

Lighting The Road To Freedom

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

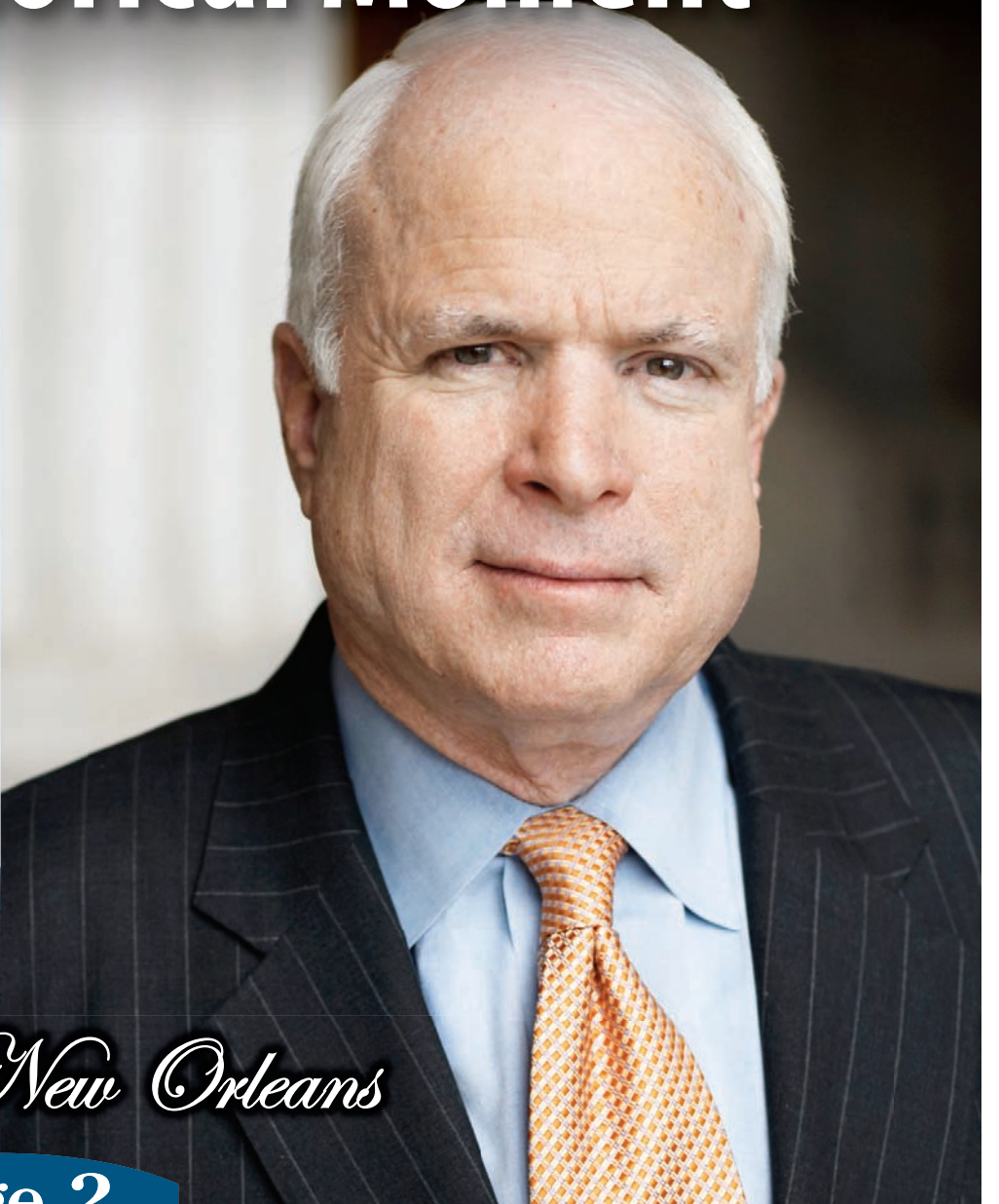
"The People's Paper"

**Remember to
Cast Your Votes
on Nov. 4.**

FREE
COPY

Nov. 1-Nov. 14, 2008 41st Year Volume 37 www.ladatanews.com

Presidential Politics: America's Historical Moment



The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



Newsmaker

Data News Weekly
Announces Key
Endorsements

Page 4

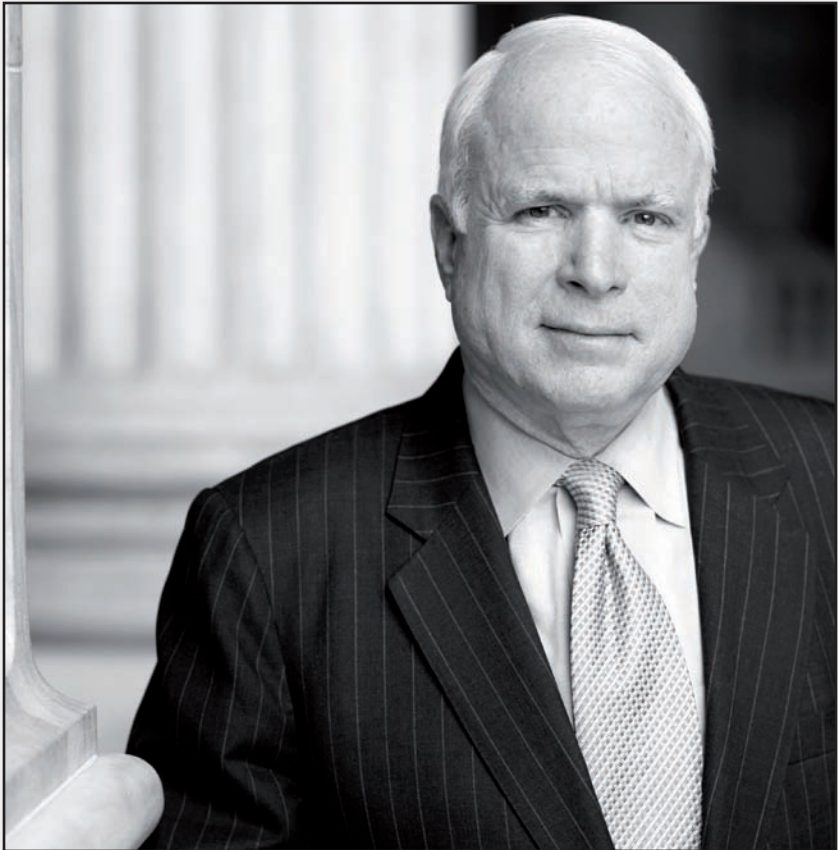
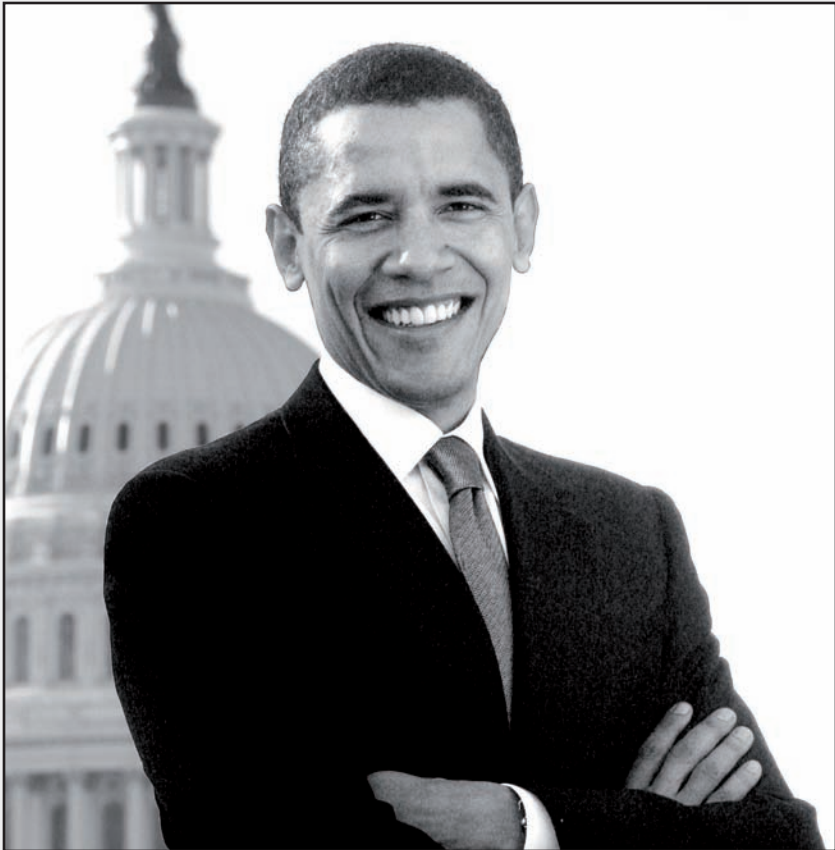
Data Zone

Aubry Twins
are Honored
at Sweet Lorraine's



Page 9

Presidential Politics: America's Historical Moment



by Edwin Buggage

History in the Making

The day is nearing when Americans from across the country will go to the polls to vote for the new U.S. President. This has been a race that has been fraught with charges and counter charges from both sides about why the other is not suited to lead. Frontrunner Sen. Barack Obama charges that a John McCain presidency would be another four years of policies of President George W. Bush, whose approval rating has sank to an all-time low with only a little over a quarter of Americans feeling he is doing a good job. So, Obama has been

hammering his message that McCain does not in any way represent change. At the same time, the McCain campaign has charged that in addition to lacking experience, Barack Obama is a typical tax and spend liberal who, if elected, may lead this country into the abyss of socialism and have government involved in too many facets of American life.

Americans from all walks of life are weighing in on this historical election. History is going to be made regardless of who wins on Nov. 4. This country will have a President who will either be the first

African-American, the oldest person ever elected to a first term of a U.S. Presidency, or the first female Vice-President.

Change Is the Name of the Game

The call for change has reached an ominous roar as the last eight years have left the American people desiring for someone else to lead the country in a new direction both foreign and domestic.

"I feel the country is in dire straits, and the status quo is not working for the American people," said Michele Woods, who has been an adjunct professor

Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Newsmaker	4
State & Local.	5
Data Zone	8
In The Spirit	10
@Issue	11
National News	13

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

616 Barrone Street, Suite 584, New Orleans, LA 70113
Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones CEO/Publisher Glenn Jones VP Advertising & Marketing Edwin Buggage Editor-in-Chief Shaniece Bickham Managing Editor June Hazeur Accounting	Contributors Edwin Buggage NNPA Art Direction & Production MainorMedia.com Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net
--	--

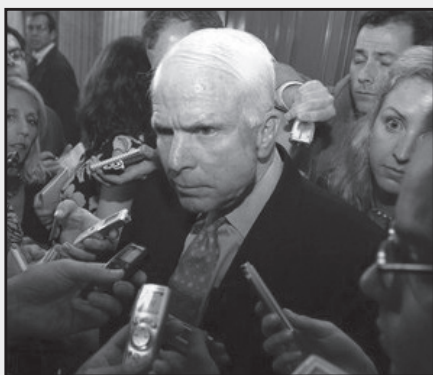
Please call (504) 284-3840 for subscription information. Dated material two weeks in advance.
Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

of political science and constitutional law. Continuing she said, "I think Obama has energized the electorate and gotten people excited about this election, where you have people like filmmaker Tyler Perry saying he is voting for the first time."

Sandra Monroe has spent nearly four decades in the field of education and has lived

believed in regards to race in this country," said Nancy Hampton, a librarian at Xavier University. Talking about its long term impact and how it will affect future generations Hampton said, "I think Black kids will see this and be inspired and believe they can become and achieve what was unthinkable during my parents' generation."



through segregation. Monroe said at first she was not enthusiastic about Obama, but as he began to talk about what he would do as President, his message resonated with her.

"I think in this election he has brought people under one umbrella in a way that others have not been able to do, and shown people that they can actually make a difference with their vote," said Monroe. "What he has done in my mind as far as getting young people involved in politics is something I [haven't] seen since the 1960s."

Race Takes Center Stage

The thorny issue of race came to the forefront as Obama has become a serious contender for the White House. Throughout this election thinly veiled attempts to pander to those who hold anti-black feelings have been attempted by the McCain campaign, as well as an effort to portray Obama as somehow anti-American.

"I feel some people have problems with Obama's race, but I think that the success of his candidacy is the fulfillment of what Dr. Martin Luther King talked about when he said that people should not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character," said Monroe.

The ascendancy of Obama has challenged the ideas of race as Americans have known it and has moved the conversation to a very different place as the country adapts to its role in a world that has become much more global.

"I think that what has happened in the case of Obama and his success is that he has killed stereotypes and everything we

Joe Ricks, Jr., Ph.D. is an African-American Republican who said he feels as though Obama's policy positions are counter productive to fostering growth and that an Obama presidency will not produce any changes in the arena of public policy. But he also said he feels Obama's rise has had a psychological effect on some blacks, but thinks it's more psychological than substantive.

"I don't think his presidency will get anybody a job. It may not have an effect on issues like teen pregnancy, crime, or massive unemployment, but it may make some who have felt locked out [feel] like [they] are part of the system." Ricks also pointed out that Obama's rise is part of a larger cultural phenomenon as many African-Americans have moved to the upper echelons of American life and excelled in various fields of endeavor in both the private and public sectors.

The Right to Vote

Once upon a time in America the right to vote was not extended to many of its citizens, whether it was African-Americans, women, immigrants, or non-land owning white males, suffrage has been an issue throughout American history. In the 2000 Presidential election, voting irregularities once again reared their ugly heads as the vote was taken out of the hands of the voter and given to the Supreme Court.

Voting in this country compared to other nations that have universal suffrage is dismal at best. In a country that posits itself as a bastion of liberty and example of democracy for the world, only a little over half of

citizens eligible exercise their right to vote. In the 1996 re-election campaign where Bill Clinton defeated Sen. Bob Dole, 49% of eligible voters cast a ballot.

The 2008 Presidential election has the feel of a sporting event where both campaigns are drawing large crowds; Obama with his message of hope and McCain and Sarah Palin, who have excited the Republican base and been a curiosity to both the media and public at large, making an impact on popular culture around the globe. Early voting is at record highs as people are waiting for hours to cast their ballots.

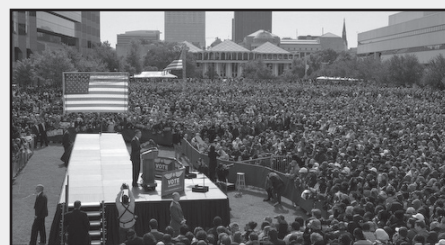
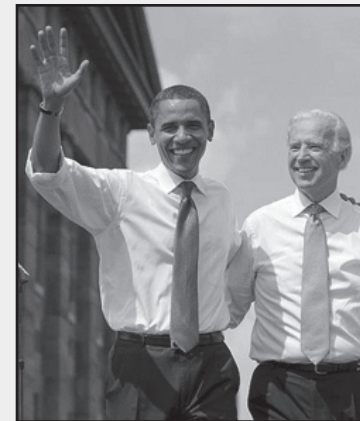
"I am excited. I have been waiting seven years and I feel good to have a say and voice in who our leader will be with my vote," said Tanya Linnegar, a white South African who will be voting in her first U.S. Presidential Election. "I am more of a Libertarian, but I like Obama because he is inspirational in his message where he is trying to bring all people together. I think his campaign has been more inclusive."

With the recent criticism of ACORN and fraudulent voter registration by the McCain campaign, the country may be in for a challenge to the results of this election, resembling a repeat of the 2000 election. Woods said she feels that is a possibility, but not likely because the country needs to regain international credibility and such a

The Election and Beyond: What's Next?

Nov. 4, 2008 is the day the nation elects its new Commander-in-Chief. What will the impact be for the nation and for the world? Whether it is Sen. John McCain or Sen. Barack Obama a list of challenges are ahead: two wars, an economy that is in bad shape and a host of other issues including crime, education, and immigration. So, it is important that Americans think carefully when selecting their next President, for he will help shape where the direction of this nation will go for many years to come, and what role the U.S. will play on the world stage.

The 2008 election has two candidates who are capable and able. Sen. John McCain brings a wealth of experience on foreign affairs, and he comes from a tradition where his family has served the country in a noble way. He has a record of reaching across the aisle and has many times truly been a maverick. Sen. Barack Obama is someone who has been called a transformational figure and has put together a broad-based coalition of unlike individuals and groups around a common cause. He has embraced the 21st century using technology and raising money like nothing ever seen on the American political scene. Obama with his eloquence and star appeal



distraction would get in the way of moving the country forward.

The 2008 Presidential campaign is historical for many who lived through the dreaded days of Jim Crow when the stars and stripes was an empty symbol for many Americans. Monroe said she remembers a time when African-Americans could not vote.

"I think it is amazing how our country has transformed itself. I remember Avery Alexander being dragged down the steps of City Hall, and my first election voting for JFK. I never thought I would live to see a day where I would see something like this happen," said Monroe.

has excited the electorate in a way that has not been seen since the storied days of JFK. He has pledged to clean up Washington D.C. and help more people get their piece of the American pie and work to repair the country's image abroad.

Americans have heard their pitches and on Nov. 4 the power is in their hands to vote for someone who can chart a new course for this nation. And while the impact of the 2008 decision will not be quickly evident, the world will watch history in the making.

The Time to Make A Difference is Now

Data News Weekly Endorses Candidates



Terry B. Jones
Publisher

It would be funny, if it weren't so deceptive, to witness the gall of some politicians in saying that Barack Obama and Mary Landrieu aren't good for Louisiana. The Republicans; aren't they the folks who let us stand out in front of the Super Dome and drown and never ever gave us relief? The fact that it has taken this election for us to finally begin to get New Orleans and Louisiana back in place is not lost on me or most New Orleanians. It is just really strange that some people have a mindset that no matter what happens will stay in place, even if it is detrimental to their own well-being, and as a friend of mine told me during a discussion, some people in Northern Louisiana would elect Lassie before they would an African American.

Surely this election poses a major charge and challenge ahead of us, but even though it is said that we will ultimately be a "red" state, and our votes will be cast as delegates for McCain/Palin, don't believe it. I have to believe in my heart of hearts, that the powers that be would like to think that the majority of Louisianians will be backwards and stupid, but just because they want it, doesn't mean it has to be. We have the

profound opportunity to not only vote for the first African American

will be a large amount of young middle-class whites who will vote

understand on a local level the importance of our Congressional,

experience, tenure and power on Capitol Hill, and he is still with us. He works vigorously to help us with Katrina, and unless he is not able to serve then we should send him back and utilize his experience to our benefit.

Senator Mary Landrieu has been a true leader for African Americans and particularly for New Orleans. We know her family background, from Moon, Mitch and from her own personal leadership. We don't have to ask what Mary will do for us, we already know, because she has always stood for us. And that is why all of her commercials tie her to Barack Obama, because she does the right thing for Louisiana. I know that you are not voting for Kennedy, but if you don't vote, then you are voting for him.

District Attorney candidate former Judge Leon Cannizzaro has also proven to be fair and honest, and from our interview, proves to have the vision and integrity necessary to run the DA's office.

Data's Motto for years has always been "Together we can make a difference" and that holds true on a daily basis but holds most true on Nov.

4. Please don't let your country down, don't let New Orleans Down and most importantly, don't let yourself down. Vote and let's get the most responsible people into office.



Data News Weekly endorses former Judge Leon Cannizzaro for Orleans Parish District Attorney

President but to set a precedent, by showing that Louisianians are not backwards, closed minded or lazy.

In a light of hope, CNN said last night, that there is no accurate polling data on young voters, or cellphone users, which means that it is quite possible that we can prove to America that we are progressive, and we understand Barack's message of moving to unity and hope. We get it, Barack's plan is a plan of strength for Louisiana and for America.

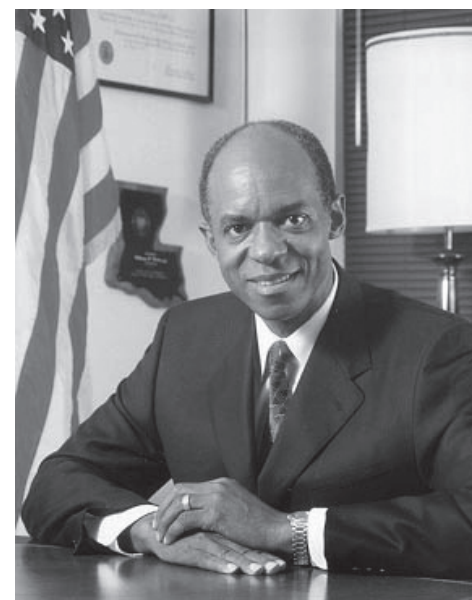
It is quite possible that there

for Barack Obama. But, the only way their vote will count is if we go out and vote in full force. So, if you haven't voted yet, Make sure you do, because on Wednesday morning, the excuse that we are a red state anyway, or the excuse that Barack will be the President anyway is your lack of commitment to yourself, New Orleans, Louisiana and your country. Shame on You!

And if you are not feeling like your vote matters in the National Election, then consider your local races. Get out and vote and



Senator Mary Landrieu



Congressman William Jefferson

District Attorney, and Judicial races, and tell your neighbors about the impact on why it is important to vote.

Congressman Bill Jefferson, even tainted with allegations, has

Democracy in Action: Jeremiah Voters' Rally Seeks to Create City's Largest-Ever Affordable Homeownership Strategy

New Orleans – On Sunday, Oct. 26, over 400 leaders of The Jeremiah Group had a mission of seeking commitments from City, State, Federal and Private Sector officials, to create the largest and most comprehensive affordable homeownership strategy in the history of New Orleans. The event also served as a rally to celebrate the success of Jeremiah's voter registration drive and a kick-off of

Jeremiah's non-partisan get-out-the-vote campaign.

For over a year, Jeremiah leaders have held house-meetings, conducted research, and organized voters to create a strategy that will transform Road Home properties into an asset to spur redevelopment and the growth of affordable homeownership. Already, Jeremiah has won \$75 million from the LRA for soft-second

mortgages and a commitment from NORA to set aside 25-50% of Road Home properties for affordable homeownership.

The event was the capstone of Jeremiah's voter registration drive, conducted within schools, colleges, festivals, community walks and public businesses and which has been applauded by the Jefferson Parish Registrar of Voters. Through community walks

and registration drives in Jeremiah congregations, excitement started building for participation Jeremiah's housing strategy.

"We're proud of our victories so far," said Janet Barnwell, a Jeremiah leader. "But we know that too many recovery efforts have money attached to them, but are getting stuck in bureaucracy."

Jeremiah leaders were seeking aggressive timelines for the deliv-

ery of land and money by the LRA, transformed guidelines for the soft-second mortgage program from the Finance Authority of New Orleans and the creation of a new Alternative Mortgage Program by Dr. Ed Blakely and local banks to assure working families have access to responsible credit.

Urban League of Greater New Orleans Young Professionals teams up with EZ Parker and Dillard University to provide the Young Professionals University

New Orleans, LA. – In a continuing effort to engage the most challenged of youth, The Urban League of Greater New Orleans Young Professionals (the “Young Professionals”), an auxiliary of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans, is joining with partners EZ Parker and Dillard University, to implement its Young Professionals University program. The Young Professionals and its partners, along with local civic and community leaders gathered to launch Young Professionals University on Thursday, Oct. 30, 5:00 p.m., at the Urban League Headquarters located at 2322 Canal Street.

The program is a leadership and professional development program for historically underserved, underprivileged and/or disadvantaged high school students. “Today’s typical high school student is ill-equipped to

break persistent cycles of disparity,” says Jade Brown Russell, President of the Young Professionals. “This initiative is intended for youth who strive to break those cycles of disparity, make the transition into productive adulthood, and become the positive role models our communities so critically need.”

The purpose of this initiative is to fill the gaps, which exist between a student’s formal school education and parental guidance, by empowering them with the tools and resources they need to become successful. The Young Professionals will utilize the input of its diverse membership and partner organizations to achieve this goal. The Urban League of Greater New Orleans, operating in New Orleans since 1938, is a non-profit, non-partisan, community based organization dedicated to empowering communities and

changing lives. Through advocacy and direct service, the League serves upwards of 5,000 clients annually in education, childcare, business development and employment and training programs. The League’s founding mission to assist clients to become self sufficient remains unchanged. The Urban League is a participating agency of the United Way for the Greater New Orleans area.

The Urban League of Greater New Orleans Young Profession-

als, is an auxiliary of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans and is New Orleans’ young professionals organization of choice for its distinctive capacity and commitment in providing activities that are characterized by excellence in community service, fundraising, and dedication to the renewal, development and redevelopment of its diverse members to empower communities and change lives through consistent involvement in the Urban League

movement, which includes: (1) Education and Youth Empowerment; (2) Economic Empowerment; (3) Health and Quality of Life Empowerment; (4) Civic Engagement and Leadership Empowerment; and (5) Civil Rights and Racial Justice Empowerment.

For more information on the Urban League Young Professionals, call 504.620.2332 or visit www.ulgnoyp.org.

VOTE Nov. 4th!

Senator Mary Landrieu supports Barack Obama for President.

Her opponent, John Neely Kennedy, supports John McCain for President.



Re-Elect
Senator Mary Landrieu
Vote Tuesday, November 4

Vote #1 • For Election Information, Call Toll Free 1-800-883-2805

PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF MARY LANDRIEU
5225 Canal Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124

LED Awards \$600,000 to Entrepreneurship and Business Training Providers

Louisiana Economic Development (LED) in conjunction with Louisiana Department of Social Services (DSS) has allocated \$600,000 for the Microenterprise Development (MED) program, which offers entrepreneurship and business training to create owner-operated microenterprise businesses in Louisiana. The funds were awarded to training service providers in Monroe, Shreveport, Lake Charles and Greater New Orleans to equip eligible individuals with personal and business development skills.

Since 2006, training service providers assessed approximately 800 individuals across the state.

In addition, 229 individuals have completed a business plan and, of those, about 90 percent went on to start their own microenterprise business.

"Because microenterprises account for roughly 86 percent of Louisiana's businesses, they are a vital economic engine for the state," said LED Secretary Stephen Moret. "LED is dedicated to helping our microenterprises thrive in today's competitive economy, and this funding will help foster job creation, entrepreneurship and growth throughout Louisiana."

"Department of Social Services remains committed to the

Microenterprise program and its continued success," said DSS Interim Secretary Kristy Nichols. "Hundreds of businesses have been started by this program, meaning more families earning more, contributing to our state's economy and reducing the need for public assistance."

The following training service providers were awarded microenterprise contracts for 2008-2009:

Renewal Inc. Shreveport-Bossier African American Chamber of Commerce Southwest Louisiana Partnership for Economic Development Good Work Network Microbusiness Enterprise Corporation of Ascension A mi-

croenterprise is a business with five or fewer employees that requires \$35,000 or less in funding and does not have access to the traditional commercial banking sector.

To qualify for the program, an individual must be the parent or qualified caregiver of a child with earned income levels at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and/or meet other Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) guidelines.

The program begins with a comprehensive assessment. Once the assessment is complete, participants begin a two-to-three month business development

course that includes entrepreneurship training, personal effectiveness, financial literacy and technical assistance. As part of the course, participants will also write a business plan. Upon successful completion of the program and submission of a qualifying business plan, participants become eligible for seed funding to assist in supplementing business startup costs.

To learn more about the MED program or to find a training service provider, visit LouisianaForward.com/Entrepreneur.

Election Day is Nov. 4!!!

Voting Hours Are From 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Louisiana's elections laws provide for voting on election day at designated polling places from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A Reminder to Voters - Take Picture ID to Polls

When you go to the polls to cast your vote in an election, be sure to take a driver's license, a Louisiana Special ID, or some other generally recognized picture ID. Voters who have no picture ID and bring only a utility bill, payroll check or government document that includes their name and address will have to sign an affidavit furnished by the Elections Division in order to vote. Should any problems or questions arise, the principal office of the Registrar of Voters in each parish will be open from 6 a.m. until 9 p.m. on election day.

HURRICANE KATRINA TRAILERS Formaldehyde Screening

FREE



FREE

CALL

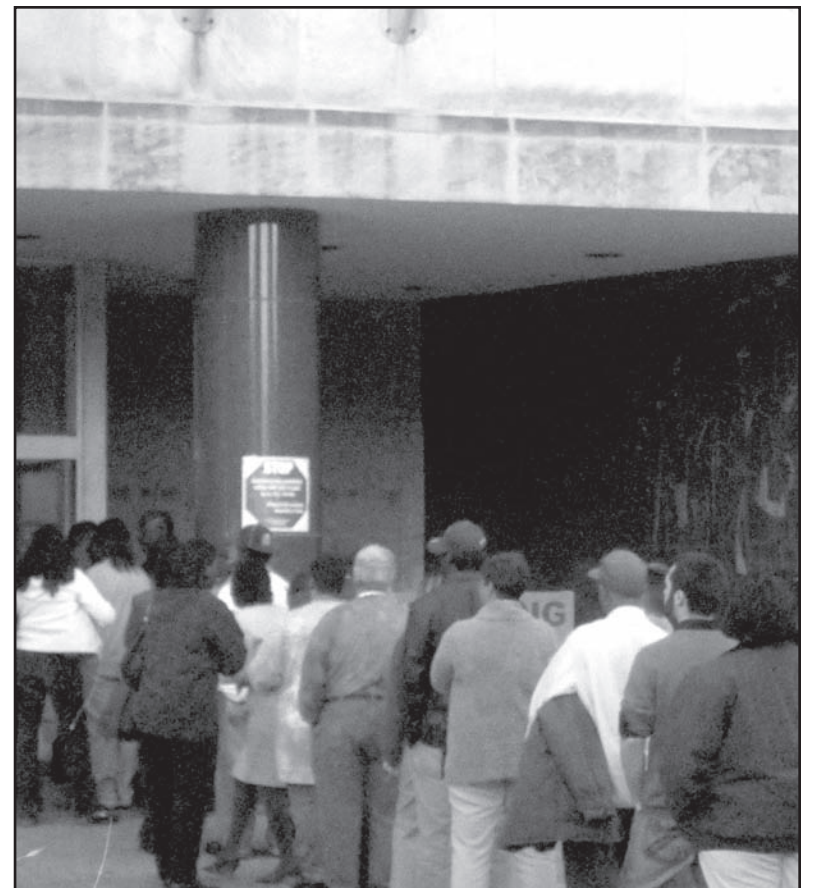
PLAZA MEDICAL CENTER

504-324-6416

6301 Elysian Fields Avenue, Suite 103

New Orleans, LA

Record Numbers at the Polls



The city of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana expects a record breaking turnout for the Nov. 4 election. The excitement surrounding the Presidential election and the possibility of electing Sen. Barack Obama as the nation's first African-American President has voters racing to the polls to cast their ballots. Of early voting, African-Americans made up 10.7 percent of early voting compared to 8.5 percent for white voters across the state. Due to the surge in early voting, Secretary of State Jay Dardenne expects for numbers to be greater than he initially thought. Dardenne is expecting over 70 percent of Louisiana's 2.9 million registered voters to participate in the election.

HUD, FEMA Include Hurricane Gustav Families to Housing Assistance Program to Begin Nov 1

WASHINGTON, DC: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that families who were affected by Hurricane Gustav will also be eligible to receive temporary rental payments and case management services. Families displaced by Gustav will be eligible for the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP), which will also be utilized by thousands of other families impacted by Hurricane Ike. Slated to begin Nov. 1, 2008, DHAP-Ike will help these families find intermediate housing as they rebuild their lives.

"Once again, HUD moved quickly to ensure eligible families affected by Hurricane Gustav would have a roof over their heads as they regain a sense of normalcy in their lives. This program will provide a necessary means to deliver timely, effective assistance as the region rebuilds," said HUD Secretary Steve Preston.

"This latest announcement is the next step in our commitment to provide assistance to Louisiana's families," said Jim Stark, Assistant Administrator for Gulf Coast Recovery. "FEMA is pleased to continue our successful partnership with HUD and offer the Disaster Housing Assistance Program to victims of Hurricane Gustav. This program, modeled after the first implemented for Katrina and Rita victims, is a direct result of our agencies working together to find the best solutions to aide Louisiana citizens recovering from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike."

"Adding Gustav-affected families to this disaster housing program, which features robust case management, is a clear signal that we have not forgotten about the thousands impacted by this storm," said Robin Keegan, Deputy Director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. "Working together with our federal partners at FEMA and HUD, we will continue to identify rental resources in hard-hit parishes and help our families return to safe places to live in their communities."

The interagency agreement between FEMA and HUD that created the Disaster Housing Assistance Program-Ike (DHAP-Ike), the two agencies announced late last month, will also provide identical benefits to families affected by Hurricane Gustav. These families will be assisted for approximately

17 months and FEMA will determine the families that qualify for assistance.

FEMA and HUD agreed on a program that mirrors the successful program that housed families following the 2005 hurricanes, which continues to support more than 30,000 families. HUD, working with an extensive network of public housing agencies (PHAs) that already administer the DHAP program for families displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and HUD's regular rental assistance program, will oversee and manage the program. Initially, HUD will provide full rental assistance to approved families. Beginning May 1, 2009, families will be responsible for paying \$50 per month. Every month thereafter, the family's portion of the rent will increase in increments of \$50 until the program ends in March 2010. This approach has been successful in leading families closer to complete housing independence under the original DHAP program.

DHAP-Ike will be implemented as follows:

Families in need of assistance must register with FEMA by calling 1 (800) 621-FEMA (3362) or online at www.FEMA.gov

HUD will use its network of local Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) to administer the program where families reside.

FEMA will begin referring families to HUD by October 15, 2008, so that HUD can contract with its local PHAs for the delivery of DHAP-IKE services starting November 1, 2008.

Prior to November 1, 2008, PHAs will contact eligible families referred by FEMA to begin outreach and intensive case management services to help displaced families rebuild their lives. Beginning November 1, 2008, HUD will begin making rental payments to families declared eligible by FEMA who have been placed in rental housing.

PHAs will contact landlords and ensure the necessary documents are in place so that those families will continue to receive uninterrupted assistance payments through DHAP-Ike.

PHAs will work with families and landlords to enter into

rental assistance contracts as soon as families are referred by FEMA and begin case management.

PHAs will pay the higher of the Fair Market Rent rate or the PHAs payment standard.

All eligible families will begin contributing \$50 toward their rent starting May 1, 2009. Every month thereafter, the family portion of the rent will increase in

increments of \$50 through March of 2010.

The program provides a hardship waiver of the \$50 Incremental Rent Transition (IRT) for families that prove that they cannot afford the rent increment. The details of the hardship provision will be spelled out in standard operating procedures that will be published shortly.

Starting no later than August 2009, families whose housing costs do not exceed 30 percent of post disaster gross income, taking into account existing mortgages for personal residences that remain uninhabitable, will no longer be eligible for DHAP-

HUD, FEMA, Continued on page 15.

THE OFFICIAL ENDORSED DEMOCRAT CANDIDATE

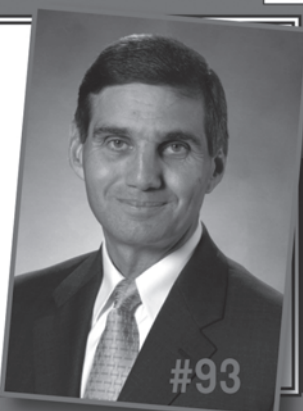


COMMUNITY UNITY

Our Elected Officials support
Leon Cannizzaro
for District Attorney

Democrat

#93



Dale Atkins
Clerk of Civil
District Court



Cynthia Hedge-Morrell
City Council
Member



Karen Carter Peterson
State
Representative



Austin Badon
State
Representative



Cynthia Willard-Lewis
City Council
Member



Cedric Richmond
State
Representative



James Carter
City Council
Member



Darren Mire
Assessor



Torin T. Sanders
Orleans Parish
School Board
Member



Cynthia Cade
Orleans Parish
School Board
Member



Arthur Morrel
Clerk of Criminal
District Court



Charmaine Marchand Stiaes
State
Representative



Ann Duplessis
State
Senator



J.P. Morrell
State
Representative



Paul R. Valteau, Jr.
Civil Sheriff



Marlin Gusman
Criminal
Sheriff



Edwin Murray
State
Senator



Erroll Williams
Assessor

VOTE Tuesday Nov. 4th

Also Endorsed by:

AFL-CIO
America's Union Movement

ALLIANCE
for good government
Since 1967

RDO

Tribune

Louisiana
Data News Weekly

United Teachers of New Orleans

CANNIZZARO
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Mid-City

DEMOCRATS

THE LOUISIANA WEEKLY

Orleans Parish Democratic
Executive Committee

VOTE DEMOCRAT #93

Paid for by the Committee to elect Leon Cannizzaro District Attorney

Local Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Salutes Cancer Survivors at Benefit Luncheon

Cancer survivors throughout the Greater New Orleans area were honored at "A Salute to Cancer Survivors," a benefit luncheon held Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Marriott Convention Center Hotel. The Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated hosted the event.

"Cancer is an affliction that tests the essence of one's humanity. During treatment, your hopes and dreams for the future are placed on hold as you marshal all of your resources and prepare for battle with this disease," said Jaquetta Davis, president of Omicron Lambda Omega. "We are proud to highlight these champions who met the challenge of cancer head-on and survived by grace to share their triumphant stories."

The event's purpose was to honor individuals who had survived all forms of cancer. To recognize October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Omicron Lambda Omega donated \$1,000 to the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation. The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation is the world's



Omicron Lambda Omega chapter members Linda Sevalia, Judith Johnson, who is also a cancer survivor, and Omicron Lambda Omega President Jaquetta Clemons Davis.

largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find the cures.

Local surgical oncologist Dr. Emory Minnard served as the guest speaker for the event. He provided insight about cancer and early detection and preven-



Luncheon attendees former Judge Leon Cannizzaro and his daughter Laura Cannizzaro, along with Eraka Williams, an Omicron Lambda Omega chapter member.

tion. Dr. Minnard also offered words of encouragement to the survivors. The survivors were also serenaded with songs from the Greater Antioch Full Gospel Baptist Church praise team. Greater Antioch's Pastor, Bishop Lester Love also sang a heartfelt rendition of "Never Would Have Made It" as a tribute to the survivors.

The Omicron Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. was established in 1984 in New Orleans with 37 chartering members. The chapter has flourished to become a group of over 75 women who provide service to the greater New Orleans area. Service initiatives include but are not limited to mentoring at-risk youth, assisting and providing encouragement for homeless populations and identified local families in need, and offering scholarship and stipend awards.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is America's first Greek-letter organization founded in 1908 by, and for, African-American college women. Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated is one of the world's leading service organizations. The sorority services all mankind through a nucleus of more than 225,000 women in over 975 chapters in the United States, the Caribbean, Canada, Germany, Korea, Japan, and in the continent of Africa.



Make the holiday meal your crowning achievement.

The holiday meal is not a time to leave anything to chance, especially when serving a traditional favorite like Chitterlings. So go with the brand that has been a holiday favorite for over 40 years: Queenella. Our chitterlings are triple cleaned. And sure to satisfy all your party guests.



Aubry Twins Honored at Benefit Concert

Sweet Lorraine's was the location of a benefit concert celebrating the Aubry Twins on Oct. 26. The event, an Asante Awards production, featured several special guests and performances. Everyone had a wonderful time. Data News Weekly was there for the occasion.



Jerome Aubry shows tearful emotion as he sings to his twin brother Tryone



Pictured (left to right) Wayne Wright, Linzy LeBeauf, Gralen Banks, Master of Ceremonies for the event, and Paul Sylvester, owner of Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club



Pictured with Violinist Michael Ward is Vocalist Annie Butler who also performed at the concert as a tribute to the Aubry Twins.



Vocalist Sharon Martin, Jerome Aubry, Judge Herbert Cade, Deacon John, N.O. Musical Icon, Alvin Richard, Richard's Disposal, and Violinist Michael Ward



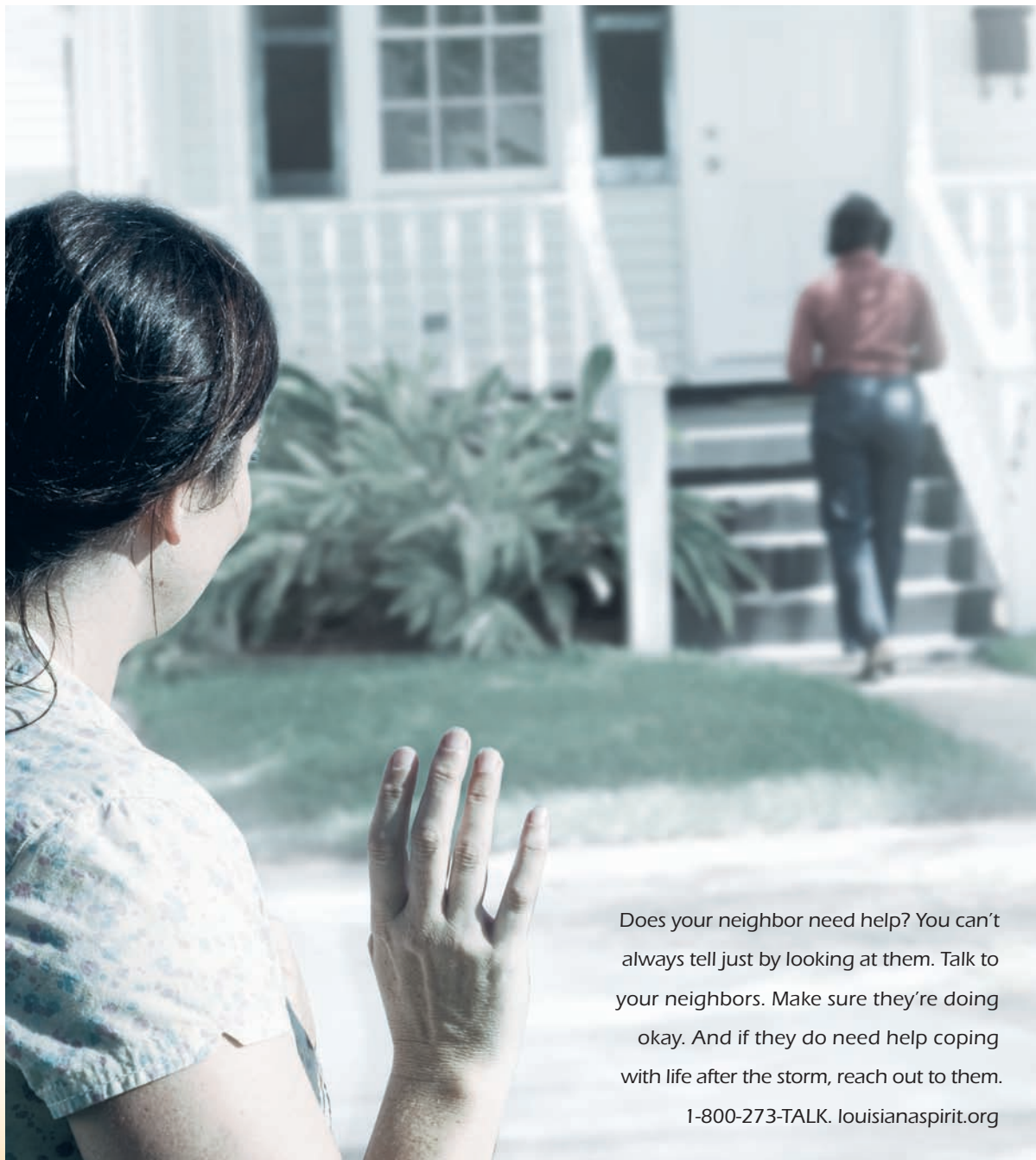
Pictures from left to right are Jerome Aubry, June Hazeur, DNW Accts. Receivables, Wayne Wright and Big Easy Musical Icon Deacon John (Moore)



Violinist Michael Ward doing his thing as no one else can.



Harry Williams and Kim Robinson, attendees at the Aubry Twins Concert

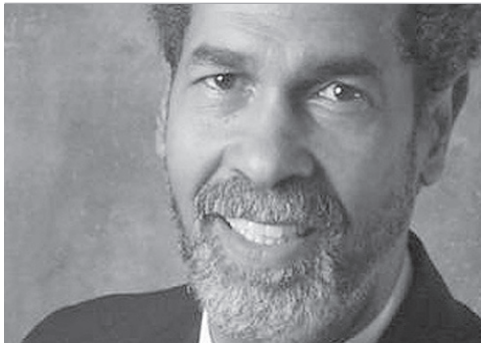


Does your neighbor need help? You can't always tell just by looking at them. Talk to your neighbors. Make sure they're doing okay. And if they do need help coping with life after the storm, reach out to them.

1-800-273-TALK. louisianaspirit.org

Opinion

Republicans say Socialism is OK... for the rich



Lloyd Dennis
Data Columnist

We've been robbed. Our children and their children have been robbed in a reverse Robin Hood move, robbing from the weak to give to the powerful. Seven hundred billion was found to protect the banks from their self imposed sickness of greed and smoke and mirror accounting, but just last year when the Children's Defense Fund and others around this country needed seventy billion to make sure the future of this nation, its helpless children were protected by health insurance, we were told there is no money.

Oh yeah and that was right after their deregulation of the savings and loan industry cost taxpayers another bailout, almost like a rehearsal for this one, but anytime there is a need to invest in education, healthcare, affordable housing or job training or jobs programs to lift and improve the ability of America's citizenry to compete and live in a global economy, its called "socialism".

The Republicans were the "balanced budget" people until they came into power with a budget surplus and turned it into the biggest deficit in the history of America. "W" didn't like Saddam, contrived a lie to justify endangering soldiers and spending billions with Republican run arms manufacturers and Halliburton and its subsidiaries and sub contractors to clean up and rebuild what the arms destroyed. Then they had the nerve to cut the taxes for some of the very same folk who were profiting from the war. The Republicans spent over three hundred billion a year we didn't have with their friends in an effort that actually created the instability that now threatens the region. Years ago America supported the savage Saddam because he was a stabilizing influence in the region.

I'll bet that when a Democrat takes office the Republicans and their lackey media will begin to talk about "balancing budgets again" when the national priority changes to improving education and health care for the citizens, real investments in America's future prosperity and security.

"Spread the Wealth" is fine when we are bailing out the rich, or filling the pockets of the military industrial capitalist with our tax dollars, but its wrong to help struggling families survive. It's all right to bail out Wall Street but wrong to keep struggling families together and off the street.

A singular point has been proven by the last eight years of Republican rule and it is that the wealthy and powerful must be watched like a hawk, and that we need rules and regulators to keep them from taking our nation out as they nearly did in the 1930s, now in 2008... and perhaps still will.

Now that Americans are starting to realize that removing regulations over powerful corporations leads to abuse, I sincerely hope that a President Obama will also look at the monopolistic abuse of the "public airways" and give them back to the public, by restoring the limitations on how many mass media outlets may be owned by one company in a market. Ronald Reagan took all the teeth out of the FCC rules that had enforced a media situation in which the ownership of the media was so varied that almost all points of view and community needs were served. I have been frustrated and even angered by the boldness and reckless abandon that the networks have demonstrated as they now openly push the Republican agenda, replace real news with celebrity crap and masquerade half truths and rumors as facts.

Were it not for the Internet, Barak Obama's candidacy would have been trashed by Republican owned media mega corporations, as I believe was the plan, and his fundraising limited to traditional sources, the wealthy and powerful where you "kiss the ring" and are informed about the political needs of large donors. Using the Internet as his major fundraiser and receiving small amounts from large amounts of people, he can enter office owing corporate America nothing... but good government... for the people.

If there is any aspect of this election that has the "powerful" wheeling, it is the inability to control the Internet, where a web site can cost as little as \$100 a year. Hell, start collecting email addresses of supporters and use them as organizers for their families and friends, who can do more of the same. The plot to control the media has failed, as the obvious angst, and pettiness toward Obama has more than half of America mistrusting the media and seeing it for what it has become... a bunch of ranting Rush wannabees, but some perhaps without the drug habit.

In The Spirit

Relationships

"What about the children?"



Dr. Aaron E. Harold
Data Columnist

Folks, when a relationship doesn't work between a husband and a wife, or a man and a woman, eventually there will be a separation or a divorce, most times, that separation or divorce will be permanent. Separation or divorce can lead to a lot of pain and frustration to a couple that was once happy and content in their relationship. However, when couples break up, many times there are children involved and they suffer the most from the separation or divorce.

Folks what I'm saying is that it's not all about the two of you. What about the children? Yes, what about them? That separation or divorce may have been very painful for you, but did you stop to even think about the pain that it could cause the child or the children. They too will experience pain and sometimes severe pain when this happens. Children may have problems at the beginning if the situation is not handled well. Nevertheless, the children will need time and attention from the both of you for emotional support.

Folks, your child or children need you now more than ever after a divorce or separation. Again, it's not just about the two of you, because your children may be hurting also. This is what you must do if you love them. You must first swallow your pride and stop crying over and over again, next, stop cussing and fussing when you go to visit them. Lastly, you must take a stand to let them know that you still love them no matter what.

Family, don't be the kind of man or woman that turns their back on the kids just because your relationship failed. They need you both, and they need to know that you are still there for them. Take the time and talk to them, and let them know that it's not their fault. If the children or going to be with the mother or father, do your best to create an atmosphere of peace and unity where ever they are. Look, you fathers, stay committed to your children even though you may not be with your wife or girlfriend.

The children are still yours and they didn't ask to come to the world when you were having your fun, if you know what I mean. Look, be a man and a father and take care of your responsibilities. Fathers, what you do after a divorce or a break-up most of the time will determine how your child or children will turn out later in the future. Don't put that burden on the women to try to take care of the children by herself because it's wrong. Continue to be their father and always let them know that you love them no matter what.

Spend as much time with them as you can, and don't forget about them like so many others have done in past relationships. When your children are around you, both father and mother should talk about the good and not about the bad. Folks, when they hear you talk about the good in the other one, it will bring out the good in them. They may not understand exactly everything that happened, but they can learn to accept it in most cases. Always remember to treat your children with dignity and respect.

I've seen so many children suffer from divorces and separations. They suffer from lack of knowing whether they or still loved or not. Some suffer from emotional problems, which lead to them having difficulty concentrating in school or interacting with others. You fathers and mothers, let your children know that you want them to be better than you, so continue to show them love and respect and hold them even more than ever, and remember that its not about you, its about the children. God Bless.



Race for the White House: Anatomy of a 21st Century President

Part 2



Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

The race for the White House has become a heated battle between candidates Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain as we get closer to Election Day. The highest elected office in the land is at stake and the future of the nation's direction will lie in the hands of the person who Americans decide to elect on Nov. 4. While both men are capable and able to lead, the question for the voters should be who is best suited to lead at this pivotal time in our nation's history?

Today our world is very different than it was in the previous century. Today the U.S.A. remains to be a great country, but the American brand has been tarnished globally by eight years of leadership where policy initiatives both foreign and domestic have been mismanaged, and the Commander-in-

Chief vision of the world has been judged whether fairly or unfairly as short-sighted, provincial and viewed through a very narrow lens. In the next administration it is essential to repair our place and standing in the global community. Also we need a leader who can be responsible, level headed, poised and have the right temperament in dealing with our global partners. We need a president who is a bridge builder who can reach not just across the aisle, but across the globe to talk with our allies as well as our enemies to find the common interest that connects us as people and move humanity forward.

On the domestic front we need someone who can inspire the American people to aspire and subscribe to the goodness that is in all of us. The day has come to begin to look past the superficial things that divides us for we can no longer hold on to old ideas about things that are obsolete, archaic, and doesn't have any place in the world we are trying to build; for today we must be citizens of the 'United' States standing together shoulder to shoulder to weather the storms that have recently come our way.

The future U.S. President can not simply pose, postulate and pontificate. We need more than a straight talk express or great speeches promising change. The American people need a leader who is visionary, progressive and forward thinking with their eyes on shaping the best possible future for this great country.

But it is not simply the responsibility of our leaders to do the right things; we must also contribute to making this nation and the world a better place. We cannot and must not—as we mature as a nation—look at our elected leaders as messianic figures for they are human beings who make mistakes; flawed leaders for a flawed people. But that does not mean not holding their feet to the fire when they are involved in wrongdoing that affects the American People. We cannot make the mistakes of the recent past by being politically naïve and submitting to our base emotions and be coerced in the fervor of the moment to support war. In the future when faced with an international crisis this time, we as concerned intelligent citizens cannot sit idly by believing that elected leaders and the persons they appoint have our best interest or the country's in mind when making choices to put our young men and women who serve in the military in harm's way. Because not just the lives of our soldiers are at stake, but if and after they return this can also affect the soldier's life and loved ones.

In a 21st century democracy citizens must ask for accountability from the President and other elected leaders demanding that they are there for what they were intended to be, servants of the people, not servants of themselves or their friends and financial supports. We must become more involved and demand that our leaders understand that the interest and well-being

of the hard working people of this country come first and that they will not settle for anything less than diligent hard work from them on their behalf.

Today people are voting early in record numbers across the U.S. In 2008 Americans are faced with a choice between two men and whatever happens it would be a great victory for either candidate because it has been a hard fought contest. Whoever is left standing, the American People should respect the decision the American People made in determining the victor. But the true victory must be the American People being able to live the American Dream again, which for so many seems to be slipping through the fingers of citizens in communities across this nation.

Yes we are on the cusp of a historical moment, and hopefully it will be the beginning of a new day for a great country that has seen brighter days. It is the hope that the new President cannot simply talk about change, but create an environment where it can become a reality. The chosen one has to move this country to the place where it can be respected and admired across the globe once again, and give the American People a reason to believe that they live in, what has become in a little over two and a quarter centuries, the greatest country to ever exist.

Vote! - Don't be Fooled by Weapons of Mass Deception



Marc Morial
NNPA Columnist

In this time of unprecedented economic peril and historic change, we need to arm ourselves with clarity and unity as weapons of mass empowerment. Instead, there is a concerted effort on the part of some to deploy weapons of mass deception to confuse and cloud the economic and political landscape before us. Let me give you just two examples.

Last week, in this space, I told you about efforts by some commentators and politicians to deflect blame for the financial crisis from Wall Street and Washington where it belongs onto the backs of African-Americans and other minorities – middle class citizens from Main Street to Martin Luther King Boulevard who are suffering the most because of this economic meltdown. These thought leaders contend that government efforts to increase minority homeownership, including the Community Reinvestment Act, are at the root of what is now a global economic crisis.

This insidious myth has gone largely unchallenged by public officials and the media who should know better. But it has not gone unchallenged by the National Urban League.

Last week, in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee I reminded the members that for years - to no avail - the National Urban League has urged the Congress and the White House to take action to end the predatory lending practices that plague our communities.

I then asked them directly to disarm a false and dangerous weapon of mass deception and affirm the truth: Most of the subprime loans at the root of the crisis did not go to minorities but to middle to upper income Whites.

Another weapon of mass deception is being deployed in some states to prevent people from voting on Nov. 4.

I am pleased that last week, the United States Supreme Court rejected an attempt by the Ohio Republican Party to challenge the eligibility of 200,000 Ohio voters because their names did not perfectly match a state database.

States are well equipped to deal with these discrepancies, many of which are due to database errors. We agree with the Court's ruling that political parties should not be involved.

These types of voter-ID eligibility challenges are cropping up all over the country – in Alabama, in Michigan, in Montana, in Wisconsin. As reported in the Washington

Post, Wendy Weiser of the Brennan Center for Justice called this "this season's big issue...and a new trend...in the battleground states."

In my view, this constitutes another weapon of mass deception designed to disenfranchise eligible voters and influence the outcome of the election. As we announced several weeks ago, the National Urban League has launched an unprecedented "Vote to Empower" campaign largely focused on voter-rights and preventing vote suppression. Again, we ask you to go to www.votetoempower.com or ncbcp@ncbcp.org for details on how to report voting problems.

Next week, we will have a chance to participate in the most important election of our lifetime. The economic, domestic, and foreign policy stakes are sky high. We must not allow apathy on our part, or mass deception on the part of others, to relegate us to the sidelines of history. It's time to deploy our weapon of mass empowerment - vote.

Why the Attack on ACORN?



Bill Fletcher Jr.
NNPA Columnist

The attack on ACORN (Associated Community Organizations for Reform Now) by the political Right has two clear objectives. The first is a preemptive assault against advocates for voting rights who have been raising concerns since November 2000 regarding electoral theft being carried out by the political Right. The second objective is to obscure who or what is behind the current economic crisis, a crisis that began in the mortgage industry.

In both cases, the political Right has released a smoke screen in order to avoid any discussion of real issues in both the electoral system and the system of finance.

ACORN, an organization which began in Arkansas in the early 1970s, has developed a reputation over the years as a fighter for

poor people. Their base is substantially African-American, and at different points throughout their history they have championed the cause of the poor and the Black, in workplaces and communities.

In the early 1980s, for instance, ACORN established several independent labor unions that focused on organizing workers that much of the mainstream labor movement ignored (these unions later merged with the Service Employees International Union).

ACORN also got very involved in championing fights around housing, specifically, the need for affordable housing. Along the way, ACORN developed a comprehensive voter registration component to their work and have made themselves a significant player in bringing in often marginalized voting populations.

The political Right has been aware, for quite some time, that growing numbers of progressive individuals and organizations — not limited to African Americans — have been deeply concerned that the November 2008 election could either be stolen or influenced by electoral theft by Republican-aligned forces.

In this context, massive “voter protection” efforts have been launched by unions and community-based organizations to ensure that every vote counts.

Yet, what the political Right has shrewdly chosen to do has been to shift the focus away from actual issues of electoral theft or

questionable activities, e.g., the efforts in Michigan by Republicans to purge voters from the rolls who have been the subject of foreclosure, and instead focus on a relatively small organization—ACORN—with who many people are unfamiliar. This is called inventing a bogey-man.

Even if the charges were true — and I do NOT concede that in the least —there is no credible evidence that ACORN, as an organization, approved the mishandling of voter registrations.

In fact, anyone who has done voter registrations is aware that there is always the possibility of errors, and sometimes fraud by over-zealous registration campaigners. This is actually a strong argument for automatic or compulsory OFFICIAL voter registration.

In either case, there is no proof that ACORN has done anything wrong, but there is a lot of smoke, and with the smoke, both unclarity as well as a stench.

The second objective of the attack, which has received less attention, has been to try to blame ACORN for the current economic crisis. Specifically, the argument by the political Right is that ACORN, by fighting for the Community Reinvestment Act (in the 1970s!!) and demanding housing for poor people forced banks to provide loans to otherwise unqualified borrowers.

This argument lacks logic as well as facts. Since the CRA was passed in the 1970s, how would that explain what is trans-

piring in 2008? Second, the actual facts on the ground dispute this allegation.

Nevertheless, the political Right uses the scapegoating of ACORN as a way of saying that poor people in general, and Black poor people in particular, are the source of the current crisis. Again, rather than helping one understand what is truly unfolding, the attack on ACORN creates another bogey-man such that we are led away from any examination of the banking system and the workings of US capitalism.

All in all, the attack on ACORN has little to do with ACORN. They are a convenient target for the political Right. The attack could have just as easily been against any number of other groups that conduct voter registration and/or fight for housing for poor people. For this reason it is important that people of good will not only resist these irrational arguments by the political Right, but also that we speak up publicly against this disingenuous activity.

The attacks against ACORN by McCain/Palin and their right-wing allies should not be ignored; they must be confronted and debunked. Leaving them unanswered is like leaving a burn open to be infected.

Bill Fletcher, Jr. is a Senior Scholar with the Institute for Policy Studies. He is the immediate past President of TransAfrica Forum and the co-author of *Solidarity Divided*, which analyzes the crisis in organized labor. He can be reached at papaq54@hotmail.com.

A Win for Barack Obama Represents Hope for America



Shaniece B. Bickham, Ph.D.
Data News Managing Editor

My 3-year-old daughter is not quite old enough to understand the importance of the Nov. 4 election, but what she does know and understand is that Sen. Barack

Obama is a very important person, and that she sees him on television all of the time.

With each appearance across our television screen, whether long or short, my daughter yells, “Momma, Obama is on. Momma, you are missing Obama.” From my demeanor and conversation, she knows that when he is on, it is time to watch and listen.

But it is not only a time for watching and listening. It is a time for action. It is a time for people across the United States, African-Americans or not, to come together and make a resounding statement on Nov. 4. We have talked about wanting change for the duration of the Presidential campaign season. We have shown it through our record-setting donations to the Obama campaign. And now we need to show it with our ballots on Tuesday.

Voting poll officials across the country have already predicted long lines and possible hassles on Nov. 4. To avoid such distractions, many registered voters have opted to take advantage of the early voting option offered in many states. In several states, voters did not even need an excuse to vote early. They simply needed to just show up.

Electing Sen. Barack Obama as the next President of the United States has not been, nor will it be, an easy feat. There are several battleground states that must shift to the Democratic side in order for this to be possible. And for that to happen, we have to go out and vote. Don’t think that your vote does not count. It is your voice in our country. It is a voice that many citizens of other countries do not have. Do not take your right for granted and not use it.

What does this race mean for America some might ask? The Nov. 4 Presidential election represents hope for our country. In a time when our society is down on its luck with the War, the economy, and a failing public education system in many states, most people are looking for a small piece of hope they can cling to during these trying times that will let them know that a light at the end of the tunnel does exist.

So, the next time my little 3-year-old daughter sees Barack Obama on television in the coming weeks, I want to tell her, “Sweetheart that is our President.” From there, her questions will increase and I will be proud to answer them for her so that she will know early on the significance of his accomplishment.

Obama v. McCain: NAACP Questionnaire Reveal Contrasting Agendas on Black Issues

Hazel Trice Edney

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – An NAACP presidential candidates' questionnaire reveals starkly different views between Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain, giving voters more in depth perspectives on the candidates' racial and civil rights views as they go to the polls on Tuesday.

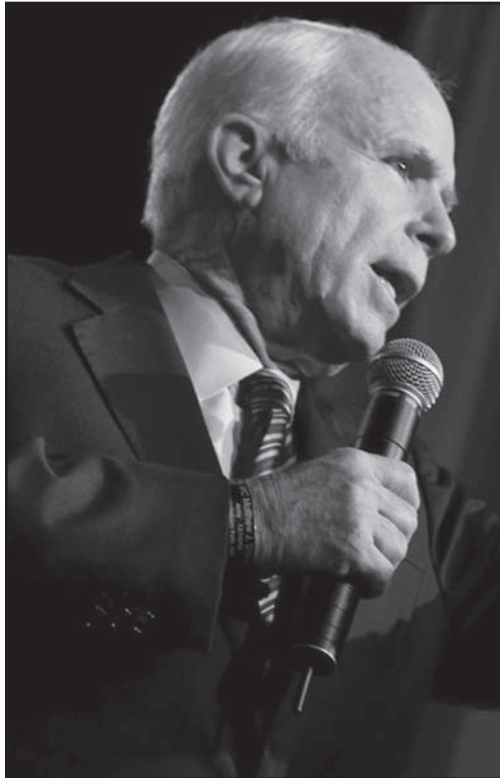
Issues that disparately affect Black people such as affirmative action, voting rights for ex-felony offenders, voting rights for D.C. congressional representatives, racial profiling, police brutality, mandatory minimum sentences, and the death penalty are just a few of the issues that have barely – if ever – been publicly addressed by either candidate during the intense race.

"It was made clear at the time that the responses received would be reproduced and distributed to the NAACP members and communities so that we could make informed decisions when going to the polls," says Hilary O. Shelton, director of the NAACP Washington Bureau. "The questionnaire contained...issues of crucial importance to the NAACP and the communities we serve."

The 39-page document, compiled by the historically non-partisan civil rights organization over the course of a year, allowed the candidates to give candid views in 200 words or less. For space and brevity, the NNPA News Service has excerpted quotes from the responses. The following are verbatim excerpts from the questionnaire:

What specific actions will you take regarding equal opportunity programs?

MCCAIN: "The affirmative action remedies designed forty years ago should be reexamined...Our efforts to promote equal opportunity should focus on those who are disadvantaged. In access to quality education, we should focus on poorly performing schools that are not effectively educating our students, not on the students' race. In access to



Presidential Candidate, Senator John McCain

government contracting, government set-aside programs should focus on disadvantaged enterprises and employees, not their race, ethnicity, or gender."

OBAMA: "I support affirmative action. When there is strong evidence of prolonged and systemic discrimination by organizations, affirmative action may be the only meaningful remedy available...We shouldn't ignore that race continues to matter: To suggest that our racial attitudes play no part in the socio-economic disparities that we often observe turns a blind eye to both our history and our experience – and relieves us of the responsibility to make things right."

What, if anything, would you do to help restore the voting rights of ex-felony offenders?

MCCAIN: "The fourteenth amendment to the Constitution specifically recognizes that the right to vote may be taken away if a person commits a crime...The right to vote should be restored to felons only on a case by case basis after they have served their full sentences and have satisfactorily demonstrated that they have turned over a new leaf."

OBAMA: "I support restoration of voting rights for ex-offenders. I am a cosponsor of the Count Every Vote Act, and would sign that legislation in to law as president."

What would you do to promote the rights of the citizens of the District of Columbia?

MCCAIN: "I do not support legislation to give the District a vote in Congress because I believe that such a law would be unconstitutional. The Constitution says that 'the House of Representatives shall be composed of members chosen every second year by the people of the several states.' Because the District of Columbia is not a state, it is not eligible to send a full representative to Congress unless and until either the Constitution is amended to allow this, or residential districts of the District become part of Maryland."

OBAMA: "I am an original cosponsor of the Senate bill that will provide the District of Columbia with voting representation in the House of Representatives. I consider passage of this bill to be an important step toward justice. In our great Democracy, it's a shame that residents of the District who pay taxes, fight in wars, and enjoy the same rights as other Americans have no voting representation in our nation's capital. I will continue to champion this issue as president."

What actions, if any, would you take to address the problem of racial profiling by law enforcement officials?

MCCAIN: "No one should be stopped by the police because of his or her racial or ethnic identity. At the same time, law enforcement officers must be permitted to carry out their duties based on fair, professional, non-discriminatory criteria, such as acting on a specific description. I will demand proper training and attention with respect to race relations and citizen rights."

OBAMA: "As a United States Senator, I cosponsored federal legislation to ban racial profiling and require federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to take steps to eliminate the practice. As president, I will continue my decades-long fight against racial profiling, and sign legislation that will ban the practice of racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies and provide federal funding to state and local police departments if they adopt policies to prohibit the practice."



Presidential Candidate, Senator Barack Obama

What, if anything, would you do to address the issue of police misconduct?

MCCAIN: "If there is systemic misconduct, police brutality, or violations of federal laws, including civil rights laws, it is the duty of the Department of Justice to take appropriate federal law enforcement action."

Obama: "I will direct my attorney general to have the Justice Department work closely with state and local law enforcement to ensure the effective implementation of standards for use of force."

Would you work to increase or decrease the number of offenses which trigger a mandatory minimum sentence?

MCCAIN: "I have supported mandatory minimum sentencing for certain crimes, particularly for violent crimes and serious offenses...As president, I will support evaluating whether the type and number of offenses that trigger mandatory minimum sentences are effective in combating crime and in protecting law abiding members of society from criminal activity."

Obama: "There are at least 171 mandatory minimum provisions in federal criminal statutes...I will immediately review these sentences to see where we can be smarter on crime and reduce the ineffective warehousing of non-violent drug offenders."

How would you work to ensure that as long as we have a death penalty that, at the very least, the color of one's skin or a person's financial status are not determining factors when deciding who should receive the death penalty?

McCain: "I support the death penalty for heinous crimes in which the circumstances warrant capital punishment. I have supported legislation that sought to expand the number of federal crimes punishable by death, including terrorism and narcotics trafficking by drug kingpins. The color of one's skin or a person's financial status must never be

factors when deciding who should receive the death penalty."

Obama: "I believe there are a few crimes so heinous that they warrant the ultimate penalty. But, the question is whether that sentence can be implemented in a fair and just way. As a member of the Illinois state senate, I led efforts to reform a broken death penalty system that sent 13 innocent people to death row because it was filled with error, questionable police tactics, racial bias and shoddy legal work...I will direct my Justice Department to undertake a comprehensive study of the administration of the federal death penalty and to make recommendations on how to address the problems that have been identified with the system, including racial bias."

A survey of Black voters by the Joint Center for Political and Economic studies last year indicated that the economy, education and jobs were named as the top issues for Black voters in the presidential election. However, in its questionnaire, the NAACP has pinpointed what its leaders often call the "bread and butter civil rights issues."

To view the questionnaire in its entirety, please go to www.naacp.org.

Skinheads Arrested for Plotting to Assassinate Obama

George C. Curry
NNPA

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Two neo-Nazi skinheads plotted a national killing spree that would have ended in the shooting deaths of 88 African-Americans, decapitation of 14 more, and culminated in the assassination of Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, federal authorities have announced.

Daniel Cowart, 20, of Bells, Tenn., and Paul Schlesselman, 18, of West Helena, Ark., were charged in U.S. District Court in Nashville with illegal possession of a sawed-off shotgun, conspiracy to rob a gun store and making threats against a major presidential candidate.

An affidavit by Brian A. Weeks, a special agent with the Justice Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, was unsealed Monday, disclosing details of the disrupted murder scheme that included targeting Black school children. A copy of the affidavit is posted on the Web site, smokinggun.com.

"Approximately 1 month ago Cowart and Schlesselman met via the internet through a mutual friend," the agent stated. "Each individual claims to have very strong beliefs and views regarding 'White Power' and 'Skinhead' views. The individuals began discussing going on a 'killing spree' that included killing 88 people and beheading 14

African-Americans."

The numbers 88 Blacks and 14 have significance in the White supremacy movement, authorities explained. The eighth letter of the alphabet is "H," and the number used twice signifies "HH," shorthand for



Photo: www.smokinggun.com

the Nazi greeting, "Heil Hitler." And 14 represents the number of words in the White Power slogan, "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White children."

The pair planned to finance their killing spree by burglarizing homes; they expected to obtain additional weapons by robbing federally-licensed gun dealers.

According to Special Agent Weeks' affidavit, "Cowart and Schlesselman further stated that on Oct. 20, 2008, Cowart trav-

eled from Tennessee to Arkansas, to pick up Schlesselman and bring Schlesselman to Tennessee to carry out the aforementioned acts. Schlesselman also brought the short barreled shotgun and a Ruger GP100 .357 revolver he said he had taken from his

father without permission. Schlesselman also brought ammunition to carry out the robberies and the killing spree. Cowart also stated that he had stock piled an FASI .308 caliber rifle that he purchased, a High Standard .22 caliber handgun and a Colt .25 caliber handgun both of which Cowart stated were stolen from his grandfather. All of these firearms were recovered during the course of the investigation.

"Upon arriving in Tennessee Cowart and Schlesselman further discussed the killing

spree to include targeting a predominantly African-American school, going state to state while robbing individuals and continuing to kill people. They further stated that their final act of violence would be to attempt to kill/assassinate Presidential Candidate Barack Obama. Cowart stated that they planned to use his FASI .308 caliber rifle and a high powered rifle that was to be stolen from the aforementioned FFL [Federal Firearms Licensee] to facilitate their attempt to assassinate Obama. Schlesselman stated that they planned to drive their vehicle as fast as they could toward Obama shooting at him from the windows. Both individuals stated they would dress in all white tuxedos and wear top hats during the assassination attempt. Both individuals further stated they knew they would and were willing to die during this attempt."

The two White supremacists told authorities that while driving around one morning, they shot out a window at Beech Grove Church of Christ, a Black church in Brownsville, Tenn.

Scrawled on Cowart's car were a Swastika, the numbers 14 and 88 as well as some racist language.

Both men were arrested last Wednesday in Crockett County and made their first appearance in federal court on Monday in Memphis. A hearing will be held Thursday to determine whether bond should be set.

Jennifer Hudson and Relatives Identify Body of Her Slain Nephew

Alan King

(NNPA) Jennifer Hudson and other relatives positively identified the body of her 7-year-old nephew Monday, just hours after his body was found in a sport-utility vehicle sought in connection with the murder of Hudson's mother and brother.

The white, 1994 Chevrolet Suburban with Illinois license plate X584859 was found on Chicago's West side after police received a 7 a.m. call from a neighbor about a suspicious vehicle. The man noticed the vehicle while walking his dog. According to the Chicago Tribune, the boy had been shot multiple times in the back seat of the vehicle. The SUV, registered to Hudson's murdered brother, was towed with the boy's body inside and is being processed by evidence technicians and workers. The body was later removed and taken to the Cook County Medical Examiner's office.

Hudson and other family members arrived at the Medical Examiner's office mid-afternoon to identify the body. Given the choice between looking directly at the body or viewing it on a wall-mounted video screen, the family chose the latter. According to the Tribune, Hudson said, "Yes, that's him."

A spokesman for the office told the newspaper that Hudson "remained strong for her family" and was clearly its leader. "She held hands with her family," the spokesman said. "It was obviously a very emotional moment."

The boy – the son of Julia Hudson, Jennifer's sister – has been missing since Friday, when a relative found Julian's grandmother, Darnell Donerson, 57, and his uncle, Jason Hudson, 29, shot to death in his grandmother's home in the 7000 block of South Yale Avenue.

An Amber Alert – a designation for high-risk missing children – was issued Friday after Julian was discovered missing after the murders. Police arrested William Balfour, the missing boy's stepfather and



Academy Award winning actress Jennifer Hudson

estranged husband of Julia, at his girlfriend's Southside apartment several hours after the murders. Balfour's mother, Michele, has told reporters that her son had nothing to do with the slayings.

Balfour remains a suspect in the murders but is being held in jail for parole violation after being convicted of attempted murder and vehicular hijacking. Cook County records show that he pleaded guilty to both charges in 1999. He

was also convicted in 1998 for possession of a stolen motor vehicle. He was released from prison in 2006 after serving seven years for the attempted murder and car hijacking charges.

The boy remained missing through a long weekend in which police and volunteers posted fliers bearing his photograph around the city. On Sunday Jennifer Hudson asked for the public's help in finding her nephew. In her MySpace blog, she thanked fans and supporters for their prayers and offered a \$100,000 reward to anyone who returned the boy alive.

Since the investigation, Hudson – who gained stardom after appearing on "American Idol," and then won an Academy Award for her role in the movie "Dreamgirls" – has stayed out of the public eye.

The Chicago Tribune reported that a parade of cars moved slowly past her family's home Monday morning, past the news vans, reporters and curious onlookers. Neighbors stood quietly and reflected on the violence.

In front of the Hudson's home, men in heavy jackets and hooded sweatshirts came to kiss the twin white crosses bearing the names of Donerson and Jason.

"Everybody is sick of going through stuff like this," Artisha West, a former resident of the area told the Tribune. "We all have to stick together. All these young children are dying, and for what?"

Powell Endorsement May Sway Undecided Independents

James Wright

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The decision by former Secretary of State Colin Powell to endorse Sen. Barack Obama for president instead of fellow Republican and long-time John McCain may cause more undecided voters to lean toward the Democratic front-runner, some political experts say.

William Galston, a scholar at the Brookings Institute in Washington, said that "typically, endorsements don't have much effect, especially coming so late in the campaign." However, Powell's endorsement is anything but typical.

"Because of the immense respect that most Americans have for Colin Powell, his endorsement may make a difference, especially among voters who aren't convinced that Obama has the knowledge and experience to serve as commander-in-chief," Galston said.

Powell's decision was announced on last Sunday's edition of NBC's "Meet the Press." "He has both style and substance. I think he is a transformational figure," Powell said of Obama.

Powell, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under George W. Bush and Bill Clinton and national security advisor to Ronald Reagan, said that Obama displayed "steadiness, the intellectual curiosity and he selected a vice president who is ready to be president on Day One."

Obama, at a rally in Fayetteville, N.C., was elated by the endorsement.

"This morning, a great soldier, a great statesman and a great

American has endorsed our campaign to change America," the Illinois lawmaker said.

"I have been honored to have the benefit of his wisdom and counsel from time to time over the last few years, but today, I am beyond honored and deeply humbled to have the support of General Colin Powell. General Powell has defended this nation bravely, and he has embodied our highest ideals through his long and distinguished public service."

Predictably, far-right critics, such as radio commentator Rush Limbaugh, tried to dismiss the Powell endorsement as a decision based solely on race. Even some Republicans rejected that assertion, noting the value of the Powell endorsement. "What he did in one sound bite...is eliminate the experience argument," former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich said on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos."

Powell quickly dismissed the assertion that he picked Obama because both are Black. "If that was the case, I would have done that six to eight or 10 months ago," he said. "However, I cannot deny the historical events that are taking place in America. We will see if we have reached this point [of electing a Black president]."

Democratic Party Senior Adviser Brad Woodhouse told CNN that the Powell endorsement is important because the former general is "the gold standard."

Powell has received numerous awards, including two Presidential Medals of Honor, the Congressional Gold Medal as well as honorary degrees from numerous institutions, including Howard University. "Colin Powell has



Former Secretary of State Colin Powell

a 75-80 percent approval rating," Woodhouse said. "People see him as an honest broker."

Michael Fauntroy, an assistant professor of public policy at George Mason University, agrees that Powell's endorsement will help Obama with independents. "This will help Obama close the case for independent voters, particularly those leaning Republican," Fauntroy said.

Powell voiced serious concerns about the tone of McCain's campaign and his repeated references to former Weather Underground

leader Bill Ayers.

Powell said: "These robo calls that people are getting, saying that Obama is connected to Ayers, which is saying that Obama supports terrorists. It goes too far."

Powell said that Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin is not ready to be president and that he objects to McCain's pledge to put more arch-conservatives on the U.S. Supreme Court.

Rep. Artur Davis (D-Ala.), an early Obama supporter, said that Powell's nod underscores the

country's need for a leader like Obama at this time.

"Colin Powell sounds like a lot of good, thoughtful people in this country who respect both Barack Obama and John McCain, who think a lot of John McCain's service, a lot of his abilities and a lot of his record in the Senate, but who think on the key questions facing our country today that Obama is better," Davis told the Associated Press. "He has always put country first, as some would say."

Powell was mentioned as a GOP presidential candidate in 1996.

After a book tour in which he talked to thousands of people, he opted out of the race, citing his wife's concerns about his safety and questions regarding his wife's health.

Powell addressed the 1996 Republican convention where he was booed when he said that he favored a woman's right to choose and affirmative action.

"Powell is a Rockefeller Republican and he wants the party to be more accepting of moderates," Fauntroy said. "Powell thinks, like a lot of people, that the party is all screwed up now."

Powell criticized members of his party for falsely claiming that Obama is a Muslim. "It would seem that there some people in the party that think that there is something wrong with being a Muslim," he said. "He (Obama) is not a Muslim; he is a Christian. But what if he was a Muslim? There are some in my party who are saying that being a Muslim is being a terrorist and they should stop polarizing this way."

106-Year-Old Votes Early in Georgia



Photo: Susan J. Ross

Accompanied by Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and friends, 106 year-old Mrs. Ann Cooper voted today at the Fulton County Courthouse. Mrs. Cooper said she has voted in every presidential election since she registered to vote. She never imagined seeing an African-American running for President in her lifetime. Mrs. Cooper encouraged young and old to exercise their responsibility and VOTE! "By all means, no matter what, get out and vote. Vote your choice," said Cooper.

HUD, FEMA, Continued from page 7.

Ike. Families, whose housing and utility costs exceed 30 percent of post disaster income, will continue to receive assistance, subject to the IRT, through March 2010 when the program ends.

There will be family obligations as part of this program which will include:

- o Family must abide by the terms of the lease and maintain the unit in good condition;
- o Family must participate in case management services;
- o When IRT begins, family must agree to pay their portion of rent on time and in full; and
- o Family must accurately and honestly certify the receipt of benefits from either Small Business Administration grants or loans, insurance proceeds, or any other duplication of benefits.



STROKE TARGETS BY COLOR.



Photographed by Sean Kennedy Santos



POWER TO END STROKE™
You are the Power

Know where you stand. The odds are African Americans are twice as likely to suffer a stroke as white Americans.

Beating the odds isn't about winning, it's about living.
You have the power to end stroke. 1-888-4-STROKE / StrokeAssociation.org