

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Page 8 DataZone

**Dr. Norman
Francis
Honored for
Years of Service**

FREE
COPY



November 29 - December 12, 2008 43rd Year Volume 17 www.ladatanews.com

The Soul of New Orleans

Dr. Norman C. Francis

Reflections



Page 2



Newsmaker

New Orleans
Gears Up for Bayou
Classic Weekend

Page 4

Inside Data

Data News Weekly Announces
Endorsements

Page 12

Dr. Norman C. Francis

Reflections

by Edwin Buggage

The Origins of Norman C. Francis: Family Values

Dr. Norman C. Francis is a man who has entered his golden years and still exudes a youthful excitement about a life well lived. One in which he has achieved many accolades and affected countless lives in his nearly eight decades of life, with six of those being his inseparable connection with Xavier University of Louisiana. Where at the age of 17 Francis left his native Lafayette, La., to embark on a journey that has taken him from a small town boy of humble beginnings to a well respected man who has the ears of heads of state, education and captains of industry. "It has been an association of long standing with Xavier University. I have been blessed to be such a part of something and see it grow from what it was to what it has become today," says Francis.

His voice speaks of years of wisdom as he spins tales about a life and great people he has encountered, but he still heaps praise and gives the credit to for his success on his parents whose quiet dignity and resilience gave him the tools and fortitude to be successful in life. "My father was a bellhop, and then worked in the bus station and decided he would become an entrepreneur and open a barbershop. We never had a lot materially but we had each other," said Francis. "I came through a generation where we lived through indignities but it never kept us down." Continuing he says, "My mother had 5 children and my parents worked hard to keep us straight. All of my training is from them, respect yourself, respect others, and don't let other people tell what you can't do."

Trailblazer and Pioneer

He traveled down the road to greatness by being a pioneer and a trailblazer. Francis was the first African-American to graduate from Loyola's Law school in 1955. While enrolled there he could not live on campus because of segregation. But even though he could not live on Loyola's campus he turned



Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	@Issue	12
Newsmaker	4	National News	14
Data Zone	8		
State & Local.	5		

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

Farah Akbar

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 previous page.



Norman Francis & His Children 1963.



Dr. Norman Francis with Lady Bird Johnson.



Dr. Norman Francis at St. Peter's Rome Mass Blessed KD with Pope John Paul II



Dr. Norman Francis with Whitney Young.

a negative into a positive returning to Xavier University to work in the freshman dorm and would meet someone who would change his life forever. "I met my wife at Xavier. I was in law school and could not stay on their campus because of segregation, and I got a job in charge of the freshman dormitory. And Blanche who became my wife and partner was teaching in physical education." "We have six children, four boys and two girls all who have done wonderful things with their lives and I am so proud of all their accomplishments," says Dr. Francis.

Although his name has become synonymous with Xavier University as its President, he says he turned down the job twice before accepting it. When he finally did the nation was mourning the loss of a man who dared to dream, as the nation was engulfed in a bitter struggle regarding race in America, "I turned down offers to become the President of Xavier twice and the day I did accept it when I visited what was called the mother house of the order that ran Xavier at the time, and was offered the third time that was the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in April of 1968 and I started my tenure as president July 1, 1968."

During this time he says he crossed paths with great men including A.P. Tureaud's and Thurgood Marshall, "I remember being down at Tureaud office and Thurgood Marshall would come into town to help handle cases and this was something that was inspirational." As a young law graduate Francis was a founding member of the Louis Martinet Society. He remembers a time when African-American attorneys were scarce and even non existent in the city. He now happily says that he recently went to an event the organization had and saw hundreds of blacks practicing law. "It was good to see something we started grow to where it is now and see young people leading the charge into the future."

Racial Reflections: The Age of Obama

For a man who has lived through so much and has been an integral part of changing the tide in the area of race relations, Francis is excited about Presi-



Dr. Norman Francis with Barack Obama at the 2006 Xavier commencement.



Dr. Norman Francis with author Alex Haley in 1981.



Dr. Norman Francis at NO Urban League With Whitney Young.

dent-Elect Obama who he had the opportunity to speak with and meet when he was the commencement speaker in 2006 and has continued to keep in contact with. He says of this moment that it is a historical day, one which he thought he would not live to see, "For all people my age we never believed [we would] see it in our lifetime."

He feels the ascendance of Obama to the highest elected office in the land is a watershed moment in the area of race and the manifestation of a new day in racial relations and perceptions and the questioning of one's ability's

based on race, "When we were given an opportunity to compete we weren't defined and didn't want to be defined by our race we were defined by what knew and how we performed." With pride beaming from his voice of this historical first he says, "I think his election is a reaffirmation of what we were taught by our parents that we could do whatever we wanted to do. It took a look time for America to appreciate that we were capable. It is an inspiration and a day of triumph of unlimited possibilities."

Rebuilding: Life After Hurricane Katrina

On the days after the tumultuous waters poured into the city, the levees breached leaving a city underwater. What this city of marvelous antiquated splendor had become briefly resembled a modern day Atlantis and after the water receded it was a ghost town where the scent of muck, debris and decay replaced the aroma of red beans and gumbo. Not much of the city was spared from being damaged including Xavier University where six feet of water engulfed the campus.

Ever resilient Dr. Francis got back into the city to witness the damage and at first sight thought to himself, "The water had just receded, and it looked like Iraq. But we will re-open on January 17, 2006. This institution like our families we cannot let it go." As he surveyed the damage with former President Bill Clinton and CNN's Soledad O'Brien both who said we could not be open by that time and we did just that and the school is back and getting better everyday."

He reflects on what was lost like many New Orleanians but ever the optimist he sees the glass as half full using a maxim to describe his feeling about the tragedy, "I lost memories of what I had, but that's behind us we have to look towards the future. You can't control the wind but you can adjust the sails. We couldn't control Katrina, it was heartbreaking but

it could not get us down."

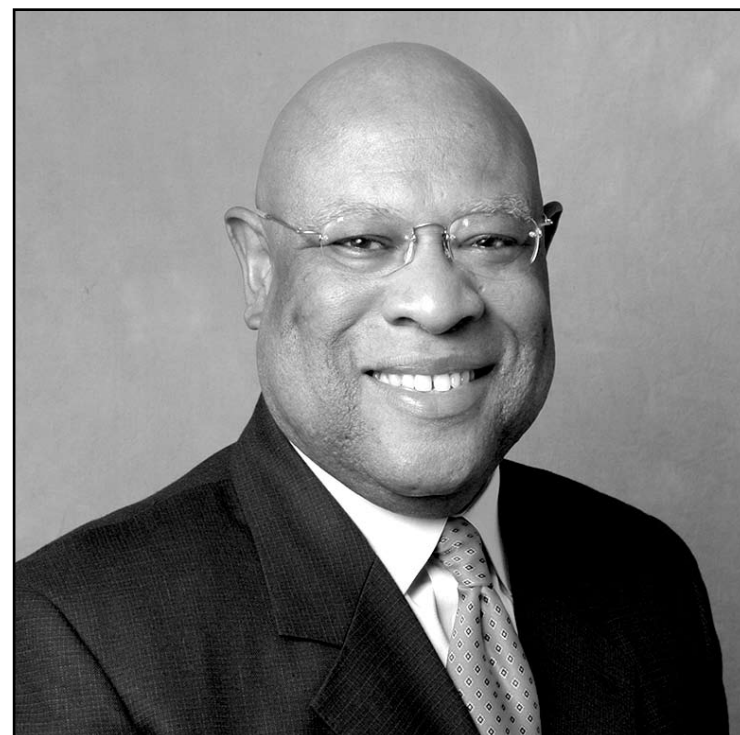
Sense of Purpose: The Never Ending Journey

As he continues through his journey of life, for all the people he has met on the world stage and awards he's received including the President's Medal of Freedom he constantly says the small town values of his parents are what has made him and his siblings the people they have become. Speaking of his brother he says, "My brother was the fourth black catholic bishop named in the United States and only twice in this nation and one the president of a catholic university." Continuing he uses his life as an

example that anything is possible, "A barber and his wife with five children and ones a president of a university and one is a bishop and they said they couldn't do that."

Many left his fortieth anniversary celebration wondering when will he sing his swan song, when will the day come where walking on Xavier's campus you will no longer see Dr. Francis walking across campus with his affable demeanor and well tailored suits greeting faculty, students and staff. With joy in his voice he says, "I don't know how much longer I will do this, I still have the energy, but when I walk out the ring I will retire and go back to Southwest Louisiana and live the good life."

Judge Ronald J. Sholes



Traffic Court - Division D

Welcomes

Southern & Grambling

Visitors to the

35th Bayou Classic

New Orleans Gears Up for Bayou Classic Festivities

Shaniece B. Bickham, Ph.D.
Managing Editor

The long withstanding tradition of the State Farm Bayou Classic football challenge between the Southern University and A&M College Jaguars and the Grambling State University Tigers will once again bring crowds of fans to the Crescent City this Thanksgiving weekend.

In its 35th year, the kickoff for the State Farm Bayou Classic Football Game is scheduled for 1 pm, Saturday Nov. 29. The Bayou Classic, which will air on national television on NBC, is more than just a football game, however. Many special recognition events, parties, alumni functions, luncheons, the annual Battle of the Bands, and the much-anticipated annual Job Fair have all been planned to make the yearly celebration memorable, fulfilling, and enjoyable.

"To me the Bayou Classic is an event that not only students and alumni of both GSU and SU can enjoy but just African Americans in general," said Jennifer Taylor, a senior at Southern University. "It's a great tradition to celebrate Thanksgiving and then head to New Orleans for a weekend of fun rivalry."

The Bayou Classic festivities will begin on Friday, Nov. 28 with a community service activity. Volunteers will participate in a KABOOM playground build beginning at 8:30 am. The Coaches' Luncheon will be held at the Marriott Hotel at 11 am, followed by the State Farm Bayou Classic Job Fair at noon at the hotel. Friday night belongs to the college Greeks and the rival bands for the McDonald's Battle of the Bands and Greek Show presented by Alltell Wireless at the Superdome beginning at 7 pm.

"The Greek Show is almost just as much anticipated as the actual game itself," said Taylor, who will



Southern University and A&M College Marching Band



Grambling State University Marching Band

compete in the show with her sorority Delta Sigma Theta. "Greeks come from everywhere to cheer on their sororities and fraternities," she added.

Southern and Grambling are part of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). Southern has a 5-1 record in the conference, while Grambling holds first

The list of official Bayou Classic events include:

Friday, Nov. 28

KaBOOM Playground Build

Abramson Science and Technology Charter School
5552 Read Blvd., New Orleans East

Coaches' Luncheon

New Orleans Marriott
Noon

Super Job Fair

New Orleans Marriott
1 pm

Corporate Reception Presented by Adams & Reese, LLP

6 pm
Invitation Only

McDonald's Battle of the Bands and Greek Show presented by Alltell Wireless
Louisiana Superdome
7 pm

Saturday, Nov. 29

Bayou Classic Fan Festival

Louisiana Superdome
10 am-6 pm

24th Annual Bayou Classic Scholarship Jazz Brunch

hosted by the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus and the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Foundation
10:30 am-Noon
Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel

35th Annual State Farm Bayou Classic
Louisiana Superdome
1 pm

place with a record of 6-0. Overall, Southern's record is 6-4 and Grambling's record is 9-2.

Students from both universities will also be honored for their scholastic achievements. MillerCoors is one company that is donating \$10,000 to each school for student scholarships. The scholarship initiative is part of MillerCoors' ongoing efforts to support historically black colleges and

universities.

"MillerCoors is an ardent supporter of higher education and of all efforts to help young people realize their full potential," Moses Brewer, MillerCoors multicultural relations manager, said. "We're proud of our scholarship sponsorship to Grambling State and Southern University," he added.

Photo: www.bayoubattleofthebands.com

Photo: www.bayoubattleofthebands.com

Pastor Tom Watson celebrates 20 years of community leadership

(New Orleans)—Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries (WMTM) is unique. Not only is it one of the fastest growing African American, non-denominational churches in America, it is the only predominated Black church located on world-famous St. Charles Avenue. Watson Memorial has another unique quality, its pastor, Rev. Tom Watson, a third generation preacher, takes a different approach to ministry. In the twenty years that he has led this very large congregation, Rev. Watson has always taken his ministry beyond the four walls of the church, into the streets, and into the hearts of people.

In 1994, when New Orleans was dealing with a skyrocket murder rate, Pastor Watson began an anti-violence and job initiative, after a youth march on City Hall, to help curb juvenile crime and help young people secure gainful employment. In 1991, Pastor Watson and Watson Memorial began The Family Center of Hope, a 501c3

that serves as a model for the South. One of the center's most successful programs is its Rites of Passage that help to train and develop young African American boys into manhood. A few years later, Pastor Watson started the Citywide Men's Conference that featured a 1000 Men's March, both focused on developing the male seed, strengthening the family, and crime prevention.

Watson Memorial is also home to a stellar Christian Academy and boasts a five star music ministry that has been repeatedly featured in the gospel tent at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and the WMTM choir was the only church choir to open the first Essence Music Festival, a new event in New Orleans several years ago. Post Katrina, the church has maintained a leadership role in the rebuilding and recovery efforts, and WMTM has opened two of its three locations, serving both the east and



Pastor Tom Watson

west banks of the city. In addition, it has ongoing case management program helping evacuees return home from Houston, Texas.

In his on-going community service, Pastor Watson co-lead the Greater New Orleans Ministerial Alliance, a leading social, economic and civic group that worked to ensure that New Orleans was rebuilt with equity. He serves on the board of Sophie B. Wright Charter School, the Audubon Park Commission and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference and was the national chaplain for

the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for four years. He also held the rank of major in the United States Army Reserves after 13 consecutive years of service.

As you begin to appreciate, Pastor Watson's experience is both diverse in its scope and profound in his commitment to service. He is consistently positioned among the most thoughtful, expansive leaders nationwide. He has a tremendous heart for people and an unrelenting love for New Orleans, where he was born and raised. Pastor Watson's reputation and that of WMTM, grounded in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and love for His people, has permeated the four corners of our great nation.

It is for his and his wife, Rev. Pat Watson's, transformational leadership of 20 years that the members of the Watson Memorial and community colleagues and friends will salute Pastor Tom and Pat Watson with a celebration titled a "Double Decade of Service."

Programs activities include:

Friday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m.—A Gala Under the Stars will feature lively jazz music, inspiration gospel music, delicious food from some of New Orleans most famous restaurants, winter-themed decorations, and lots of fun and fellowship. Tickets are \$50.00 per person. Tables of 10 available for \$500. Location 4422 St. Charles Ave.

Sunday, December 7, at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.—Anniversary Worship Service with guest speakers Apostle Arthal Thomas of Mt. Carmel Ministries and Bishop J. Douglas Wiley, pastor of New Life Cathedral in New Orleans. Worship service will feature guest soloist, testimonials, great music and inspiring messages.

All events are open to the general public and located at 4400 St. Charles Avenue unless otherwise noted. For more information, call 504-899-4480



© 2008 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved.
AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property.

The two keys to the future? Technology, and the people who'll be using it.

It strengthens communities. And transforms lives. That's why AT&T is so committed to improving education, especially through the greater use and understanding of technology. In fact, more than half of our contribution dollars and volunteer hours benefit education in some way. Because who knows, the student we help today could be the scientist, doctor or business leader who helps someone else tomorrow.

The new  at&t

Your world. Delivered.

Louisiana State Senate District Three Race Heats Up

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

After the political demise of former State Senator Derrick Shepherd, who recently pled guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit money laundering, the seat he held in Louisiana Senate District 3 since 2005 has been left vacant. Two young political lions are jousting to try to capture this office in the Dec. 6 election. District 97 State Representative J.P. Morrell and Businessman Shawn Barney are presently campaigning to fill the vacancy.

Morrell has racked up endorsements from civic and business leaders across the city and state. He said that his experience in an elected office best qualifies him for the position.

"My support spans both parishes and both parties. Everyone involved in state and local government sees me as the one that is most capable at this time to be the most effective senator. I have proven leadership; I am one of three of the youngest chairmen in the Louisiana House of Representatives. I have a wealth of knowledge that can be used from day one. I have a proven track record; I passed legislation to reduce homeowners insurance by 10 percent. My opponent doesn't have a record to run on," said Morrell.

Barney counters that his experience in the business community upbringing in a family that has been involved in community service makes him uniquely qualified

for what the city and state needs right now. He says that the time is now for a change in the tide and type of political leaders needed during this period of recovery and as District 3 moves forward.

"It is a big district that is very diverse. It spans both sides of the river. I am connected to both sides. I have the largest development project under construction in Jefferson Parish building 100 affordable units of housing with an economic impact of about \$22 million, so I do business in Jefferson Parish and live in Gentilly. A lot of folks I met last year encouraged me to get in the race. I come from a family of public servants; my mother was an educator and my father, Clarence Barney, ran the Urban League for many years. The Barney name has stood for leadership, commitment, capability and credibility and I wanted to build upon that because I am passionate about leadership and also about change," said Barney.

J.P. Morrell said there are a host of issues he will address if elected. "The first issue will have to rehab the Charity Hospital system because we can no longer wait for healthcare in New Orleans. We have to address crime. There's a west bank crime task



J.P. Morrell



Shawn Barney

force that shares information between various law enforcement agencies it has been something that has been extremely effective and I would expand that to include the entire New Orleans metro region. It is a model we should use for the entire area. Education is important as we try to make more vocational education available in high schools and we made reforms last session but we have not yet implemented them and I will do anything in my power to help those who don't have the desire to go to college will have the ability to learn a trade that can be trained for high paying jobs in skilled trades."

Barney has an agenda that ranges from more effectively fighting crime to economic development. He told Data News Weekly, "One of the issues I will address is crime because it remains an issue in the district. In fact a quadruple murder occurred near my development site in Marroero and that personally affected

me. Helping with the getting the recovery moving faster as more people come back to affected areas I feel my expertise in real estate development and affordable housing will certainly be a direct benefit I think to the residents, and thirdly job creation and economic development like for instance the project I am working on not just creates jobs, tax revenues and transforms neighborhoods. My agenda is about fighting crime, better dealing with our recovery economic development, and job creation."

This race has not been without attacks and counter attacks as both candidates have went on the offensive saying the other is not suited to hold the seat up for grabs in Baton Rouge. Shawn Barney says of his opponent, "My opponent has an effectiveness rate of about 12% he for the last year proposed 48 bills of which 5 of them have become law. He really has not distinguished himself politically or professionally with any significant legislation. He proved that he was out of touch by voting for the pay raise for legislators that was so unpopular and he voted to take it with so many people hurting in his district and now he's looking for a promotion. Now contrast that with my practical work experience in the business community, where I worked for GTE which became Verizon. I have worked in international finance in Latin America. In my work I have worked in both the public and private sectors."

J.P. Morrell counters that he has been effective as a legislator and the support he has received validates that. "10 million dollars in for mental health is not significant, passing supplemental pay increases for police and fireman is not significant that charge is completely without merit it's the kind of accusations people who don't have any support in the political or the business community because he doesn't have any."

Both men are continuing to duke it out in their race to the finish line on December 6th that is the day when voters will decide who will be the next State Senator of District 3. Barney says this election is important, "It is clear that this election matters, and now is the time where we need someone who is independent and bring a new perspective and voice to New Orleans and the surrounding areas and that is what I ultimately am a voice for change." Morrell says experience matters and a record of getting things done, "Experience matters and the only time anyone in the community sees him is when he is running for office, who's been fighting and been there. It has been J.P. Morrell and Shawn Barney has been absent. And I can be effective from day one this is a critical time for our city and state and we cannot afford to put somebody there who needs on the job training."

Creole Culture Kept Alive at Annual Conference

Farah Akbar
Data News Weekly
Contributor

The Louisiana Creole Research Association held its annual conference Nov. 15 in New Orleans. Members from all over the country came together to learn about the contributions of the Creole society to Louisiana and the rest of America.

Panel topics during the conference focused on religion, early New Orleans newspapers, Creoles in higher education, and the role of Creoles in the Civil Rights movement during Reconstruction. A major highlight of the conference was operatic vocalist, Giovanna Joseph, who expressed

the historical connection between Creoles and opera through an uplifting vocal performance.

"I think it's [the conference] a wonderful way to learn more about our history and our culture," said Dr. Charles Vincent, a panelist on Race and Reconstruction: Creoles of Color and Political Activity in the 19th Century. "And the array of scholars we pulled together is just some of the best of their perspective fields. I'm just delighted to be here with them."

Members of the organization are following the purpose of defining Creole as a culture and not a race. And through this definition, members are leaving with the notion of researching their own family histories to continue with the

lineage, which was mentioned a couple of times from Dr. Mona Lisa Saloy of Dillard University and from participating members as well. Although Creole is considered a race to some, the association especially emphasized that Creoles of color are indeed black people.

A.P. Tureaud Jr., the son of A.P. Tureaud, a Creole of color, civil rights leader, and attorney in the historical Plessy vs. Ferguson case, is "concerned that our children and grandchildren need to know this because when you look in the audience, we're a generation of the 40s, 50s and 60s. This has to continue. But if we don't get young people involved, it stays within the confines of the Creole

community and its very valuable information."

Tureaud is a member of the organization, who lives in Connecticut. He is working on developing text books to include Creole contributions, yet he also believes that "children need to know the contributions of all Americans."

The annual convention had two goals: (1) to remind the members of their past, (2) and to also stress the continuance of the legacy of the Creole culture.

"[It is] very important, very helpful that we have an organization to preserve a very long and intricate part of the culture for African Americans in New Orleans," said Dr. Ralph Cassimere, a panelist for the Civil Rights Activist

Reminisce.

The day concluded with a panel that focused on whether the Creole culture was endangered. The Vice President of the LA Creole Research Association, Lolita Cherrie, expressed that she believes the culture is dying due to integration; although, "integration was needed, before there was a close knit community, but it started spreading out." Cherrie's comments opened up a chain of comments from the audience all emphasizing the need to become active participants in the Creole community in order to stay connected.

Congressman Jefferson Fights to Stay in Office

Edwin Buggage

Amid a sea of controversy William Jefferson has been able to stave off a host of formidable challengers who have tried to unseat him from his post in the U.S. House of Representatives Louisiana 2nd Congressional District.

In his last bid, with the Louisiana Democratic establishment backing his opponent State Representative Karen Carter, Jefferson with his back against the wall came out swinging. Thanks to a grassroots effort and the now deceased Jefferson Parish's Sheriff Harry Lee's lashing out against Carter who made disparaging comments about Jefferson Parish law enforcement made in Spike Lee's documentary "When the Levee's Broke," Jefferson was able to win by a considerable margin and return to Washington. He was removed from the powerful Ways and Means Committee, however.

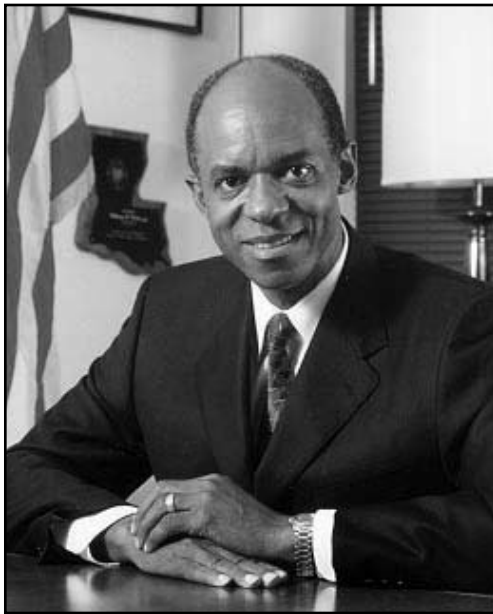
During this election cycle, Jefferson handily defeated a host of challengers in the Democratic Primary and in a run-off defeated former WDSU News Anchor Helena Moreno. Now Jefferson faces a Republican challenger Anh Joseph Cao, Green Party Candidate Malik Rahim, and Independent Candidates Gregory Kahn and Jerry Jacobs.

Jefferson feels good about his campaign and is confident going into the final days before the General Election.

"The results are clear thus far. Congressman Jefferson finished in first place in both the Oct. 6 Democratic Primary election and in the Nov. 4 Democratic General Election. He received the most votes in the Oct. 6 primary despite a field of six challengers, four of whom were present or former elected officials," said Eugene Green, Jefferson's Campaign Manager.

Continuing he said, "The General Election campaign has gone well, and I am enjoying the opportunity to connect with the citizens of the District, hearing and addressing as he has always done, their opinions and concerns. We look forward to the Saturday, Dec. 6 General Election, armed with the fact that we have in 18 years of service helped a significant number of citizens while exercising good votes on issues of concern to our regions and to the citizens of this nation."

Jefferson's Republican challenger, Anh Joseph Cao, is a



Congressman William Jefferson



Challenger Anh Joseph Cao

Vietnamese-American who is vying to become the first Vietnamese-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and feels William Jefferson is a distraction and that the district needs a new face representing them in the U.S. Congress. "Mr. Jefferson's problems have obviously got in the way of his representing the Second Congressional District. He has been stripped of many of his committee appointments by members of his own party. Since that time he has lost much of his influence." "So it is obvious that Congressman Jefferson legal problems have prevented him from adequately and effectively representing the second district." "But this is not a race about his legal problems this is a race about who is able to address the issues of reform of accountability and bring a certain level of action back into the second district. I hope that the people look beyond party affiliation and race and to vote for a person who can effectively represent them."

The Jefferson campaign has rebutted these claims of Jefferson's ineffectiveness, "After constant repetition of the same negative message by my opponents and in some sectors of the media, the voters have clearly spoken. I would not have been successful in my past elections were voters in general not satisfied with my positions on the votes that I have taken and with the general direction and focus of the resources that I have helped to deliver to this region."

As proof of his effectiveness he says he recently invited members of Congress to come and witness the progress the city has made post Hurricane Katrina,

"I recently hosted a delegation of leaders of Congress including The Speaker of The House, The House Majority Leader, the Majority Whip of the House, and many other members of Congress. They came down, at my invitation, to view the progress and what remains to be done relative to the recovery and rebuilding of our region. These leaders and members of Congress have mentioned publicly their support for my work and have their expressed their favorable opinions of the value of my suggestions to them." "If the media and my opponents wish to continue to assert inaccuracies that fly in the face of what leaders and members of Congress say clearly, then they are likely to continue their travel on the wrong path."

Cao feels that it is time for a new face on Capitol Hill and thinks that his being a Vietnamese-American brings something new and different to the table where he can build alliances that can make the city and state change for the better. "For the first Vietnamese-American to be elected to congress I have a certain political clout in the Vietnamese community. I would be part of the Pacific-Asian caucus and that particular caucus will have a certain level of influence in the congress. I can influence congress in a different way and build alliances and bring resources and people to the table that William Jefferson has not done been able to do." Cao speaking of his top priorities says, "I am concerned about coastal restoration, education, economic development, and without those things people may not feel comfortable coming back to the state." "In terms of national issues we need

to address the financial crisis. And many areas in our district are still devastated we have to bring business back in order to attract people to want to move to and live in Louisiana."

Congressman Jefferson says he already has a viable relationship with President-Elect Barack Obama and feels that this will help expedite the recovery of the city of New Orleans to

get the resources it needs in this very critical time. "I have met with and discussed issues with Senator Obama as a fellow member of the Congressional Black Caucus. He is motivated to do good for people, which is the most important

characteristic that an elected official should have." Talking about the recovery he says, "The recovery of New Orleans is a long term project. The devastation caused by the failure of federal government designed and built levees has created a need for our government to be focused long term on delivering the resources and legislation that make it easier for people to rebuild their lives."

Cao hopes that people can see past differences and vote for change, "I have great confidence in the people. And I hope the people can transcend party and racial lines and assist me in working to bring about change and reform to the district." Jefferson says that success in Congress is about relationships and he says he has delivered on his promises to the people district over the past 18 years and says if he is re-elected he will continue to serve the people of the Second District and be the advocate for the people in this crucial time for the city.

SWEET LORRAINE'S JAZZ CLUB

THE CLUB WITH THE SILVER LINING

Come join us this weekend at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club, the Club with the Silver Lining for Bayou Classic Weekend 2008.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2008
& SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2008

Michael Ward & Special Guests Recording Artists Joey Sommerville & Guitarist Eric Essix

SHOWTIME: 10PM & 12AM

Sweet Lorraine's is now serving lunch Monday-Friday 11am-2pm, dinner daily from 5 PM until, & Jazz & Poetry Night Tuesdays starting at 9:30

504-945-9654

SweetLorraine@bellsouth.net
<http://www.sweetlorrainesjazzclub.com>

Dr. Norman Francis Honored for 40 Years of Service at Xavier University

People gathered from all areas of the country to honor and celebrate Dr. Norman Francis' wonderful achievements and contributions to Xavier University. At the concert and gala, long-time friends, family, and supporters offered kind words for the President. Data News Weekly was there for this joyous and special occasion.



National Urban League President Marc Morial, Orleans Parish Sheriff Marlin Gusman, and Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones.



Blanche Francis, wife of Dr. Francis, Data News Publisher Terry Jones, and founder of Data New Agatha Randolph Jones.



Delores Aaron, former Trailblazer of the Year, and Agatha Jones



Dr. Francis and his wife had a wonderful time enjoying Bill Cosby's performance.



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.



Vocalist Al Ancar Hosts CD Release Party at Club 7140

Singing sensation Al Ancar held the release party for his new CD, "Hopeless Romantic" last week at Club 7140 in New Orleans East. Al serenaded a large crowd at the club giving everyone a taste of what he has to offer on "Hopeless Romantic." Those who were not in attendance missed a treat, but can see Al perform every Friday at Club 7140.

Photos: Tammey Brown



Al Ancar is signing autographs for his fans.



Al Ancar is singing "Hopeless Romantic"...featuring Gabbie G.



Al Ancar and Michael Baptiste...crooning to the Large audience in Club 7140 for Al's "Hopeless Romantic" cd release party !!!



Al Ancar is singing "Flashlight in the Daylight"...featuring Mz. Cha

THE BEST FRIEND

THE FLIRT

THE DANCING QUEEN
She's there. She's always there.

CHOCOLATE MILK
November 28
9:00pm
Harrah's Theatre

DJ CAPTAIN CHARLES
November 28 & 29
11:00pm
in Masquerade

TERRY STEELE:
THE LEGACY OF
LUTHER VANDROSS
December 12 & 13
8:00pm
Harrah's Theatre

EVERYONE PLAYS A PART.SM

Harrah's
NEW ORLEANS

www.HarrahsNewOrleans.com

Harrah's reserves the right to change, cancel or amend these events at any time. Must be 21 or older to enter casino and to gamble. Know When To Stop Before You Start.® ©2008, Harrah's License Company, LLC.

GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-522-4700.

News

Data News Weekly Endorses Candidates for Dec. 6 Election

New Orleans Data News Weekly has made its choice in the upcoming elections for the 2nd Congressional District and District 3 of the Louisiana Senate. Data News Weekly is endorsing incumbent Congressman William Jefferson for the 2nd Congressional District and businessman Shawn Barney for the District 3 Louisiana Senate.

Congressman Jefferson has a proven track record and years of experience in the U.S. Congress. We are confident he will continue to guide us in the right direction.

Shawn Barney is the son of the late Clarence Barney, the fearless leader of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans for a generation. He is a graduate of St. Augustine and Howard University. Mr. Barney has also played an instrumental role in turning once blighted areas into affordable housing.

Data News Weekly fully endorses both Congressman William Jefferson and businessman Clarence Barney. These candidates will steer the New Orleans communities in the right direction.

Data Editor Selected for Education Trust Fellowship

New Orleans Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage was a recent recipient of a fellowship awarded by Education Trust in partnership with New American Media. He was one of eight members of the ethnic media who attended the Education Trust Annual Conference in Washington D.C. The Education Trust is based in Washington D.C. and its mission is to work to promote high achievement of students from pre-kindergarten through college and reducing the achievement gap that separate low-income students and persons of color from disadvantaged backgrounds from other youth.

General Motors Names First African-American Female Automotive Designer

Special to the NNPA from the Michigan Chronicle

DETROIT (NNPA) - Crystal Windham has been appointed director of General Motors North American Passenger Car Design, making her GM's first African-American female design director.

In her new position, Windham, 35, will head the interior design for the following architectures in GM North America: Global Midsize Car, Global Compact Car and Global Small Car.

Windham was a lead designer on the 2008 award-winning Chevy Malibu Car of the Year. She began her career at GM North America Design in 1994 and has held assignments across brand studios, including an international assignment at Adam-Opel from 1997-1998.

"A mentor guided me towards automotive design. Without guidance and support from family and coworkers, I wouldn't be where I am today," Windham said. "I truly love my job - it's creative, expressive - but it is not easy. Enjoying what you do, however, makes it all worthwhile. I hope other young women will look to what I have done and be inspired to consider automotive design."

In 2002, Crystal was appointed to design manager, Interiors, and worked on several award-winning vehicles, including the 2008 Chevrolet Malibu and 2007 Saturn Aura. Following that assignment, Windham became design manager, Advanced Exteriors, for full-size trucks, and in May 2007 she was appointed design manager, Exteriors. Her career has come full circle.

"As an interior designer, I create solutions and appealing spaces for customers. As a leader it's my job to foster creativity and ensure that creativity is represented in the final product. Our design vision, intent and integrity led us to create the best interiors in GM's history. I am excited to show our newest interiors to the world," she said.

Windham has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Design from the Center for Creative Studies and a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Detroit-Mercy.

Health

New Cancer Vaccine May Hold Promise for African-American Lung Patients

Lung cancer continues to be a most deadly enemy for African-Americans and other minorities. Despite recent improvements in diagnosis and treatment, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death among African-Americans.

While for many patients the promise of a cure is still in the future, researchers are hopeful as they look to treating this difficult disease with a novel approach: an anti-cancer vaccine.

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), the Nation's foremost authority in research and part of the National Institutes of Health, in Bethesda, Md., is currently in the middle stages of a clinical study for the effectiveness of a new vaccine, the HyperAcute® Lung Cancer Vaccine (HAL). The vaccine is being studied as a potential treatment for patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), a disease that affects over 173,000 people a year in the U.S. The vaccine is being studied in patients whose lung cancers have recurred, or are growing, despite conventional treatments of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

The vaccine study is particularly important in that the survival of patients with advanced lung cancer has been considered poor, often from six months to a year. The news that the diagnosis is particularly tough for minorities is even more discouraging. According to a study published by the NCI's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER), African-Americans are more likely to develop and die from lung cancer than persons of other racial or ethnic groups.

The outcomes are only marginally better for Asian American, Native Americans and Hispanics. Many factors contribute to the disparities in cancer incidence and death among racial, ethnic, and other underserved groups.

Most obvious are a lack of health care insurance and low socioeconomic status, access to health care, education, employment in certain high-risk occupations, behavioral risks such as cigarette smoking, and living conditions - including conditions where there may be increased exposure to environmental carcinogens.

Yet, for all populations regardless of ra-

cial or ethnic background, the prognosis for lung cancer is often bleak, with more than 80 percent of patients succumbing to their disease. It's this group of patients to whom the study's HyperAcute® Lung Cancer Vaccine is targeted.

Cancer vaccines are novel in that they use the body's own immune system to fight cancer. Traditionally, the body's immune system has not been able to recognize cancer cells because they differ only slightly from normal healthy cells; thus, the immune system ignores them.

The HyperAcute® Lung Cancer Vaccine is intended to reset the immune system to help the body identify its own lung cancer cells and generate an immune response.

An earlier phase of the study, completed by Dr. John Morris, Principal Investigator in the Metabolism Branch at NCI, included 17 patients with advanced lung cancer. Dr. Morris said that after receiving the vaccine, the tumors in six of the patients did not grow in more than 16 weeks.

This represents a hopeful sign since, prior to the vaccine, the patients' cancers had continued to progress despite other treatments.

Although promising treatment studies are open to all eligible patients, many are unaware that clinical trials exist and miss the opportunity to participate.

African-Americans, Hispanics and Asian Americans represent over 1/3 of our population, yet in 1999 only 6 percent of African-Americans, and 1 percent of Hispanics and Asian Americans participated in these trials. This situation is disturbing, because the information gained from clinical trials is of greater value when trial participants represent a broad cross-section of the population. Importantly for patients, some studies have indicated that cancer patients who participate in clinical trials fare better than those who do not. With more education and communication, participation by minority populations in clinical cancer trials will hopefully improve.

The National Cancer Institute is the nation's lead federal agency for cancer research. For more information about cancer research and resources, visit www.cancer.gov or call toll-free 1-800-4CANCER.



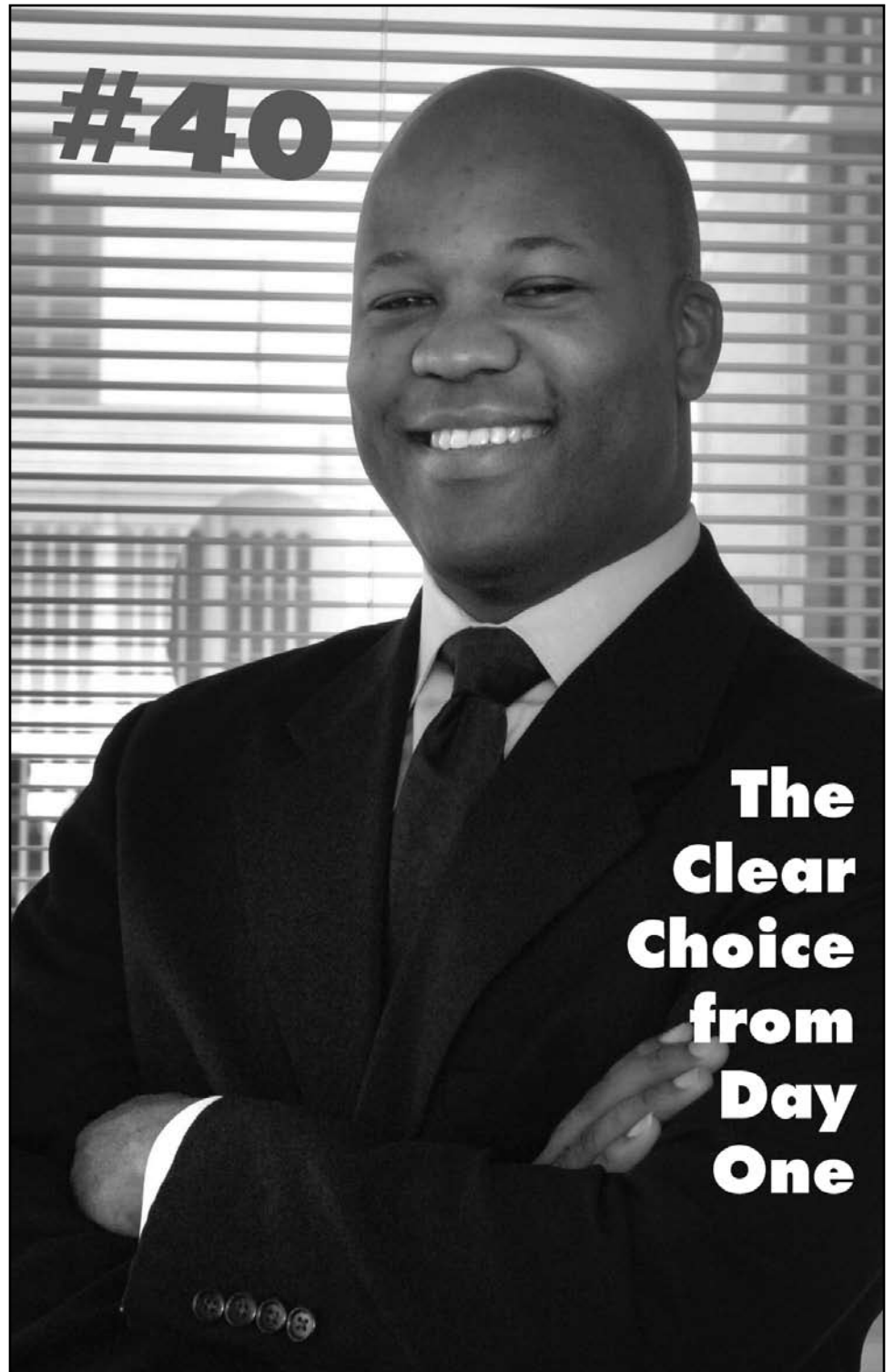
Vote Shawn Barney

The Barney name is a familiar entity in the Greater New Orleans area. Shawn is the son of the late Clarence Barney, the fearless leader of the Urban League of Greater New Orleans for a generation.

Shawn Barney is a St. Augustine High School and Howard University graduate.

He had the courage to run against Derrick Shepherd and the political establishment last year, but he came up a little short. He has already run in the East and West Banks of the District, so he has an advantage. He also has substantial real estate developments on both sides of the river and residents know him for turning once blighted areas into affordable housing.

Shawn Barney is a talented, young and successful businessman who is offering himself up for public service. Running for office is not always attractive to people from the private sector, therefore our community ends up with folks running for office for the sake of running for office, not for the sake of public service and the genuine sacrifice that it requires.



Shawn BARNEY

Senate • District 3

**EXPERIENCE
VISION & LEADERSHIP**

Vote Dec 6th

A Time for Thanksgiving



Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

Child Watch

The past year has been a tumultuous and uncertain one for many Americans. Each day's headlines brought worrisome news: the collapse of Wall Street; massive home and job losses; and a spreading global economic crisis.

We all felt enormous fear and insecurity for our family's and children's futures. Yet a bright rainbow of hope broke through the clouds of despair with the election of Sen. Barack Obama as 44th president of the United States 45 years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial.

I thank God that America has climbed another rung up the ladder towards freedom and justice for all; that her dream has risen above the rubble of war, the quicksand of greed, and the chasms of racial, re-

ligious and class strife. And I thank God for kindling hope among our children and all of us. I especially thank God for the vision, courage, and hard work of President-Elect Obama, who called us to become our best selves, and that we answered.

I share again the beautiful prayer of Black theologian Howard Thurman, A Litany of Thanksgiving, which my family reads together each Thanksgiving. Notice how few of the things he talks about cost money:

Today, I make my Sacrament of Thanksgiving.

I begin with the simple things of my days:

Fresh air to breathe,
Cool water to drink,
The taste of food,
The protection of houses and clothes,
The comforts of home.

For these, I make an act of Thanksgiving this day!

I bring to mind all the warmth of human-kind that I have known:

My mother's arms,
The strength of my father,
The playmates of my childhood,

The wonderful stories brought to me from the lives of many who talked of days gone by when fairies and giants and all kinds of magic held sway;

The tears I have shed, the tears I have seen;

The excitement of laughter and the twinkle in the eye with its reminder that life is good.

For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

I finger one by one the messages of hope that awaited me at the crossroads:

The smile of approval from those who held in their hands the reins of my security;

The tightening of the grip in a single handshake when I feared the step before me in the darkness;

The whisper in my heart when the temptation was fiercest and the claims of appetite were not to be denied;

The crucial word said, the simple sentence from an open page when my decision hung in the balance.

For all these I make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

I pass before me the mainsprings of my heritage:

The fruits of the labors of countless generations who lived before me, without whom my own life would have no meaning;

The seers who saw visions and dreamed dreams;

The prophets who sensed a truth greater than the mind could grasp and whose words could only find fulfillment in the years which they would never see;

The workers whose sweat has watered the trees, the leaves of which are for the healing of the nations;

The pilgrims who set their sails for lands beyond all horizons, whose courage made paths into new worlds and far-off places;

The saviors whose blood was shed with

a recklessness that only a dream could inspire and God could command.

For all this I make an act of Thanksgiving this day.

I linger over the meaning of my own life and the commitment to which I give the loyalty of my heart and mind:

The little purposes in which I have shared with my loves, my desires, my gifts;

The restlessness which bottoms all I do with its stark insistence that I have never done my best, I have never reached for the highest;

The big hope that never quite deserts me, that I and my kind will study war no more, that love and tenderness and all the inner graces of Almighty affection will cover the life of the children of God as the waters cover the sea.

All these and more than mind can think and heart can feel,

I make as my sacrament of Thanksgiving to Thee, Our Father, in humbleness of mind and simplicity of heart.

So let us all be grateful for all the miracles in our lives and go forth with faith, courage and determination as our President-Elect did.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund and its Action Council whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information about the Children's Defense Fund, go to <http://www.childrensdefense.org/>.

The Obama Presidency - A New Multi-Racial America



Marc Morial
NNPA Columnist

To Be Equal

There may be a tendency among some in our communities and elsewhere to see the election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States as a magic bullet that will instantly solve all our problems.

Some commentators have even suggested that an Obama presidency ushers in a new "post-racial" era that lowers the ur-

gency and takes the spotlight off the need for equal opportunity and economic justice for urban and African Americans.

I strongly disagree. This may be a time for celebration, but it's no time for complacency. While it is true that for the first time in a long time, African-Americans and other minorities can feel like we have a real friend in the White House, we must also understand that President-elect Obama can only be effective if the same extraordinary coalition of white, Black, Hispanic, Asian-American, and Native American voters that elected him, now works together to support his agenda for change. In my view, the Obama presidency marks the beginning of a new "multi-racial" era in American governance that empowers and employs more of the growing diversity that is America's great strength in solving our common problems.

The thing that impressed me the most about the Obama campaign was its ability to bring so many heretofore disparate parts of America together in common pur-

pose. Candidate Obama liked to say that this election was not so much about him as it was about us. He stressed that change comes from the bottom up, not the other way around. That means that we as citizens and advocates must take an even more active role in governance at all levels.

Our voices must continue to be heard from City Hall to the halls of Congress to the White House. I am encouraged that the Obama transition team is putting a high degree of emphasis on building, as Bill Clinton did, an administration that "looks like America."

But looks are not enough.

We still have a lot of work to do. On the one hand we now have the ultimate successful role model in Barack Obama. On the other hand, we see that fewer than 50 percent of African Americans graduate from high schools in many major American cities. We see a financial crisis with huge numbers of African Americans losing their homes, jobs and life savings. We see an unemployment rate that's double

that of whites, and wide academic achievement gaps. Our prisons are disproportionately populated by African American males. Taken together, these facts underscore the reality that the first black president does not mean we can now all close up shop and go home.

People like you and organizations like the National Urban League are more important than ever to lifting up our communities and moving this country forward. In the coming weeks, I will talk about some of the most difficult challenges facing the emerging Obama Administration – from the needs of our children to the growing importance of minority businesses – and suggest ways we can work together to move our empowerment agenda forward.

In 10 weeks, we will have a new president who campaigned on the promise of change. It is now up to us to help him keep that promise.

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

Year-End Tax Tips



Michael Shinn
NNPA Columnist

Your Money Matters

There are just a few weeks left before the end of 2008, but there are still some opportunities to successfully manage your tax burden.

"To manage your taxes, you have to be on top of it. You have to have a good estimate of your income and tax deductible expenses. Don't wait until April 15th, because it's too late to do anything about it then," states Kevin Penn, a CPA and tax preparer in Cleveland, Ohio.

The general rule of deferring income and accelerating deductions at year-end is still good tax planning strategy. If you used a tax advisor in the past, you should meet with your advisor to assess your tax situation and discuss how the following tips apply to you:

Tip 1- Determine where you are?

Start by taking out last year's tax returns, your most recent pay stubs and your investment account statements. Make a copy of

your Form 1040 and pencil in estimates of your 2008 income. Use your investment account statements to estimate your interest and dividend income and also whether you have capital gains or losses.

If you have a business, estimate your business income for 2008. If you have rental property, estimate your full year income and expenses.

Estimate your itemized deductions for 2008. These include: allowable medical expenses, all state and local taxes, allowable interest, charitable contributions, allowable losses and miscellaneous deductions. Pencil in your total deductions on your Form 1040 and subtract it from your adjusted gross income to determine your Taxable Income.

Use the tax tables to determine your estimated tax. Subtract any applicable credits from your total tax. Using your pay stubs, estimate your withholding for the year and add quarterly tax payments. Subtract your payments from the total tax to determine the amount of your overpayment or tax due.

Tip 2- Accelerate Deductions

Allowable deductions reduce your taxable income and your tax bill. The following is a sample list of actions that you can take before year-end to help reduce your tax burden:

-Pay state and local estimated income taxes before the end of the year.

-Pay property taxes before year-end.

-Pay your January, 2008 mortgage payment in December-The interest will be de-

ductible this year.

-Be charitable- Make contributions to your favorite charities. Additionally non-cash contributions such as clothing, household goods and appreciated securities can be deducted at their fair market value.

Tip 3- Harvest Your Losses

Analyze your investment portfolio with the objective of balancing out capital gains and losses. If you have stocks that have "paper" losses, try to sell enough losers to offset your realized capital gains for the year. Additionally, you can deduct an additional \$3,000 (\$1,500 for married filing separately) of losses from your regular income. Two words of caution: Be careful to avoid a "wash sale" that is re-buying the same security within 30 days before or after you sold shares. Additionally, losers that you dump have to be securities that you are comfortable selling at this time.

Tip 4 - Defer Income

The basic intent of deferring income is to lower your taxable income for the current year. This is limited for most wage earners, however there are some opportunities. Deferring a year-end bonus to January 2009 will escape taxation in 2008. Investment property, such as real estate, which is being sold near the end of the year, could have the closing delayed until early 2009.

Tip 5- Get Ready

First, setup a tax filing system for all of you tax related receipts and statements. Keep a copy of your tax returns forever. If

you anticipate receiving a large refund because of over withholding, consider filing a new W-4 to reduce your payroll withholding. Plan ahead for your 2009 IRA, 401K, and similar retirement account contributions. If you have a medical or child-care flexible spending account, make sure you use the full balance this year and plan ahead for next year.

Watch out for the AMT

You might be subject to the alternative minimum tax, (AMT) if your income is above \$75,000, had significant write-offs, exercised incentive stock options or had significant capital gains.

When it applies, the AMT is an "add-on" tax that is over and above your "regular" tax. To determine your AMT exposure, get the most recent version of Form 6251 and make the calculations.

The information provided here is a basic guideline to get you started. It is recommended that you consult a qualified tax professional to assess your personal situation.

Michael G. Shinn, CFP, Registered Representative and Advisory Associate of and securities offered through Financial Network Investment Corporation, member SIPC. Visit www.shinnfinancial.com for more information or to send your comments or questions to shinnm@financialnetwork.com. © Michael G. Shinn 2008. Neither Michael Shinn nor Financial Network provides tax advice. Please consult a tax professional before implementing any strategy.

An Olive Branch for Jesse Jackson



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

When the 2008 contest for the Democratic nomination for President got heated, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton threw all kinds of wild accusations at President-elect Barack Obama.

He wasn't fit, he wasn't ready, and she didn't know whether he was a Muslim or not. Time heals all wounds, and now Sen. Clinton is poised to be Secretary of State. The fact that she campaigned enthusiastically for Obama didn't hurt her chances to

be the third most powerful person in government, and the appointment suggests that Obama is serious when he says he wants to surround himself with the best and brightest minds in our nation.

Sen. Joe Lieberman campaigned against Obama, so enthusiastically supporting fellow senator John McCain that he hoped to get the vice-presidential nod that Sarah Palin ended up with. Elected as an independent, he has been allowed to maintain his seniority as a Democrat, and even a committee chair, despite his acts of disloyalty to the Democratic Party.

President-elect Obama could signal that he wants Lieberman punished by stripping him of his committee chair, but he has not done so. Disloyal Lieberman has had to pay no consequences at all for his behavior.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Jesse Jackson made some ugly comments when he was off-mike at Fox News back in July. He was roundly, and justifiably, criticized for his remarks by an array of people, including his son, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr.

From all outward appearance, Rev. Jackson seems to be persona non grata to the

Obama team. So while Clinton, Lieberman, and even McCain have been forgiven for their campaign behavior, there appears to be no forgiveness for Jackson.

The elder statesman continues to lead Rainbow/PUSH and continues to make a difference on issues of social and economic justice. He has not let the cold shoulder from the Obama team slow or stop him, but it is clear that he would welcome the opportunity to spend a few minutes with President-elect Obama. And why not? Jackson has rubbed elbows with Wall Street giants through his annual Wall Street Project conference, and understands some of the fundamentals behind this current economic meltdown.

Further, his reach is broad - from Wall Street to Main Street to the 'hood. The President-elect could benefit from Rev. Jackson's insight, just as he has benefited from the insights of Senator John McCain.

During the campaign, it is understandable that Obama would not meet with Jackson for fear of being considered "too black" or "too left". After all, the Jackson wing of the Democratic Party is unapologetically

left of center. Now, the campaign is over, Obama has been elected, and he has said he will be the president of all of America.

He has reassured the right wing by meeting with John McCain. Why not reassure the black left by meeting with Rev. Jesse Jackson?

The Black left was in full force at the State of the Black World Conference in New Orleans this weekend. But for a family emergency, Rev. Jackson would have been there. Rev. Al Sharpton was also scheduled to speak. Minister Louis Farrakhan was on the program for Sunday.

Organized by Dr. Ron Daniels, the gathering drew the Urban League's Mark Morial and the Congressional Black Caucus's Dr. Elsie Scott, the University of Maryland's Dr. Ron Walters, among others. I participated in the opening town hall meeting led by talk radio hosts Bev Smith and Mark Thompson.

While Revs. Jackson and Sharpton were missed, there was rich conversation about

See Jesse Jackson Continued on Page 14

Golden Moment for Black-owned Insurance Company

Gordon Jackson

DALLAS (NNPA) - A resurrection of the Black entrepreneurship spirit has taken place where once stood Dallas' only Black bank. It was revived by a long-standing insurance company that has weathered the time for over eight decades - Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company.

The festive grand opening took place last month as the company moved into the Oak Cliff-area. Golden State, formally occupied by Sunbelt Bank over twenty years ago, purchased the building from its previous owners, the State Bank of Texas and completed major renovations before moving in from their previous office at Hampton Road and State Highway 67.

"Golden State Mutual will be a positive influence in the community," Golden State Mutual account executive Sharon Tucker said during the grand opening ceremonies. "Community groups will be allowed to meet in our conference rooms and staff openings

will provide jobs in the area."

Both current and retired employees, national executives and elected officials also observed the 64th birthday of the existence of the Dallas office.

The parent company was founded in 1925 in a one-room office in Los Angeles. The company endured the Great Depression and several recessions, growing to offices in 14 states with over \$4 billion in policies, making it the third largest Black-owned insurance company in the country.

"GSM has a very positive and successful past and the future looks very good," said Robert Price, a former Dallas ISD school board member who was involved at Golden State for 53 years as a policy owner, agent, staff manager, trainer and district manager, before retiring.

"I believe that the salvation of the Black community is owning its own businesses. That's how wealth in this country is passed down," said State Representative and small business owner Helen Giddings.

Black owned insurance companies, along with Black banks, once represented a strong staple of the African American community, being the only sources of financial services for Blacks during segregation.

"When they paid claims, in many instances, that was the only source of funds available to families of deceased insurers," said Larkin Teasley, Golden State's President and CEO. "Consequently we know that we have been providing a very valuable service in the Dallas community and other places as well."

"You started providing services to the African American community when it was certainly very much underserved as it relates to insurance and financial products," Giddings said about Golden State Mutual.

Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson was a co-owner of Sunbelt Bank when it opened in 1983, only to close four years later due to financial difficulties, mostly caused by the banking and sav-

ings and loan crisis that swept the country then.

"We were caught in the times just as smaller banks will be this time," Johnson said.

The State Bank of Texas took over the building afterwards. They eventually grew to four branches throughout the city with the original facility ironically becoming the least productive. Businessman Robert Pitre, a bank customer and Golden State Mutual policyholder, saw an opportunity to make a business connection and persuaded State Bank of Texas owner Chan Patel to sell the building to GSM.

"Since we knew we were going to be in Dallas permanently, there's no reason why we shouldn't buy our own office," Teasley said. "We have survived countless numbers of recessions. As a result, we have become an institution as well as a successful business in all of the communities in which we do business."

The building is at an ideal location, said Price.

"The company is in the locale of

its clientele and near the southern suburbs, where there are large populations of successful African Americans," he said.

Retiree Casey Thomas, Sr., who worked 20 years at Golden State, hopes that its presence will help motivate more African Americans to conduct business with companies that give reciprocity to the community and maintain control of its own buying power.

"We're not looking at our own institutions that we can provide ourselves with our own economics because that's our money," Thomas said. "We're letting other institutions have uses of our money and they don't have to do a thing for us while we're living. We do business with banks that build buildings on top of business and we can't even go over to them and ask for a loan."

Pitre stated: "We need to make every Black family know about Golden State Mutual and make it a household name."

Julian Bond to Step Down from NAACP Chair

Sean Yoes

BALTIMORE (NNPA) - Long-time civil rights icon Julian Bond has announced he will step down as national board chairman of the NAACP. He will serve out his final term through February 2009 and not seek reelection.

"This is the time for renewal. We have dynamic new leadership," Bond said in a statement. "The country has a new President in Barack Obama; the organization has a new CEO in Benjamin Jealous, and we'll soon have a new Chairman of the NAACP Board. The NAACP and the country are in good hands."

The NAACP said that Bond informed board members in a letter that, although he would not run for reelection as chairman of the national board, he will remain on the board and run for reelection to the board when his three-year term ends.

"It has always been my plan to serve until the Centennial which will be underway in February when my term ends," said Bond, referring to the centennial celebration of the birth of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization.

"I'm not resigning. I'm just not running for reelection."

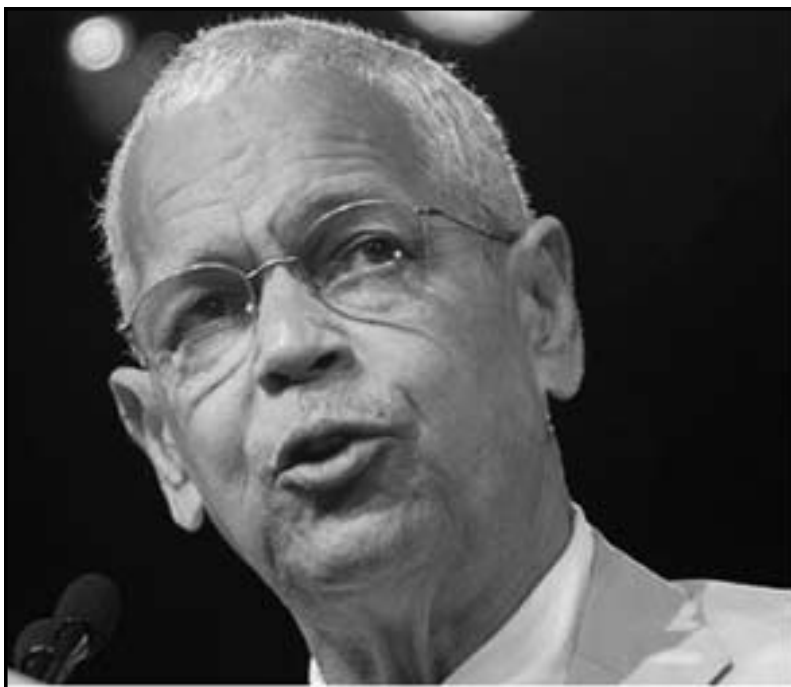
Bond was elected chairman of the board of the NAACP in 1998. But he began his career in the Civil Rights Movement when, as student at then Morehouse College in 1960, he was a founding member of the Student

Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). From 1960 to 1963, Bond led student protests against segregated public facilities in Georgia.

In 1965, Bond was one of eight Blacks elected to the Georgia House of Representatives. However, Georgia state representatives voted 184-12 not to seat him because of his support of SNCC's opposition to the Vietnam War.

But in 1966, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the Georgia House denied Bond his right to free speech and they were forced to seat him. He went on to serve four terms in the Georgia House from 1965 to 1975 and six terms in the Georgia Senate from 1975-1986.

Bond, 68, said it was time for him to step



Outgoing NAACP Chair Julian Bond

back from the rigors of being the organization's chairman.

"Being Chairman has been a wonderful honor however; it has been more time demanding than anything I've ever done," Bond said. "I'm ready to let a new generation of leaders lead."

Jesse Jackson, continued from previous page.

the state of the civil rights movement, and the responsiveness that President-elect Obama will have to the African-American community.

While the President-elect is meeting with this group and that, hearing from this or that leader, it is important for him to maintain an open door to the civil rights community.

And it is important for him to be open to meeting with, among others, Rev. Jesse Jackson. Such a meeting would signal respect, magnanimity, and the open spirit that has welcomed Clinton and Lieberman to the Obama team. While the success of the Obama administration does not depend on a meeting with Rev. Jackson, it sends an important signal to a sector of our nation that supported this President-elect. Why not reach out to Rev. Jackson and, by extension, to the Black left?

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is president of Bennett College for Women.

New Orleans
DATA
News Weekly

Obamas Reinforce a Sense of Family Among Blacks

Zenitha Prince

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - For the past two years we've peeked into their lives—the infamous fist bump and the president-elect's solicitous hand on the small of his wife's back; Sasha's mischievous smile and Malia kissing her father goodbye as he dropped them off at school; and even Michelle's mom, Marian Robinson, clutching her son-in-law's hand while watching the poll returns on Election Night.

Those glimpses into the inner workings of the future First Family have enchanted many and, among African Americans, have engendered a sense of inspiration and pride.

"It's a beautiful thing to behold," Princeton professor and Black intellectual Cornel West told the AFRO. "To have the image of the First Family, a Black family, in the White House—a White House built by slaves and laborers—but now a Black precious family there...And you can see that their family love is real; it's very, very real," West continued. "It's not an artificial kind of thing."

President-elect Barack Obama and his family represent the sort of Black family model that some have not seen beyond the fictional Cosby TV family that was a rare phenomenon in itself.

"People call in [to my radio show] and they say once they see the Obamas, they want what they have," said Alduan Tartt, a psychologist and family/relationship expert from Decatur, Ga.

And it begins with the romantic relationship between president-elect and his leading lady, who can often be seen leaning into each other, holding hands or poking fun at each other as they did in their interview on "60 Minutes," which aired Sunday. "There is great passion there but also friendship. It's definitely a relationship of equals," said relationship guru, LaDawn Black, of Baltimore.

And the bond is genuine, Tartt added.

"It's hard to fake intimacy," the psychologist said, adding that the Obamas give credence to the idea that "Black healthy love is real."

"A generation of us didn't believe it existed," he said, and that's because typically, the images of Black families and relationships are negative. "We don't see happy

couples [or] nuclear families," Tartt said. "We see the normalization of men not being monogamous or divorce. And, the images of Black women are [that they are] overly dominant, hostile or they're yelling at their man."

But those portrayals of dysfunction are but a "small story" in the Black community, contends Black.

Now, because of the Obamas, "all the African Americans out there who are doing OK, they have a face now," she said.

Still, the Obama household—two married, working parents with kids and the yet-to-be-inducted family dog—is not the typical Black family, said sociologist Maurice St. Pierre, chairman of the Sociology and Anthropology Department at Morgan State University.

"Forty percent of African-American families are headed by a female and the African-American male has a relatively weak structural position" due to disproportionately high rates of unemployment and incarceration, St. Pierre said.

That systematic breakdown of Black nuclear families, which began during slavery, also has been promoted by government practices.

"We've gone through tremendous efforts to destroy Black families," said Stephanie Myers, co-chair of Black Women for Obama, who emphasized that her comments were in no way a denigration of single-parent families. "There have been government policies (such as welfare relief programs that were denied mothers if their husbands were in the home) that made it difficult to keep Black families together."

The absence of fathers—something Obama himself suffered after his father abandoned the family when he was 3—has led to a generation of "boys don't know how to be men and how to be good fathers because there are no male models present," St. Pierre said.

But now Obama can be that model of responsible and engaged fatherhood, Tartt added. "Obama represents a renaissance of the Black man," he said. "Seeing Obama with his children will awaken the spirit of Black men to what they should be doing with their own children."

Throughout his stint on Capi-

tol Hill and on the campaign trail, the president-elect called Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, every night and never missed a PTA meeting. He also made reading their special time and that will likely continue, family friend Ann Walker Marchant told The Los Angeles Times.

"Books are a huge bonding between him and his daughters," Marchant said.

And they are father-daughter bonds that remain strong, largely in part, to the role Michelle Obama plays in holding the family together.

Mrs. Obama, who juggled a career through most of her motherhood—the Harvard grad was a hospital executive until her husband ran for president—has said she plans to eschew any position at her husband's decision-making table to focus on being a mother.

"Michelle's decision to be chief mom and chief wife is brilliant," said Myers. "To see [her], a professional woman, provide 100 percent support to her children

and husband and keep her home intact is a statement that it's possible to rebuild Black families."

Throughout the campaign, she has signaled her intent to make the girls' lives as normal as possible—including going to school; making their beds, setting their alarms and other chores; pouring their own milk and cereal and, also, having fun.

"We want to make sure that we're upholding what that house stands for. But, I couldn't help but envisioning the girls running into their rooms, running down the halls...and with a dog," Michelle Obama said on "60 Minutes" of their new life.

Right now, the girls aren't "self-conscious" nor do they "have an attitude," Obama said, and maintaining that sense of normalcy is one of his "greatest worries."

"If at the end of four years, just from a personal standpoint, we can say they are who they are; they remained the great joys that they are; and this hasn't created

a whole bunch of problems for them, then I think we're going to feel pretty good," he told CBS' Steve Kroft.

The Obamas will receive assistance, not from a cadre of paid nannies, but from Mrs. Robinson, 71, who could very well join the White House as the "First Granny".

"Marian Robinson is one of the unsung heroes of this campaign. We couldn't have done it without her," said Obama of his mother-in-law, who retired from her job as a bank secretary to look after the girls when their parents were away on the campaign trail.

That extended family model is one that is prevalent within the Black community, sociologists and others said.

Even with the additional help, life at the White House for the Obama family will be tough. But there's a bright side, Michelle Obama said—her husband will work from home now.

Congressman Jefferson Keeps Delivering for US... While Others Can Only Promise...



He Delivered Federal Help on Our Most Important Recovery Issues assuring billions in aid for...

- ✓ Restoration of our criminal justice system
- ✓ Hurricane/flood protection
- ✓ Rebuilding housing
- ✓ Healthcare - VA/Charity
- ✓ Small business recovery
- ✓ Restoration of our schools

RE-ELECT
CONGRESSMAN **William Jefferson**
VOTE #13 Saturday, December 6, 2008

Still Leading...Still Fighting...Still Winning...for US



STROKE TARGETS BY COLOR.



POWER TO END STROKE
You are the Power

Photographed by Sean Kennedy Santos

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

