State Senator Ann Duplessis and the District 2 Community Enhancement Corporation will host two events Saturday, April 19, 2008. The first event will be an open house of the newly renovated, fully furnished concession area at Gorette Playground, 7760 Benson Street beginning at 10 a.m. The second will be the ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening of the concession area at the Kenilworth Playground at 6800 Curran Road beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Senator Duplessis and The District 2 Community Enhancement Corporation have donated over \$50,000 in equipment, uniforms, and renovations to the Gorette and Kenilworth Booster Clubs to expedite the recovery of the devastated community cornerstones in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"With less than one month before the end of the 2007/2008

school year, it is vital that our recreational facilities and after-school programs be fully prepared to adequately meet the needs of our children," says Tiffany Crawford, President, District 2 Community Enhancement Corporation.

Prior to Katrina, park uniforms, equipment, and travel were covered by concession sales. Following the hurricane, severe damage to the playground's structure and equipment have caused the booster clubs to struggle to maintain programs for youth in the community.

"As our community continues to make strides in rebuilding, it is important that we never forget that our children are our future. Providing for wholesome extra curricular activities for our children exemplifies the community's commitment to a positive future for our children," says Senator Ann Duplessis.

Superintendent Paul Vallas Gives RSD Status Report at Public Meeting



Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas

NEW ORLEANS – Speaking before an audience of about 100 at the University of New Orleans Monday night, Recovery School District Superintendent Paul Vallas gave State Education Superintendent Paul Pastorek and the community an update on the progress of the district.

Vallas recapped the district's successes this school year, including a wide-ranging classroom modernization initiative, the implementation of a compre-

hensive student information system and the introduction of Easy IEP, which has enabled the district to complete more than 1,500 Individual Education Plans for students with special education needs. He also discussed a host of initiatives, including strategies that will revitalize elementary schools and an ambitious high school redesign effort that will introduce career-focused programs in the district's high schools in the 2008-2009 school year.

"We've had our challenges this year, but overall we've made an enormous amount of progress," Vallas said.

The meeting, the latest in a series of public RSD forums that will take place every other month, was held Monday, April 14, at UNO's Kirschman Hall. The next meeting will take place June 16. The location will be announced.

McDonogh #35 High School's Class of 1935 will celebrate its 73rd

Reunion. This is a call for classmates to gather and fellowship, especially noting our survival of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. This will be a celebration of life and success, as nearly all of our classmates obtained college and technical degrees.

We will look back – comparing today's society to benchmarks in 1935, noting that gas was only 10 cents a gallon and house notes

averaged about \$22 per month. And we will celebrate our senior citizenship, happy to be mentally alert, spiritually alive, and physically able to handle life in 2008.

We will honor a favorite teacher, Mrs. Lavina S. Lundy, 106 years young, who served as a community volunteer until her evacuation from New Orleans in August, 2005.

Our class wishes to reach

out to classmates with whom we have lost contact in our journeys: Helen S. Lewis, Onelia S. Martin, Olga F. Merrick, Jurasha Miller, Mildred L. Reece, Audrey C. Robertson, Albertha D. Singleton, Bernice Alexander, Isabel B. Baskins, Estelle N. Brown, Rosemary Wilson. If anyone knows their whereabouts, please convey information to them about this reunion.

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The Changing Face Of Suno

By: Eddie Francis

On any given day at Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO) the campus is alive with regular class sessions, students hanging out and offices abuzz with activity. The difference between SUNO and the 4,000-plus colleges and universities across America is that SUNO is the only one operating almost all of its operations out of FEMA trailers. In fact SUNO students and personnel enjoy tasty Southern cuisine in the Knights' Café, also known as building #5.

It can be difficult to gauge the direction of the university based

on the faces around campus. On some faces it is easy to read the sheer frustration of go to class or working in trailers. On other faces one can detect nothing short of determination to enjoy the SUNO experience despite the slow pace of recovery. Even the most motivated personality has to take pause to reflect on his or her sense of purpose at SUNO.

tration moved operations to the campus of Southern University in Baton Rouge. While other area institutions knew that they had a chance to start recovery efforts somewhere on their respective campuses SUNO had to cope with the harsh reality of being the only Katrina/Rita 4-year institution that had all of its facilities compromised to a point of not being able to be occupied. At the time 3,651 students had enrolled in SUNO and most of them were not sure of where they would take their next academic steps.

Despite the circumstances the institution forged ahead with activities for the remainder of

tion in Curriculum and Instruction with concentrations in Early Childhood Development and Elementary Education. Bachelor's and master's degrees in Computer Information Systems were converted to the same degrees in Management Information Systems. Business Administration (Bachelor of Science) was converted to Business Entrepreneurship.

Change

SUNO's transformation on the run was not without friction in the area of leadership. Dr. Robert Gex, a beloved figure at SUNO, served as Interim Chancellor

but he has been more demanding of agencies involved in SUNO's recovery. One representative of FEMA quipped, "Every time I see the chancellor I think he should have boxing gloves and a mouth guard. He's been in Baton Rouge so much I thought he worked in the Capitol." Ukpolo has demanded the ear of everyone from the Director of the Louisiana Office of Facility Planning and Control Jerry Jones to the U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. Jones told a group at a SUNO

ana and Nicholls State.

The need for SUNO to re-focus has been intimately connected to other factors, as well. The school has developed a Master Plan which calls for the development of the land where the temporary campus sits. In June the university will break ground for residential housing for the first time in its history. The new residential facility will sit on the Park Campus as well as a new information technology center and proposed buildings for the College of Business and Public Administration and the School of Social Work.

With the advances being made, including an increasing enrollment, it will be critical for SUNO to operate on its Park Campus in Pontchartrain Park. As of now the university only occupies the Health &



town hall meeting, "Your chancellor has been a pain in my butt."

A new focus amid change

Ukpolo has insisted that SUNO turn its focus to being an agent of educational and economic improvement in the rebuilding region. In September of 2006 the university collaborated with the New Orleans City Council, the New Orleans Police Department and the New Orleans Police Foundation to host a Crime Prevention Summit. About the summit Ukpolo told a local newspaper, "It is my intent to get SUNO to that point where SUNO is the university that addresses major issues in the community - crime, economic deprivations, housing - those issues that are really at the core of the underprivileged."

As aggressive as Ukpolo's campaign for change has been, it may be necessary. In the fall of 2010 the university will adopt admissions criteria requested by the Board of Regents prior to Hurricane Katrina. SUNO will have to shift gears from being an institution that has been open admission to requiring students to have a high school GPA of at least a 2.0, an ACT composite score of at least 20 or a high school graduation rank in the top 50%. Most importantly a student must require no more than one remedial course for admission. The same criteria apply to other state public institutions including Southern, Grambling, Southeastern Louisi-

Physical Education Building with office space. Facility Planning & Control has worked closely with the university to attempt to get it back into the Cafeteria and its The new focus also includes academics. The university has instituted the SUNO Honors Program for TOPS recipients, the SUNO Dual Enrollment Program for high school students who want to earn college credit early and the Chancellor's Emerging Leadership Program. The Chancellor's Program is designed to track students from 8th grade and reward those who have performed well in the classroom with a scholarship to the school.

The issue has so frustrated legislators that four have involved themselves more with SUNO's recovery in recent weeks. Representative Karen Carter Peterson authored a bill (House Bill No. 961) called the SUNO Rebuilding Fund to provide \$30 million in recovery funds. As of press time the bill was awaiting assignment in the legislature's regular session. Senator Derrick Shepherd and Representatives Austin Badon and J.P. Morrell held a conference call with Facility Planning & Control to question the pace of recovery.

And still they come. SUNO is expecting another enrollment increase for the fall of 2008. Within a span of a year the university's pool of freshman applications had grown 127%.



on the faces around campus. On some faces it is easy to read the sheer frustration of go to class or working in trailers. On other faces one can detect nothing short of determination to enjoy the SUNO experience despite the slow pace of recovery. Even the most motivated personality has to take pause to reflect on his or her sense of purpose at SUNO.

Katrina's wrath

Hurricane Katrina was not subtle in her treatment of SUNO. Sitting on its 17-acre plot of land in historic Pontchartrain Park the 51-year-old HBCU suffered damages to all eleven of its buildings. When the levees broke it resulted in the university suffering \$500 million in damages. Matters were complicated when Hurricane Rita forced water back into the buildings just under a month later.

In the meantime the adminis-

tration moved operations to the campus of Southern University in Baton Rouge. While other area institutions knew that they had a chance to start recovery efforts somewhere on their respective campuses SUNO had to cope with the harsh reality of being the only Katrina/Rita 4-year institution that had all of its facilities compromised to a point of not being able to be occupied. At the time 3,651 students had enrolled in SUNO and most of them were not sure of where they would take their next academic steps.

Many of the SUNO family, including alumni, argue that the loss of academic programs outweighed the loss of brick and mortar. In their January 2006 meeting the Louisiana Board of Regents approved a plan that eliminated 20 academic programs from the SUNO landscape. Included in the casualties were bachelor's degrees in English, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Physics/Engineering.

Included in the plan were the conversions of four programs. SUNO's up-and-coming master's program in Urban Education was converted to a Master of Educa-

during Katrina but tendered his resignation in December of 2005. The Southern University System Board of Supervisors then moved to install Dr. Victor Ukpolo as the chancellor of SUNO.

Ukpolo's leadership has proven to be significant adjustment for the SUNO faithful. It has been Ukpolo's aggressive style of leadership that has made waves. A native of Nigeria, Ukpolo intended to inject an immediate "can-do" attitude into the administrators, faculty and staff. His penchant for demanding immediate results was reflected when he commented that he came to the United States with "\$200 to get an education" and had not been "willing to make or accept any excuses."

Just over two years later Ukpolo still demands results and not many have been safe. Not only does he demand results from his administrators, faculty and staff

Deforest Cornish

Saving the Children



By Edwin Buggage

He is a New Orleans native who has throughout his life worked to help young people. His story is one that is inspirational and proves that one can overcome struggle and adversity, and now he has made his life mission giving back to children.

Deforest Cornish story begins with a family who sometimes struggled materially, but he knew the meaning of love and was encouraged to succeed at all cost. "My family was not one where we had a lot, but I was encouraged and when I wasn't I motivated myself, so now I am trying to pass that on to my students and anyone I come in contact with." Continuing his thought, "I believe that not having is not an excuse for not getting, and it is not that there are not obstacles, but they can be overcome with a patient, diligent, disciplined approach to life."

Cornish is a product of the New Orleans Public Schools and is a graduate of Alcee Fortier. He is a military veteran and has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's Degree in Education and over the years have taught children from various races and economic backgrounds spanning from New Orleans inner cities to upper middle class kids in Massachusetts to children with special needs in the Bronx and have found a common strand that connects them to potential success in life. He believes that all children need is love, care

and understanding and they can achieve whatever they set out to accomplish. "Since I have been teaching I have learned that all children are alike, and we as adults need to expect more of them and serve as guides for them, because I feel that any child can learn and excel, but it is our job to make education a priority and know that it doesn't just begin and end in the classroom that it is a 24/7 365 day a year process."

During Hurricane Katrina Cornish went to Houston, Texas to find his family and his beloved mother which he did, and began helping make sure the young people had what they needed and while there he staged

a teach-in. He has kept in touch with many of the young people he met on those horrendous days and say that during that time it was a life altering experience. "Seeing so many of my people suffering made it even more urgent that I try to do more than what I had been doing, something that could have a more lasting impact on young people's lives and on the city I love so much."

After getting his mother to safety and moving her to California tragedy befell Deforest Cornish, as he lost the person who inspired him most, his mother Linda Cornish, so he decided to fulfill his dream while honoring his deceased mother and began plans on the Linda School, and independent educational enrichment program that takes a more holistic approach to education. So after years of toiling away to make it a reality it has finally happened, presently he has in place pilot programs in New York City and his native New Orleans, "It has taken a lot of hard work to get everything in place, but I'm just glad that we can now get about the business of helping young people."

A lover of hip-hop music Cornish has incorporated it to help children learn, "I think sometimes we as adults/teachers aren't successful at getting our kids to listen or learn because we don't meet them where they are, and I feel if kids are listening to hip-hop then we should meet them where they are if that's what their interested in, and I have done that and it really connects me with the students to get a better grip on how to better communicate with them." He has also in conjunction with his students written a children's book; a biography of hip-hop founder/pioneer DJ Kool Herc called "Herc Herc" with the proceeds going to help further the mission of the Linda School.

His mission of helping young people brings him back and forth to New Orleans. To what he call pilgrimages, "Although I spend a lot of time in New York, New Orleans is and will always be my home." "To hear the sounds of brass bands, or the taste of a po-boy with a big shot soft drink, or the Mardi Gras Indians chanting, this is the drumbeat of my soul, it has made me who I am and now I am here trying to give back to a city that has given me so much."

JMJ
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Jazz Fest Announces 2008 Music Lineup For Full Seven-Day Festival

APRIL 25 - 27 & MAY 1 - 4

The Neville Brothers, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel, Jimmy Buffett, Tim McGraw, Santana, Maze feat. Frankie Beverly, Sheryl Crow, Widespread Panic, Dr. John, Al Green, Diana Krall, Keyshia Cole, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, The Raconteurs, Irma Thomas And Thousands More Scheduled to Appear



Stevie Wonder

Friday, April 25

Buckwheat Zydeco, Sheryl Crow, Robert Plant and Alison Krauss, Burning Spear, Ozomatli with Chali 2na, Lizz Wright, Tab Benoit, Anders Osborne, Big Sam's Funky Nation, Terence Simien & Zydeco Experience, Leo Nocentelli's "Rare Gathering" feat. Bernie Worrell, Doug Wimbish & Will Calhoun, Doyle Bramhall with C.C. Adcock & the Lafayette Marquis, Ellis Marsalis, Paul Porter of the Legendary Christianaires, Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers, Barbara Lynn, Theresa Andersson Group, Banu Gibson & New Orleans Hot Jazz, The Iguanas, The New Orleans Nightcrawlers, Twangorama, Bruce Daigrepoint Cajun Band, Zydepunks, Vivaz!, Shamarr Allen, Zion Trinity, Otra, Kim Carson, Moov of Martinique, Kustbandet of Sweden, Ori-

nal Dixieland Jazz Band, Leah Chase, Kumbuka African Drum and Dance Collective, Rosalie "Lady Tambourine" Washington, Jesse McBride, Bonsoir Catin, J. Monque'D Blues Band, Bamboula 2000, Paky Saavedra's Bandido, Jamil Sharif's New Orleans Jazz Professors, Voices of Distinction, Pastor Sean T. Elder & the Mt. Hermon BC Mass Choir, Creole Wild West and Semolian Warriors Mardi Gras Indians, Joe Hall, Rufus "Rip" Wimberly & the Dreamers, Brice Kapel of the Togo, Amina Figueroa Group of The Netherlands, Jonno & Bayou Deville, Andrew Hall's Society Brass Band, Real Untouchables Brass Band, June Gardner, Val & Love Alive Fellowship Choir with the Dimensions of Faith, Teatro Alpagata of Argentina, Family Ties and Big Nine SAPCs, Hazel & the Delta Ramblers, Smitty Dee's

Brass Band, McDonogh #35 Gospel Choir, Gregg Martinez, Keep N it Real and Single Ladies SAPCs...

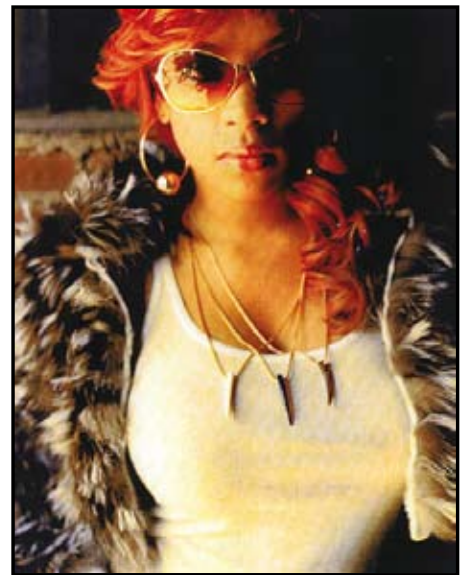
Saturday, April 26

Dr. John, Billy Joel, Keyshia Cole, O.A.R., The Count Basie Orchestra feat. Patti Austin, Cowboy Mouth, Cupid, James Cotton, Jon Cleary & the Absolute Monster Gentlemen, Trintee 5:7, Wayne Toups & Zydecajun, Walter "Wolfman" Washington & the Roadmasters, Harlem Blues and Jazz Band, The Imagination Movers, Ponderossa Stomp Revue feat. Tammy Lynn, Archie Bell, Roy Head, and Dennis Binder, Big Jay McNeely, Warren Storm w/ Willie Tee & the Cypress Band, NewBirth Brass Band, Astral Project, Davell Crawford Singers, Rosie Ledet & the Zydeco Playboys, DJ Bomshell, Eddie Bo, Benjy Davis Project, Paul Sanchez & the Rolling Road Show, Tricia "Teedy" Boutté & Ytre Suløens Jass-Ensemble of Norway, Mahogany Brass Band, Germaine Bazzle, Bobby Lounge, Tribute to George Lewis feat. Dr. Michael White and Tommy Sancton, Tribute to Wilson "Willie Tee" and Earl Turbinton, Big Chief Peppy & the Golden Arrows, Sonny Bourg, Big Blue Marble, PJ Morton Band, Hadley Castille, Jeremy & the Zydeco Hot Boyz, Po' Henry & Tookie, Rockie Charles & the Stax of Love, Carol Fran, 101 Runners, The Original Last Straws, Tyrone Foster & the Arc Singers, Young Tuxedo Brass Band, Berklee College of Music Jazz Ensemble, Nine Times and Single Men SAPCs, The Electrifying Crown Seekers, Golden Comanche and Chief Iron Horse & the Black Seminole

Mardi Gras Indians, Xavier Jazz Ensemble, Connie Jones' Crescent City Jazz Band, Kayla Woodson with Louisiana Lightning, NORD Crescent City Lights Youth Theater, First Emmanuel BC Choir, The Worship Squad, Unstoppable Gospel Creators, NOCCA Jazz Ensemble, The RRAAMS Drum and Dance, Lady Jetsetters, Dumaine Gang and Divine Ladies SAPCs, Red White & Blue Mardi Gras Indians...

Sunday, April 27

Irma Thomas, Tim McGraw, Al Green, Elvis Costello and Allen Toussaint, Cassandra Wilson, Delbert McClinton, Del McCoury, Pete Fountain, Byron Cage with Kim Burrell, Voice of the Wetlands All-Stars, Jeremy Davenport, Rockin' Dopsie & the Zydeco Twisters, Gal Holiday & the Honky Tonk Revue, Hot 8 Brass Band, Big



Keisha Cole



Deacon John & The Ivories

Friday, May 2 in Harrah's Theatre

Zydeco Boogie featuring Nathan & The Zydeco Cha-Chas and Rosie Ledet & the Zydeco Playboys

Saturday, May 3 in Harrah's Theatre

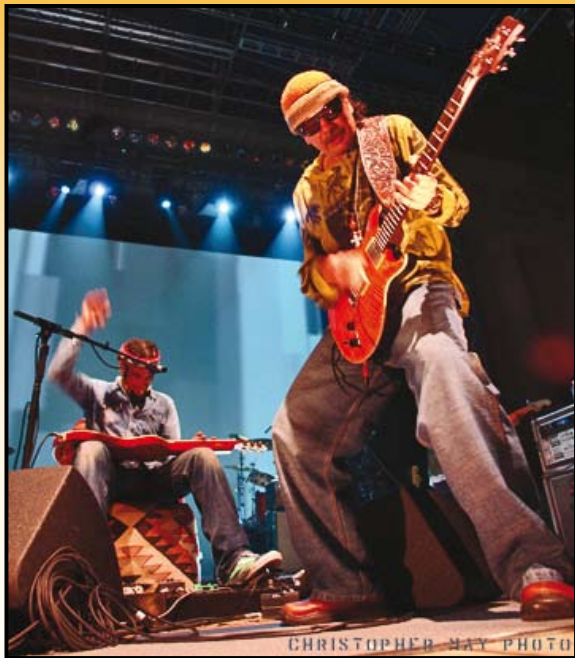
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G A M B L I N G P R O B L E M ? C A L L 1 - 8 0 0 - 5 2 2 - 4 7 0 0



Carlos Santana

Chief Monk Boudreaux & the Golden Eagles, Roy Young, BeauSoleil avec Michael Doucet, Nicholas Payton, Davell Crawford's New Orleans R & B Orchestra, Jumpin' Johnny Sansone's Harmonica Revue, The Throw Back Jamm feat. Joe Blakk, UNLV, MC T. Tucker, Dolemite, BustDown, and Cheeky Blakk, Rob Wagner and Hamid Drake, New Orleans Klezmer Allstars, Tim Laughlin, Jo "Cool" Davis, Mamadou Diabate of Mali, Little Freddie King, Jambalaya, Leroy Jones, Willis Prudhomme & Zydeco Express, Wilberforce University Choir, Kenny Bill Stinson, Paulette Wright, Golden Star Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Egg Yolk Jubilee, Midnite Disturbers, David Egan, Lars Edegran's New Orleans Ragtime Orchestra, Furious Five, Untouchables and Big Steppers SAPCs, UNO Jazz Ensemble, Shades of Praise, Michael Ward, Paulin Brothers Brass Band, Lionel Ferbos & the Palm Court Jazz Band, Carrollton Hunters and Flaming Arrows Mardi Gras Indians, Gregg Stafford's Jazz Hounds, Niveh BC Choir, Jeffery Broussard & the Creole Cowboys, AsheSon, Vision-Quest Chorale feat. Maurette Brown Clark, N'Fungola Sibo West African Dance Company, Percussion Inc., Patrice Fisher & Arpa feat. Angel Rios of Honduras, Craig Adams & Higher Dimensions of Praise, Olympia Aid, New Look and The First Division SAPCs, Kilts of Many Colours, Percussion Inc., Ninth Ward Navajo and Cherokee Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Colleen Salley...

Thursday, May 1

Randy Newman, Widespread Panic, Tower of Power, Kermit Ruffins & the Barbecue Swingers, Bettye LaVette, Gene "Duke of Earl" Chandler, Deacon John, Donald Harrison, Carolina Choc-

olate Drops, Ruby Wilson, Luther Kent & Trickbag, Porter- Batiste-Stoltz, Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, C.J. Chenier & the Red Hot Louisiana Band, Johnny Sketch & the Dirty Notes, The Lee Boys, Fredy Omar con su Banda, Maurice Brown, Lafayette Rhythm Devils, Kirk Joseph's Backyard Groove, Creole Zydeco Farmers, Walter Payton & Filé Gumbo, Music Makers' Relief Foundation's Blues Review featuring Boo Hanks, Macavine Hayes and Eddie Kirkland, Hot Club of New Orleans, Topsy Chapman's Tribute to Dinah Washington, John Ellis

Orleans Rhythm Conspiracy, Philip Manuel's tribute to Nat King Cole, Dukes of Dixieland, Dillard University Jazz Ensemble, Ernie Vincent & the Top Notes, Panorama Jazz Band, Mighty Chariots of Fire, Kerry Grombacher, Codac, Dizzy, Betsy McGovern & the Poor Clares, John Lee & the Heralds of Christ, Mark Braud, Joe Torregano, God's House Westbank Cathedral Choir, Billy Iuso & the Restless Natives, The Melody Clouds, TBC Brass Band, Tony Bazley, Heritage School of Music, Small Souljas Brass Band, The Golden Wings, Red Hawk and Geronimo Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Culu Children's Traditional African Dance Company, Charles Jackson & the Jackson Travelers, Bon Temp Roulez and VIP Ladies SAPCs, Olayella Daste, David & Roselyn, Second Mt. Carmel Gospel Choir, Basin Street Sheiks...

Friday, May 2

Art Neville, Stevie Wonder, John Prine, Michael Franti & Spearhead, Richard Thompson, John Butler Trio, John Hammond, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Ave., Marva Wright & the BMWs, Terence Blanchard & the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, Papa

Grows Funk, Sunpie's Tribute to Clifton Chenier, Zigaboo Modeliste, The Jackson Southernaires, The Lee Boys, Bonerama, The Bad Plus, John Boutté, Soul Rebels, Ingrid Lucia, Coco Robicheaux & Spiritland, Theryl "Houseman" DeClouet, Chubby Carrier & the Bayou Swamp Band, Bluerunners, Wanda Rouzan, Driskill Mountain

Boys, Ann Savoy's Sleepless Knights, New Orleans Jazz Vipers feat. Sophie Lee, Stoney B & Grampa Elliot, Gina Forsyth & the Malvinas, Clive Wilson & the New Orleans Serenaders feat. Butch Thompson, New Wave Brass Band, Tuba Woodshed feat. Matt Perrine and Kirk Joseph, Belton Richard & the Musical Aces,

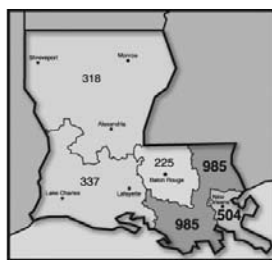
Eve's Lucky Planet, Larry Garner with Henry Gray, Ritmo Caribeño, New Orleans Jazz Ramblers, Louisiana Repertory Jazz Ensemble, Betty Winn & One A-Chord, Lyle Henderson & Emmanuel, Kid Simmons' Local International

Continued on page 13.



Cassandra Wilson

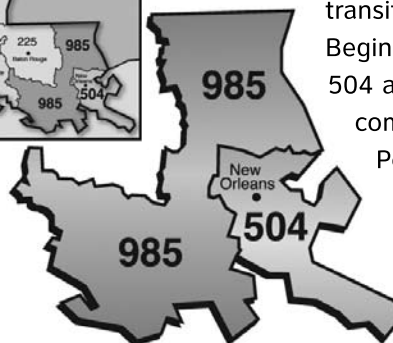
Area Code Change for Lower Plaquemines Parish Becomes Mandatory May 1



Beginning May 1, 2008, communities in lower Plaquemines Parish will complete the change from area code 985 to area code 504, marking the end of the nine-month

transition period begun July 29, 2007.

Beginning May 1, 2008, you must use the 504 area code when placing calls to the communities of Buras, Pointe-a-la-Hache, Port Sulphur and Venice.



Be Sure to Reprogram Your Equipment.

You may need to reprogram your speed dialing lists and customer-owned telephone equipment as a result of this change. If you live or work in lower Plaquemines Parish, you may need to reprint your checks, personal stationery and other printed materials that contain your area code. Note: Local calls to communities in a different area code must be dialed on a 10-digit basis (area code + seven-digit number). Please visit our Web site at www.bellsouth.com/areacode for more information.

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The new



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In The Spirit

Love & Relationships “Where’s the Passion in it”



Dr. Aaron E. Harold
Data Columnist

Hi Family, lets talk some more about love and relationships. Most relationships start off with a boom; in other words, the more you see that special someone, the more you want to be with them. It’s a wonderful and beautiful experience. Well, what makes us feel this way when words are sometimes hard to explain what we are feeling on the inside of us. It’s called “Passion” people. Now, the question is what is Passion?

Passion is when you are emotionally excited about someone. It’s when you are enthused about that person. It’s when you have a strong desire or feelings for that person. Let me bring it closer to home; it’s when you love that person very much. Passion is a key element in a relationship between a woman and a man. You have to have it to keep the relationship healthy and long lasting. Passionate love in a relationship will allow us to get to know the other person and be known by him or her.

Passionate love in a relationship will allow you to serve one another and maintain physical closeness to him or her. Family, test yourself and see if the relationship you may be in now have that passionate love in it. Alright, here we go, think of the person that you love most passionately right now. If you are not in love right now, think of the last person that you loved with a passion.

Maybe, if you haven’t been in love, think of the person you came closet to caring for in that way.

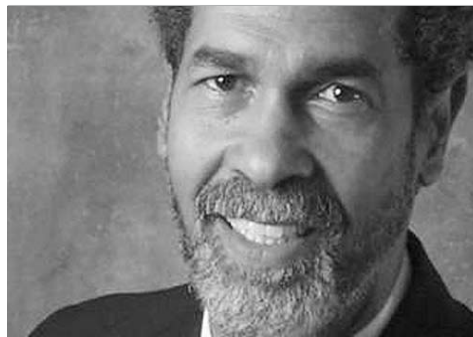
Now family, let me ask those that are now still in relationships; is the passion still there? Family, if you said yes to that question, than you are doing fine. Just keep doing what you have been doing so that it can get better and better. Now, on the other hand, if you said no to that question, then you are in big trouble. Listen people, your relationships and marriages can be resurrected if it’s not too far gone. You may still care for that person so don’t just walk away just yet. Look, think about what you once had and how beautiful it was between you and how content you were with one another. Talk about allowing the passion that you once had in that relationship to come back again. Everyone needs somebody loving and compassionate in their life; yes sir, yes mam, even you. Some of you may have said, or heard others say “I don’t need no one; I can just live in this world by myself.” However, you know in your heart that you don’t really mean that.

Family, that’s why in the Book of Genesis of the Bible when God made Adam, he said himself that it was not good for man to live alone, so he made Eve from the rib of Adam. Folks, get the passion back in your relationships. You need it to encourage and enhance your marriages and those who are planning to get married in the future. Family, let me ask you another question? Have you ever been passionate about anything in your life? Take your time and be honest with yourself. Sure you have that job that you want, or hardly ever been late, or that hobby you enjoy with friends fishing, tennis, basketball, bowling, or singing.

You know that you enjoy and love it, because you have a passion for it. Folks, try using that same energy in your relationships that you’re now in, and see the fulfillment and joy it will bring both of you. God bless, and be passionate about your relationships.

Opinion

You’ve Lost That Loving Feeling... and here’s why!



The Love Dr.
Data Columnist

This week dear friends of mine are contemplating ending marriage because they feel frustrated, unloved and unappreciated, as men, and I’m getting sick and tired of watching good people in good situations go down the same path and end in the same places, not because someone is bad and wants to hurt or doesn’t care about their partner, but because modern couples are completely ignorant about how to get the best from one another.

One of the downsides of the women’s movement is that it set up a competition between men and women and has infected our marriages with paranoia about being “used” on the part of women. Everything that follows only applies to people who are married. The legal construct of marriage exist to protect the interest of those who are willing to abide by the rules of fidelity in exchange for a sexual partnership and all that it produces, and it seems like men are primarily in marriage for sexual security and women for what the marriage produces, home, children, security and safety.

Don’t get me wrong, married men enjoy their children and their homes and the lifestyle, but it wasn’t their motivation for choosing a particular woman to be the one and only woman. Most men marry to have that chosen woman as lover, without worrying about aging, or illness or accidental infirmity (emotional security for a man). Many women may marry to be close to their lover, and women can enjoy sex as much as or more than a man once aroused, but for the most part women, once they have children become more focused on managing the household and nurturing the next generation, than being close to their lover.

So both partners come to marriage to satisfy their own needs, and before children, quite often the relationship stays very much as it was before the wedding, but now with guiltless, disease free and emotionally secure lovemaking, the honeymoon. Actually, once married, many men and women change almost immediately, women becoming household oriented, and

men become more focused on career, as if preparing for the family that generally comes sooner or later. Neither is as much “fun” as they used to be. They are beginning to take life seriously, thinking about the future, but they still have time for one another.

Then the babies come, and all hell can break loose. Before they had children, most of the women I’ve talked to could not have imagined the changes in their body chemistry and personal priorities after the birth of their first child. In more primitive times or in societies that still practice polygamy, a new mother being overwhelmed with the nurturing instinct wasn’t an issue. Her mate would have one or more other wives with whom he could enjoy the physical intimacy of marriage, sometimes for years, while a young mother was emotionally focused on her child, but still benefiting from the support and protection of the husband she shares.

Actually, in my and previous generations (before AIDS) there was sometimes an unofficial polygamy. Once the man of the house put the bill money on the table on Friday, what he did for the rest of the weekend was his business. As in those primitive or different cultures, how many “wives” a man had depended on how many places he could afford to pay the bills. Pre World War II young mothers tended to have the emotional support and physical help of mothers, sisters and girlfriends.

During World War II women went to work and learned how to make money for themselves, and began to see themselves as more “equal” partners. They became less tolerant of their men “messing around” and began the march that led to long overdue equal rights for women, but unfortunately, in the process almost everything male was treated like evil or unnecessary, as though men’s needs and wants were automatically invalid. Romance was separated from consummation, and married men’s need for physically expressing their love is now often treated as “selfish”, or worse used as a bargaining chip to control some aspect of behavior their wife disapproves.

This was also the time that families went from extended to nuclear with only parents and children in the house, isolating young mothers from the help of mothers and sisters and others..

For women, intimacy starts with conversation, so husbands have to realize that making love is more than consummation. The dance of courtship is what we tend to call “romance”. Even in nature mating is a complex process of symbols, sounds, stimulus and reactions. Husbands must remember to begin the dance with symbols complements and conversation (dinner or lunch), but wives should understand that the dance of courtship doesn’t end with

Continued page 12.

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Colorectal Health Screenings Can Make Life or Death Difference

By Larry Lucas

I'd like to think I've learned a lot about human behavior over the years. For example, I've learned that nine times out of 10, people will tell you darn near anything if you just listen – they'll give you the play-by-play of their son's soccer game, the intimate details of recent spats with their spouses, even the particulars of their health concerns. In my work to represent America's pharmaceutical research companies, I've heard my fair share of the latter. Even so, there are certain important health topics that remain relatively under wraps. Colorectal health is one of them.

According to the American Cancer Society (ACS), colorectal cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related deaths in the United States. Even more disturbing, the ACS reports African Americans have the highest incidence and mortality. There is no single cause for colon cancer, and most cases have no symptoms – which is why proper screening is so important.

Understandably, talking about colorectal health isn't at the top of the list for polite conversation. But the topic needs to be discussed because too few people – African Americans in particular – are getting the regular screenings they need to stay healthy. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that colorectal cancer screening lags far behind screening for other cancers, such as breast and cervical cancers. In almost all cases, early diagnosis through regular screenings can lead to a complete cure, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

One way colon cancer can be caught in its earliest and most curable stages is by colonoscopy. A colonoscopy is an internal examination of the colon (large intestine), using an instrument called a colonoscope, a small camera attached to a flexible tube. Almost all men and women age 50 and older should have a colonoscopy, according to the NIH. I know it sounds uncomfortable, but in reality most patients are asleep for the entire procedure. If Katie Couric

can undergo a colonoscopy on national television, as she famously did in 2000 on the "Today Show," you can certainly do it in the privacy of your doctor's office! Ignorance can be bliss, but this is not one of those cases.

Thanks to Medicare's expanded coverage, more people than ever have access to colorectal screening tests to help find precancerous polyps (growths in the colon) so they can be removed before they turn into cancer. Be sure to ask your doctor how often you need these tests and what kinds of tests are best for you. Regular screening tests are essential because studies show that from the time the first abnormal cells start to grow, it takes about 10 to 15 years for them to develop into colorectal cancer. Screenings are vital to early detection and prevention.

It's also critical to know your risk factors. While there is no known singular cause for colorectal cancer, risk factors can help your doctor determine what screening tests are appropriate for you. According to the ACS, you have a

higher risk for colon cancer if you have colorectal polyps, cancer elsewhere in the body, a family history of colon cancer, ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease or a personal history of breast cancer.

There is promising news on the horizon in the fight against colorectal cancer. The work of celebrities like Katie Couric, Diane Keaton and Morgan Freeman has helped bring greater awareness to the issue. And, as more cases are found early and treatments improve, the number of deaths due to colorectal cancer has declined. The ACS reports that the death rate for colon cancer has dropped in the last 15 years. Yet, there is more work to be done.

America's pharmaceutical research companies are doing their part to help treat many forms of cancer, including colorectal. A new PhRMA report shows that there are 646 medicines in development today to treat patients with cancer. One such medicine is a monoclonal antibody that targets the epidermal growth factor receptor, which mediates growth signals upon which cancer cells

can become dependent. By blocking the receptor, this medicine may eradicate existing cancer cells and stop future cancer cell growth.

It's important that everyone who needs these innovative medicines be able to access them. That's why America's pharmaceutical companies sponsor a national clearinghouse of patient assistance programs called the Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA). Since April of last year, the PPA has helped connect nearly 3.5 million patients in need to programs that provide either free or nearly free medicines. For more information, patients can call 1-888-4PPA-NOW or visit www.pparx.org.

Colon cancer doesn't have to be a death sentence if caught early enough. Shed some light on this important issue today by asking your doctor if you're getting the colorectal health screening tests you need.

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



If you are an African American,
**you are at high risk
for heart disease.**

Heat disease is the No. 1 killer of African Americans. This year alone, over 100,000 blacks will die from cardiovascular disease.

The good news is, heart disease is largely preventable. Be physically active, eat healthy foods and develop a prevention plan with your doctor.

To learn more about heart disease, take the Learn and Live Quiz by calling **1-888-AHA-2222** or visit **www.americanheart.org**.

Wherever you are, start a conversation to stop heart disease. Share knowledge and encourage people to live healthier lives. You might help someone lower their risk — or save a life.

American Heart
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"Forty Years Later"



Marc Morial
President & CEO
National Urban League

I was only 10-years-old the day a single bullet was permanently lodged into the psyche of the United States of America.

With a Nobel Peace Prize and the admiration of millions under his belt, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was already the nation's undisputed champion of freedom. But, on

April 4, 1968, Dr. King became a martyr for a global movement that continues to strengthen over time.

Forty years have passed since our great "drum major for justice" was assassinated on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis. But his drum beat continues to call us to the march of freedom, not only in the United States, but all over the world. Dr. King's legacy of non-violent resistance has played a part in the end of apartheid in South Africa, the fall of the Berlin Wall, as well as the continuing fight for equal opportunity here in America.

For African-Americans, Dr. King's life and legacy have special significance. He symbolizes that moment in time when America was compelled to come to terms with the hypocrisy of a constitution that proclaimed all men as equal, except us. His relentless demand for civil rights and universal human rights put the face of dignity on an Alabama woman just trying to take a bus ride home after a hard day's work. It

put the heart of humanity into the struggles of sanitation workers in Memphis. It gave moral authority to leaders in Washington who knew the time for change had come.

Four decades later, my own three children are growing up in a much different world thanks to the movement Dr. King led. The number of African-American college graduates and political leaders has grown significantly. The Black middle class is now a major force in America. And, we are in the midst of a historic presidential campaign in which, for the first time, an African-American and a woman are leading contenders for the White House. But, if Dr. King were still alive today, he would not be silent in the face of the prevalent and tragic disparities in jobs, homeownership, entrepreneurship and the well being of our children that continue to impede African American progress. And neither should we.

For 98 years, the National Urban League has stood with those who have fought for equal opportunity. Our own Whitney M.

Young was one of the "Big Six" civil rights leaders, along with Dr. King, who organized the 1963 March on Washington. And we are very proud to be a part of keeping the dream alive today.

One way we continue to uplift the African-American community is through our Opportunity Compact, a comprehensive set of principles and policy recommendations designed to expand economic opportunity and bridge the gap between the promise and the reality of the great American Dream.

Underlying all that we hope to accomplish is Dr. King's refusal to believe that there are "insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation."

Forty years later, let us honor his memory by refusing to give up on his dream.

Marc Morial is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

Rising Food Costs Hitting the Most Vulnerable in the US

By. Nicole Lee

Last week in the Washington Post, on the front page, there was an article about the devastating effects of rising food prices. Officials stated they cannot afford to provide basic nutrition to children.

Rising costs of corn, wheat, fruit, and milk are "really hitting us," one official said, while lamenting that the situation "is not sustainable".

This is not a government official from a country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Or Haiti. This is a quote from an official in the New York City school system. Schools from New York to Florida are struggling to keep up with rising food costs in order to provide nutritious school lunches.

Last year, the New York City school system paid over \$3 million for milk alone. The article stated that sharp rises in the cost of milk, grain and fresh fruits and vegetables are hitting cafeterias across the country, forcing cash-strapped schools to raise prices or pinch pennies.

For some time in the US, we have taken for granted that an abundance of food is our divine right. Yet this myth has begun to meet actual reality. We can no longer afford food for our families.

With the ravages of rising oil prices, coupled with genetic bio-markets and a food subsidy system not prepared to feed all the world's people, Americans may just be seeing the first wave of concern. We now live within a world economic system, of our

own making, that Americans may not be able to navigate.

Recent weeks have seen food-related protests in Niger, Haiti, Cameroon, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Mauritania, Ivory Coast and Egypt. A NPR story on Haiti's food crisis referred to Haiti as the "canary in the mine" and that the rest of us must heed the warning.

Ironically, but not surprisingly, leaders from international financial institutions who have created and supported the very trade policies which led to food insecurity are now expressing concern with the current food shortages. IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn concluded that if food prices continue to rise, "Hundreds of thousands of people will be starving ... (leading) to disruption of the economic environment."

If we consider the already vulnerable economic environments of many countries throughout Africa and the Diaspora, any small increase in food prices furthers these ominous circumstances.

Though stable and secure access to food and potable water are basic human rights, the U.S. has consistently shown its apathy and ineptitude towards addressing domestic and international food insecurity. At the 2002 World Food Summit, the U.S. stood alone in opposition to inclusion of "food as a human right" within a declaration to be signed by all governments. The U.S. additionally promoted the importance of genetically modified crops as key to elimi-

nating poverty and ensuring food security. Genetically modified crops decrease food diversity, force small farmers to use this technology at an increased expense, and ignore alternative, organic and indigenous agricultural development plans.

The recent release of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development Report, commissioned by the World Bank and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization, determined that the crisis of rising food prices cannot be compared to those in recent history. The report concludes that "the mounting crisis in food security is of a different complexity and potentially different magnitude than the one of the 1960s."

Food insecurity requires our immediate attention. First, we must accept that current U.S. and international economic policies have led to this current state of riots, violence, malnutrition, and death. We must accept that food insecurity is a national security priority that will not be addressed by a few quick fixes or more free trade, but that our economic structure requires systemic change. If not, given the reality of global warming, the effects of agribusiness and the decreasing options for sustainable livelihoods, U.S. Americans must face the real possibility of being on the losing end of the impending resource wars.

Love Doctor, continued from page 10.

them feeling loved and appreciated, for when it doesn't continue until the man feels loved and appreciated he will feel cheated, aroused and let down, rejected.

You can read these lines and say, "women shouldn't need all that time and talking" or "men are too physical", and fail to meet your (modern-monogamous-nuclear family living) spouse's needs or you can enjoy one another as something different, feel better about one another, have more support of one another, and even be more tolerant of one another small imperfections. Invest enough time and attention to your spouse's emotional and physical needs. That is what marriage means. Just remember, the children are going to grow up and leave you two together, or will you be able to stand the emptiness if your neglected partner is gone?

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'Slick Hillary' does not Separate Church and State



George C. Curry
NNPA

By: George Curry

In recent years, Democrats have been depicted as the party lacking in spiritual principles. This was done even while Ronald Reagan, who did not attend church regularly, was in office. The irony is that this year, when both Democratic candidates freely talk about God – they even participated in a forum in Pennsylvania Sunday on the subject – their religious beliefs get marred in political mudslinging.

Last week in this space, I showed how several of the most inflammatory sound bites of Rev. Jeremiah Wright were taken out of context (the column is posted on my Web site, www.georgecurry.com).

Even after Obama denounced some of the rhetoric of his former minister, while not denouncing the man, "Slick Hillary" continues her attempt to use Wright's words for political gain.

"He would not have been my pastor," Clinton recently told reporters. "You don't choose your family, but you choose what church you want to attend."

In the brouhaha over Wright, one central point keeps getting lost – Obama credits Rev. Wright with leading him to Jesus Christ. The sideshow over invective language amounts to, as Jesse Jackson likes to say, majoring in the minor.

Increasingly, Black pastors are defending Wright and the prophetic tradition. Strong columns have appeared in the daily press in Dallas and Seattle. It's encouraging that more and more White ministers are also stepping up and taking on Wright's critics.

Dean J. Snyder is the senior minister at the Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington D.C., where the Clintons worshipped during the White House years. Snyder issued the following statement:

"The Reverend Jeremiah Wright is an outstanding church leader whom I have heard speak a number of times. He has served for decades as a profound voice for justice and inclusion in our society. He has been a vocal critic of the racism, sexism and homophobia which still tarnish the American dream. To evaluate his dynamic ministry on the basis of two or three sound bites does a grave injustice to Dr. Wright, the members of his congregation, and the African-American church which has been the spiritual refuge of a people that has suffered from discrimination, disadvantage, and violence.

"Dr. Wright, a member of an integrated denomination, has been an agent of racial reconciliation while proclaiming perceptions and truths uncomfortable for some white people to hear. Those of us who are white Americans would do well to listen carefully to Dr. Wright rather than to use a few of his quotes to polarize. This is a critical time in America's history as we seek to repent of our racism. No matter which candidate prevail, let us use this time to listen again to one another and not to distort one another's truth."

On the other side, the Internet is carrying stories that a former pastor of the Clintons has been

convicted of first-degree sexual abuse for touching a 7-year-old girl in the wrong place. Actually, the minister in question, Rev. William Procanick, 54, is a former pastor of Resurrection Assembly of God Church in Clinton, N.Y. Thus, the confusion over his being "a former Clinton pastor." Hillary is a Methodist and not a member of the Assembly of God denomination.

Inasmuch as Slick Hillary could pick her pastor, but not her relatives, what does her pastor say?

The New York Sun contacted Rev. Edward Matthews, the former pastor of First United Methodist Church in Little Rock who served as the Clintons' pastor in Arkansas during the last two years of his governorship. Hillary still maintains a membership there although she has not lived in Arkansas in 16 years.

"We preachers get pretty irresponsible,"

he said, referring to Wright's most quoted sound bites. "...If we had it so say over again we probably wouldn't say it the same way." Even so, he said in the interview, Wright's sermon in which he said "God Damn America" was "a totally different animal when you look at its full context."

He added, "I've come pretty close to saying in some sermons, I guess, what Jeremiah Wright did." Matthews noted that his anti-war sermons during the Vietnam era and those of Wright today share the common theme "that America's going to have to get its act together, you know, that if we're going to be a leaders, we can't just say, 'America right or wrong.'"

Rev. Matthews said he heard Rev. Wright deliver a sermon in Arkansas during Black History Month.

"If you are very close-minded, you would have gotten up and walked out of that. But I appreciated what he was saying," Rev. Matthews said. "I wouldn't have said it that way. I wouldn't have been so animated."

He noted that he favors same-sex marriages and opposes the death penalty – positions that Clinton, oppose."

He said, "She's disagreed with me on several things, but she remained a member of the church."

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com.

DataZone, Continued from page 9.

Allstars, Pinettes Brass Band, D.L. Menard & the Louisiana Aces, Legacy – the students of Alvin Batiste, Greater Antioch Gospel Choir, New Orleans Mardi Gras Rhythm Indian Section, Ebenezer BC Radio Choir, Loyola University Jazz Ensemble, Casa Samba, The Smooth Family, Eulenspiegel Puppets of Iowa, Original Big Seven and Original Four SAPCs, McMain High School Gospel Choir, Fi Yi Yi & the Mandingo Warriors, New Orleans School of Circus Arts and ISL, Gospel Inspirations of Boutte, Rosedean Choir of South Africa, Scene Boosters and Old N Nu Fellas SAPCs...

Saturday, May 3

Marcia Ball, Jimmy Buffett, Diana Krall, Steel Pulse, The Roots, Bobby McFerrin and Chick Corea, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Bishop Paul S. Morton Sr. & the Greater St. Stephens Mass Choir, Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Henry Butler, Aaron Neville's Gospel Soul, John

Mooney & Bluesiana, the subdudes, New Leviathan Oriental Foxtrot Orchestra, Ruthie Foster, Irvin Mayfield & the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra, Savoy Center of Eunice Saturday Cajun Jam, Charmaine Neville, The Dixie Cups, Nathan & the Zydeco Cha-Chas, James Andrews, Dr. Michael White & the Original Liberty Jazz Band feat. Thais Clark, Lillian Boutté, Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie, Stephanie Jordan, War Chief Juan & Young Fire, Pine Leaf Boys, Bionik Brown, Treme Brass Band, New Orleans Blues Serenaders, Spencer Bohren, Don Vappie & the Creole Jazz Serenaders, Roddie Romero & the Hub City Allstars, Lil' Buck Singal feat. Rudy Richard, Feufollet, Pinstripe Brass Band, Storyville Stompers Brass Band, Tribute to Max Roach feat. Herlin Riley, Jason Marsalis, and Shannon Powell, Tondrae, Chappy, Danza feat. Evan Christopher and Tom McDermott, Beyond Measure, Lil Nathan & the Zydeco Big Timers,

Rumba Buena, Rocks of Harmony, Guitar Lightnin' Lee, St. Joseph the Worker Mass Choir, Big Chief Ke Ke & Comanche Hunters and White Cloud Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Leviticus Gospel Singers, Tulane University Jazz Ensemble, Secondline Jammers, New Generation and Undeclared Divas SAPCs, Trouble Nation and Mohawk Hunters Mardi Gras Hunters, Archdiocese of New Orleans Mass Choir, Bester Singers, Donald Lewis, Young Guardians of the Flame, Stephen Foster's Mid City Workshop Alumni Ensemble, Westbank Steppers, Valley of the Silent Men and Pigeon Town Steppers SAPCs, Golden Blade and Wild Tchoupitoulas Mardi Gras Indians...

Sunday, May 4

The Neville Brothers, Santana, Maze feat. Frankie Beverly, The Raconteurs, Dianne Reeves, Galactic, The Radiators, The Derek Trucks Band, Keb' Mo', Rebirth

Brass Band, Sonny Landreth, Snooks Eaglin, John P. Kee & the New Life Community Choir, Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Tribute to Mahalia Jackson feat. Irma Thomas, Marva Wright and Rachelle Richard, Vernel Bagneris: Jelly Roll & Me, Amanda Shaw & the Cute Guys, Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk, DJ Captain Charles, Abigail Washburn & the Sparrow Quartet feat. Bela Fleck, Kenny Neal, Sherman Washington & the Zion Harmonizers, Bob French & the Original Tuxedo Jazz Band, Elysian Fieldz, The New Orleans Bingo Show!, Benny Grunch & the Bunch, Goldman Thibodeaux & the Lawtell Playboys, Jonathan Batiste, Rotary Downs, George French, Chris Ardoin & Nu Step, Guitar Slim Jr., Grupo Fantasma, Lost Bayou Ramblers, Ovi-G & the Froggies, The Revelers, Pfister Sisters, Salvador Santana Band, William Smith's Tribute to Kid Sheik, Eddie Boh Paris aka Chops, SUBR Jazz Ensemble, Chris Clifton, Thelonious Monk

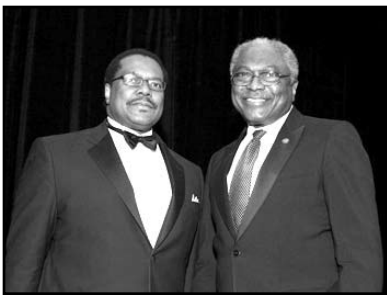
Institute of Jazz Ensemble, New Orleans Spiritualettes, Zulu Male Ensemble, The Jazz Jam, Tribute to Tuba Fats, Highsteppers Brass Band, Black Eagles, Hardhead Hunters and Apache Hunters Mardi Gras Indians, Lady Rollers and CTC Steppers SAPCs, Guyland Leday with Family & Friends Zydeco Band, Young Traditional New Orleans Brass Band, Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries, Wild Apaches, Young Magnolias and Black Feathers Mardi Gras Indians, Original Prince of Wales and the Original New Orleans Lady Buckjumpers SAPCs, Tornado Brass Band, Judy Stock, Minister Jai Reed...

For full schedule with times and stage information, go to www.nojazzfest.com

Black Think Tank President Outlines Plans for 'Generation at a Crossroads'

By. Hazel Trice Edney

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The president and chief executive officer of The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the premier Black political think tank based in Washington, D.C.,



Think Tank photoCaption: Joint Center President Ralph B. Everett stands with House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) after Clyburn received the organization's top honor.

says even though the center has played a critical role in the lofty political progress of Black people over the past four decades, its research must now turn to essential issue areas in which the plight of Black people is still suffering.

"We've done it with a focus on moving African-Americans into the political system in greater numbers - from barely 1,500 elected offices in 1970 to more than 10,000 today," Ralph B. Everett told a crowd of more than 2,000 political insiders and other

supporters at the organization's glitzy annual dinner, held at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. "The real possibility that a Black president or a woman President will be elected - almost unthinkable just a few years ago - has put race and gender in the center of American dialogue. And that is a good thing."

But while all eyes have been on Sens. Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, key research in areas where Blacks have slipped or never thrived is still woefully necessary, Everett says. "Our country faces an enormous task in making the promise of America more accessible to our fellow citizens. The Joint Center has a critical role to play in addressing and eliminating the barriers that prevent our young people from pursuing their dreams."

Describing community woes as "a generation at the crossroads", Everett pointed listed health care research that shows African-American babies more likely than babies of other races to die in infancy; African-Americans and Hispanics - historically lagging in home ownership rates - still much more likely than other groups to have sub-prime mortgages; and the worldwide scientific community predicting that "global climate change will

bring more intense and more frequent weather events in the not-too-distant future." He asked, "Why should Black people care about that? Two-words: Remember Katrina," he told the energetic audience.

Having served as president only about a year, Everett also vowed to address media-led stereotypes and misinformation about Black people, as well as the lack of racial minority ownership and "access to the new digital world."

Concluding, he said, "In other words, we cannot and will not stand idle while our youth, our communities, our people stand at the crossroads."

Among the crowd were at least two dozen members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including Chairwoman Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr. and two former Joint Center leaders Eddie Williams and former Army Secretary Togo West, immediate past president. The audience cheered at the April 8 event when Everett announced that the center had raised a record-breaking \$1.6 million with this year's dinner - "and we're still

counting."

U. S. Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.), House majority whip, received

the center's top honor, the Louis E. Martin Great American Award, named for its founder. Clyburn said his colleagues in Congress as well as the next president must work hard to close the disparities pointed out by Everett. "I am determined that we will not be the first generation of Americans to leave their children with fewer opportunities than we had," Clyburn said.

AARP CEO William D. Novelli was the recipient of the center's first Partnership Award, pledging to continue giving to the cause of research and policy analyzing. "Americans fear that their children's generation will end up worse off than they are," Novelli said. "If that happens, it would be the first time in American history...a big step backwards. We can't let it happen. And that's why our partnership with the Joint Center is so important - it plays a critical role in helping our nation's leaders understand how key issues impact the African American community."

The recording of Black political and economic thought and progress has been the hallmark of the center since its founding in 1970. A recent Joint Center survey of likely Black voters in the Democratic Primaries found that the

war, health care, jobs/economy and education, were foremost on the minds of African-Americans going to the polls.

Everett pledged to focus the Joint Center's work on improving the prospects of young people of color, whom he described as "a generation at the crossroads."

I firmly believe that America needs the Joint Center now more than ever. We are going to deliver for America, through research, partnerships and policy reform recommendations. That's what my presidency at the Joint Center is going to be about. And I welcome and thank you for joining in these efforts.

Everett said he sees the massive financial support as a sign of readiness by the community.

"It is a clear signal that America is ready to confront the difficult social and economic challenges that face our nation and our communities. And they want strong policy institutions to step up and focus on solutions," Everett said. "We accept and embrace our responsibility to increase the Joint Center's innovation and effectiveness in putting the concerns of communities of color and solutions to their problems at the very top of the nation's policy agenda."

Tavis Smiley Leaves Tom Joyner Morning Show



NNPA Newswire - Popular author and media personality Tavis Smiley said he will resign in June as a twice-weekly commentator on the syndicated Tom Joyner Morning Show after more than 11 years with the program.

Smiley cited fatigue and a busy schedule to Joyner on last Thurs-

day night, but Joyner indicated otherwise on his program and in his blog the next day.

Joyner wrote: "The real reason is that he can't take the hate he's been getting regarding the Barack issue - hate from the Black people that he loves so much."

Smiley has taken on Obama in a series of commentaries that began as the Democrat from Illinois emerged as the party's front-runner for the presidential nomination in early January. Days after Obama's win in the Iowa caucus, Smiley warned on Joyner's show: "Don't fall so madly in love [with Obama] that you surrender your power to hold people accountable...I'm not saying overlook Senator Obama, but you now better be ready to look him over."

That commentary brought a hail of critical phone calls and e-mails down on Smiley, who replied two days later on the Joyner show that he stood by his criticism.

"It's all about accountability," he said at the time.

Since then, amid mounting counter-criticism, Smiley has stepped up his critiques, contending that Obama wasn't sufficiently attentive to issues involving African-Americans.

Smiley is the author of the best-selling "Covenant With Black America" and hosts self-named interview shows on PBS and Public Radio International. He formerly hosted a show on Black Entertainment Television in Washington.

Late Friday afternoon, Smiley said in a statement that he would stay with Joyner until the end of June. He said in the statement: "Contrary to what has been suggested, I have decided to clear some things off my plate so that I can devote my time and attention to some exciting and empowering projects." He did not mention Obama.

Five Days Before Pennsylvania Primary, Obama Got Record Crowd in Philadelphia

NNPA Newswire

NNPA - Barack Obama was greeted by the largest crowd of his campaign April 18 in Philadelphia.

Some 35,000 people jammed into Independence Park to see the Democratic presidential candidate, four days before this state's crucial April 22 primary. Frank Friel, director of security at the Independence Visitor Center, made the official estimate.

The crowd exceed the 30,000 who greeted Obama and Oprah Winfrey in December in Columbia, S.C. Obama told the crowd the United States is at a crucial moment in its history, much like what the founding fathers faced in Philadelphia.

"It was over 200 years ago that a group of patriots gathered in this city to do something that no

one in the world believed they could do," Obama said. "After years of a government that didn't listen to them, or speak for them, or represent their hopes and their dreams, a few humble colonists came to Philadelphia to declare their independence from the tyranny of the British throne."

The Illinois senator called Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton a "tenacious" opponent but said it was time to move beyond the politics of the 1990s.

"Her message comes down to this: We can't really change the say-anything, do-anything, special interest-driven game in Washington, so we might as well choose a candidate who really knows how to play it," Obama said.

Information from the Associated Press contributed to this report.

Loss of Manufacturing Jobs Erodes Black Middle Class

By. Zenitha Prince
Special to the NNPA from the
Afro-American Newspapers

PITTSBURGH—Joe Brown was forced to watch the creeping malaise that infected his town after its steel mill closed down. The factory was the main economic engine of Beaver Falls, Pa.; it was where Brown worked every summer to earn money for college.

"It was THE economy in my hometown," Brown said. "A lot of young people just left; a lot of my family [members] have left."

That story has played out in towns and cities throughout the country, leaving hopelessness in its wake.

"There are a lot of bitter Pennsylvanians and Americans," Brown said.

That bitterness has made the flagging economy a central issue of the presidential race between Republican nominee John McCain and warring Democratic candidates Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. And especially so in states like Pennsylvania, where manufacturing is the backbone of the economy—accounting for \$73.9 billion of the state's gross product—and where 207,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2000, according to the Alliance for American Manufacturing.

Gangs have replaced families, old heads have replaced fathers and gang rituals and codes have replaced the church.

It is also why Obama and Clinton spoke at a forum on manufacturing and trade at the Donald Lawrence Convention Center here Monday. McCain declined the invitation.

Organizers said unfair trade practices by foreign countries, failed trade policies such as NAFTA and the unwillingness of government to enforce trade laws have all led to increased outsourcing and the decline of American manufacturing.

"We're tired and frustrated and we're angry and we need someone who's going to stand up for fair trade," United Steelworkers International President Leo W. Gerard told a roomful of manufacturing employees, retirees, union and manufacturing executives.

Scott N. Paul, executive director of Alliance for American Manufacturing, said the issue defies labels since it affects everyone.

"This is not a labor or management issue; a Republican or Dem-

ocratic issue; every American is concerned about manufacturing and voters demand answers," he said.

The Alliance, along with co-sponsors United Steelworkers, SOAR, United States Steel, ATI, AK Steel and ArcelorMittal has targeted China as the chief offender—artificially manipulating its currency and subsidizing Chinese industries to lower prices and then dumping the cheap goods, some of which are made without proper safety and quality control oversight, into American markets.

And fight for good jobs will be waged not only in the rural towns of Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York, but in Black inner-city communities like those in Pittsburgh, a city synonymous with steel production for more than a century.

"Pittsburgh over the last 30 years has suffered more from the permanent loss of manufacturing jobs than any urban area; we've been devastated," said Bill Robinson, an Allegheny County councilman. "Pittsburgh has one of the highest unemployment rates among African-Americans in the country. This has been a nagging problem for 20 to 25 years and no one has been able to figure out what to do."

Blacks didn't gain entry to manufacturing jobs in Pittsburgh until the agitation of the civil rights movement. In a system based on seniority, they were last hired and the first fired.

Rick Adams, co-convener of the Western Pennsylvania Black Political Assembly, said even those who kept their jobs were placed in jeopardy.

"You once had an opportunity to get a middle class lifestyle—to get a home, get your children into a good school," he said. "When that went away, there wasn't a replacement for these types of jobs. They either moved out of the city, and not everyone has a car, or were replaced with jobs that required higher education or more specialized skills."

The Center for Economic and Policy Research estimates that the share of African-Americans working in manufacturing declined from 23.9 percent in 1979 to 9.8 percent in 2007, the highest drop of any group.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, the unemployment rate in the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Statistical Area rose to 4.9 percent in

February. The national rate is 4.8 percent.

In Allegheny County, where 84 percent of Black Pittsburghers live, African-American men have significantly lower labor force participation rates, according to an Allegheny County economic trends report.

African-American men age 16 and over had an overall labor force participation rate of 58.9 percent in 2000, compared to 69.5 percent for White males. Consequently, the median household income for African-Americans was \$22,130 or just 54 percent of the comparable median household income for Whites.

The impact of unemployment can be seen on street corners in Pittsburgh's poor neighborhoods where the drug trade thrives.

"It's easy to get into drugs when you're unemployed," said Diane Henderson, 56, whose son Richard Norris, was killed in a drug-related drive-by shooting near a public housing complex on Burrows Street.

It's also easy to get into gangs, Adams added.

"Gangs have replaced families, old heads have replaced fathers and gang rituals and codes have replaced the church," he said.

Unemployment's devastating effect also can be seen in the 1,736 violent crimes committed in the city last year, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Report, and the flooding of juvenile detention centers like the one William T. Simmons oversees.

"My 'no vacancy' sign is always out. I'm tired of seeing them come," said the former judge and director of Shuman Juvenile Detention Center.

He explained, "They have no hope because they look around they don't see success. You can walk up and down Homewood (a Black enclave) and see dilapidated buildings, crack houses, people involved in crime – that does not engender hope."

Pittsburgh's economy is looking hopeful, however. The area has refashioned itself as a leader in IT technologies, the biomedical field and in education, given the five universities in the area.

Dr. Larry Davis, director of the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research, said taking advantage of these new opportunities will require some effort.

"People who are not skilled are going to have to make efforts to

retrain," he said.

Robinson, the Allegheny County official, said that is why he likes Sen. Obama's emphasis on using community colleges to prepare the workforce for the demands of a globalized economy. Obama has said he would provide \$4,000 tax credits that would make community college "completely free for most Americans" and would ensure that community college degrees matched the needs of local industry and national goals.

At the manufacturing forum, Obama said he would ensure the everyday worker has a say at the trade negotiation table where before "special interests had bought every chair."

Other policy highlights mentioned include:

–Creating a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank of \$60 billion to create jobs rebuilding roads, strengthening bridges, etc.

–Spending \$150 billion over 10 years to create approximately 5 million "green-collar" jobs in the renewable energy sector

–Renegotiating NAFTA to include higher labor and environmental standards

–Revoking tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs and hold American and other companies that import goods produced overseas to tighter quality control standards

--Forcing China to stop artificially manipulating its currency by cutting off access to U.S. markets if necessary.

The last may be difficult because the Bush administration has run up a high debt with China to finance the "war on terror," Obama said. "It's very hard to argue with your banker."

Clinton later presented her ideas to rebuild America's manufacturing base:

–Appointing a trade prosecutor
–Telling Mexico and Canada that NAFTA must be retooled or the U.S. will pull out

–Doing full reviews of Section 301 petitions—complaints by unions or other groups of unfair trade practices

–Reviewing tax code and remove any provision that allows outsourcing

–Creating 5 million green collar jobs

–Cracking down on industrial espionage because "what China can't buy from us, they steal from us"

–Making healthcare universal so that it can be "taken off the (union-management) negotiating table"

Both candidates also said they would make an effort to reinvest in the military industrial complex and bring the production of military gear, machinery and weapons back home.

To those facing the possibility of losing their jobs, this is not politics-as-usual.

"This is about the survival of a way of life as we know it," said Patrick Hassey, chairman, president and CEO of ATI. "No country has maintained a strong middle class without strong manufacturing."



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