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The Rhodes Family A Story of Resilience



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1899-1988



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Loss of Edward
Hampton



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The Rhodes Family: A Story of Resilience

by Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief



It is a family with roots that are firmly planted in the city of New Orleans. In 1884 Duplain W. Rhodes Sr. left his native Thibodaux, La. to chase his dream. He started a small business called Rhodes Undertaking, with a commitment to excellence, and through hard work and perseverance his business thrived. Today it is the same spirit of resilience that has grown the business to include life insurance, funeral homes, transportation and real estate.

It is an exciting time for the Rhodes family as

they celebrate their 125th Anniversary of being in business with their grand re-opening of their premiere location on Washington Avenue. "This is not just a one time event, we will be celebrating with our customers, friends and public from the months of July through December," says Stephanie Rhodes Navarre, part of the third generation of the Rhodes family that presently run the business. Continuing she says, "We want people to know that we are back 100 percent and we are here to service the entire New Orleans community, one

that is multi-racial, and we are committed to being around for another 125 years."

Hurricane Katrina ravaged the city leaving many homes and businesses damaged, a calamity that affected the Rhodes family as it did many New Orleanians. Family members lost their homes and the Rhodes Family of Businesses lost property and assets. However, these setbacks did not deter them in their quest to continue the Rhodes tradition to provide needed services to the citizens of New Orleans. "Although we had some problems

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

where our buildings in New Orleans were damaged, and three of us lost our homes, we never considered not coming back because we never closed," says Kathleen Rhodes Astarga. "Katrina wiped out a lot but not our commitment to this city as it rebuilds."

As the family prepares for the celebration, Duplain 'Pete' Rhodes III, who is the youngest sibling and runs the transportation wing of the business, says of the celebration, "It is a milestone. It has been a challenge, but we are excited about re-opening our Washington Avenue location."

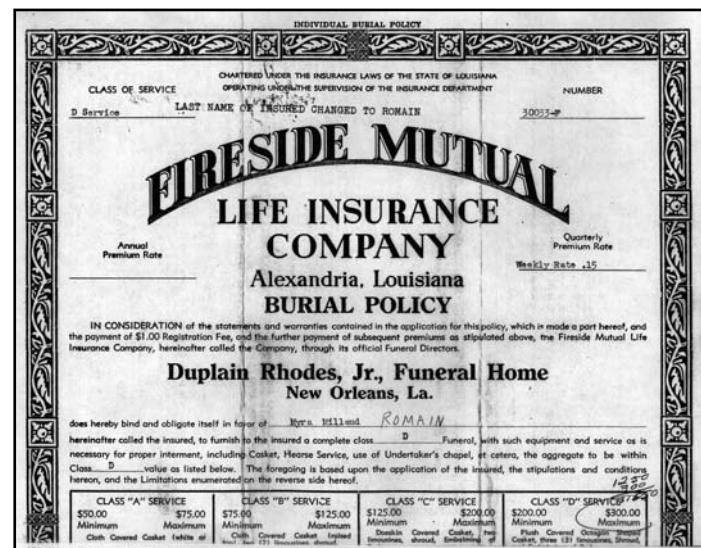
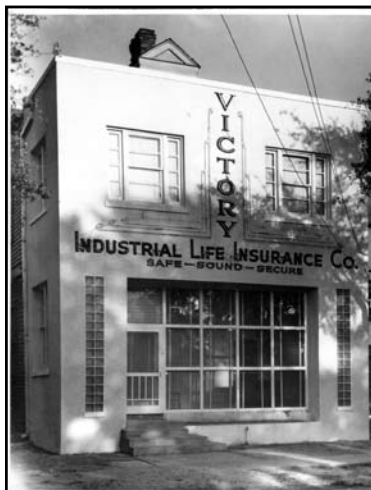
The building holds a special significance, as it was once the Tivoli Theater, which was built in 1927 and designed by Emile Weil, a Louisiana architect who specialized in historic revival styles of the early 20th century. It functioned as a theater for several decades before the Rhodes family acquired the building in 1969 and restored it the following year. Duplyn 'Joan' Rhodes, who is in charge of the insurance company says of the dedication of the building, "It is rich in history. It was built by the Saenger Company that operated theaters across the south. Sometimes we get older people who tell us stories about when it was a theater and we are glad to restore it so it will be a state of the art multipurpose facility."

Rhodes is not just a family of businesses, they are committed to the spirit of benevolence. After losing much of their business in New Orleans their Baton Rouge location became not just a place that saw an upsurge of business activity, it also became a temporary shelter for more than 100 people during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. "For us our Baton Rouge location was a God send," says Duplain 'Pete' Rhodes. "We had this location for nearly 40 years, and during that time it had become a valuable asset to help our business and help people while they were in need."

Their spirit of giving does not end there. "We have given our time to sitting on boards and donating our time and resources to the New Orleans Public Library, Jazz and Heritage Festival, Satchmo Summer Fest, Daughters of Charity, Young Men of Illinois and Girl Scouts just to name a few," says Stephanie Rhodes Navarre.

Family and familiarity is an important part of being a New Orleanian. This was the case before Hurricane Katrina, and now even more afterwards, as residents try to put back the pieces of their lives. In this definition of family it doesn't simply mean blood relatives, it means a lot more for people in the Crescent City. It is a people connected by geography, culture, landmarks, and businesses that are familiar and the Rhodes Family of Businesses are part of that legacy. "Our story mirrors a lot of what is going on in the city, and that is one of the continuation of small businesses and of perseverance," says Sandra Rhodes-Duncan.

The Rhodes Family of Businesses has been a part of the city of New Orleans for over 125 years. Today, it is a celebration and commemoration of their rebirth and renewal of their commitment to the city's renaissance. Rhodes-Navarre says, "Although we are celebrating the re-opening of our building on Washington Avenue and our 125th anniversary, we want people to recognize that we are a business based in Louisiana, and we can service people from around the globe and that is our goal moving forward."



Gates Arrest Was Not First Racial Embarrassment for Cambridge Police

Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

The recent outrage in response to the Cambridge Police Department's arrest of prominent Harvard Professor Henry Louis "Skip" Gates was not the first time that the Cambridge Police Department was nationally embarrassed amidst a racial incident.

Ten years ago, the Cambridge Police commissioner and mayor issued a public apology after a story by this reporter exposed racially offensive teachings and language by Cambridge police officers during an interview about the use of pepper spray.

Though a decade has passed, last week's incident in which Gates was arrested for disorderly conduct in his own home was a stark reminder of the ugliness of racial stereotyping and profiling in Cambridge and across the country. It also reminded America of the longevity of friction between police and people of color.

"It's a national problem and we haven't been able to really control it in a rational way," says Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree in an NNPA interview. Ogletree, the lawyer for Gates, says he is glad the incident has sparked a national discussion that began in Cambridge but could have far-reaching and long-term ramifications.

Gates was arrested on his front porch by Sgt. James Crowley even after he showed his Harvard I.D. and driver's license to the officer who was investigating what a neighbor apparently thought was a burglary. It was actually Gates and his driver trying to get into his front door, which was

stuck. The charges were dropped against Gates, who became irate during the heated confrontation. He was handcuffed, arrested and held for four hours.

The incident brought back memories.

A headline on the website of this week's Cambridge Chronicle reminds, "Not the first time Cambridge Police Department faced with race allegations."

It was early August 1999. A group of White Cambridge police officers – including a use of force trainer – sat around a desk inside the police department talking to this reporter.

They were confident and boisterous in the taped interview as they told how their police academy trained their officers that Mexicans and other people who may have grown up eating or working with a lot of cayenne peppers were immune to the affects of pepper spray.

"The people that it doesn't affect are people who have consumed cayenne peppers from the time they are small children, and this generally breaks into ethnic categories," Officer Frank Gutoski, a trainer in the academy, told this reporter, who at that time was working a summer job for the Cambridge Chronicle.

"Every year, I teach this," Gutoski was quoted in the Aug. 19, 1999 story headlined, "Pepper Spray Theory Stings Some Minorities."

He named Mexican-Americans, Pakistani Indian and Cajuns as examples of people who are more likely tolerant to the chemical-like spray that causes intense burning in the eyes and face and closing of



Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr.

air passages. Two other officers in the room excitedly agreed during the openly taped interview.

Emergency room doctors gasped at the police theory: "This is absolutely not true," said Dr. Michael Burns, emergency medicine attending physician and medical toxicologist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. "Most police have no medical background and there is absolutely no scientific evidence whatsoever to support this."

The story was picked up by news mediums around the country, including the Boston Globe, which reported that "Many doctors and law enforcement specialists say it sounds crazy."

Amidst community outrage and embarrassment, Cambridge police and city leaders immediately issued a public apology for the racially offensive and medically unfounded statements.

"It is unfortunate that these comments were made," said then Cambridge Police Commissioner

Ronnie Watson. "There is no empirical or scientific evidence to support these statements."

Then Mayor Francis H. Duehay said, "It is inconceivable in this day and age that the training program for police officers in Cambridge would contain information which has no scientific basis and slanders the Latino community ... I apologize for the misinformation about pepper spray which has been communicated and for the ethnic slur it contains."

In the Gates incident, there were no such apologies forthcoming. Police stood firmly behind Crowley who insisted he was correct in his actions despite public outrage.

The Chronicle recounted the 1999 incident after even President Obama weighed in on the Gates arrest. In a nationally televised press conference July 22, Obama said the police department "acted stupidly" in the arrest. But, he later softened the criticism, saying he did not mean to disparage Sgt. Crowley or the department and invited the officer and Gates to the White House for a beer this week.

Ogletree, executive director of Harvard's Charles Hamilton Institute for Race and Justice, hopes the conversations will go much further than just beers at the White House. Civil rights advocates have long fought to end racial profiling. He says this incident could rejuvenate that cause.

A 1994 book that he helped produce with the national NAACP examined what happened with

the video-taped 1993 Rodney King beatings and what could be learned.

The book, "Beyond the Rodney King Story: An Investigation of Police Conduct in Minority Communities," laid out a series of investigations that had recommendations.

They included the need for community policing, culturally sensitive policing, more diversity in police forces around the country and the need to make sure there was continuous police training on meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse community.

"Those recommendations in 1994 are eerily necessary in 2009 as a result of the incident that sparked the debate on July 16," he said.

Currently, Ogletree says plans are underway to bring together diverse segments of the Cambridge community to discuss issues that led to the blow up and how to avoid them in the future.

But that's just one city. "The national effort will take much longer," he said. But there is hope as he is getting emails and texts from people of every race, gender and class "who are accounting their own experiences and wanting profiling to end," he said.

"The fact that people are willing to talk about it, willing to meet about it, to move from their strongly held views to some alternative possibilities is a real strength. And that makes me exceedingly optimistic that we will be able to resolve this in an important way."

St. Augustine High School and New Orleans Community Mourns Death of Edwin H. Hampton

St. Augustine students, alumni, and band members all mourned the death of the Marching 100's founding band director Edwin H. Hampton last week who died at his home on Tuesday, July 21, 2009.

Hampton, a native of Jacksonville, Texas, is noted for making the St. Augustine Marching 100 Band one of the premier and most recognized high school bands in

the country.

Hampton began working at St. Augustine in 1952. Under his direction, the band integrated Mardi Gras in 1967 when it first marched in the Rex Parade. The band has also performed for eight U.S. Presidents and Pope John Paul II. The Marching 100 has also been featured in the Tournament of Roses Parade, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade,

several Sugar Bowls and Sugar Bowls, and on Monday Night Football. These notable achievements are only a few in the long list of performances, awards, and appearances that Hampton's hard work with the Marching 100 has produced. Hampton retired from St. Augustine after Hurricane Katrina, but still worked with the band as much as he could.

Edwin H. Hampton was preceded

in death by his devoted and loving wife, Rosalind Davis Hampton of Baltimore, Maryland. He was also preceded by his parents, Joseph and Lela Barnett Hampton, and siblings, Belton, Bob Allen, Lometta and Thelma Hampton, and Treva Hill.

He is survived by one daughter, Tamara Hingle; son-in-law, Anthony Hingle, Jr.; four grandchildren, Yakitha, Mikell, Malcolm and

Anthony; one nephew, Donnie Hill (Vernice) of Houston, Texas. Special Friend of Rita Whitehead and lifelong friends, Lucien Peters, Alvin Lewis, Carl Blouin, Sr., Ray Johnson, Sr., Wellington McKissick, Wilford Bocage, Mike Trahan, Mike Reynolds, Henry Joseph, and the late Lawrence T. Winchester. He is also survived by a host of other relatives and special friends.

LSU Offers Children's Health Checklist as School Year Approaches

School begins in just a few short weeks, and one big requirement before the first day for children are their annual check ups and immunizations. LSU Health Clinics has put together a back-to-school check list to assist parents with vital information to make this process easy during the last minute school rush.

Immunizations

New vaccination requirements for Louisiana students mean that 4- and 11-year-olds must have shots before school starts.

Two doses of Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine for children age 4 and older and the meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine for 11-year-olds are now required.

Although both vaccines have been recommended for several years, students who do not have these vaccines or are not in the process of a vaccine series will

not be admitted when classes begin this month.

State law already requires standard immunizations for diseases like hepatitis B, polio, measles, mumps and rubella for all children depending on their age.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) web sit also fully explains childhood vaccinations, advising you what is needed at what age.

Vision Tests

Poor vision can lead to poor school performance. And experts recommend having your pediatrician determine if your child needs a screening from an optometrist. In addition, parents should ask their child's school about whether the school plans vision testing in the first few months of the school year.

The prospect of wearing glasses can be challenging for kids.

Younger children often misplace them or mishandle them. And older children might be reluctant to wear anything that affects their appearance and self image.

But experts say if you can eliminate the stigma by finding affordable and stylish frames or by considering contact lenses.

Traditionally, younger children were considered to irresponsible to put contacts in, take them out, clean, and disinfect their lenses without their parents help.

But a 2004 concluded that kids from age 8 to 11 years were able to independently care for contact lenses and wear them successfully.' The researchers did suggest that these younger children be prescribed daily disposable contact lenses so that they didn't have to clean and disinfect their lenses each day.

Hearing Tests

Hearing is a critical part of kids' social, emotional, and cognitive development. Even a mild or partial hearing loss can affect a child's ability to speak and understand language.

If you're child is experiencing problems with communicating, ask your pediatrician to recommend an audiologist.

Although most hearing problems are detected after birth or within the first few months, it is

possible for kids to lose hearing because of infections, trauma, and damaging noise levels. So regular screenings are necessary.

Sports Physicals

Most schools require that kids have a sports physical before they participate or even start a new season. The same sort of requirement often applies to non-sports

Health, Continued on next page 11.



ATTENTION:

An important announcement from the
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

This information is critical for families who are participating in the rental assistance for **Hurricanes Katrina/Rita**.

The **Transitional Closeout Program** ends **August 31st**, with the last rent payment on **August 1st**.

If you believe paying your full rent will be a hardship when the program ends, **you may be eligible for HUD rental assistance (Section 8)**.

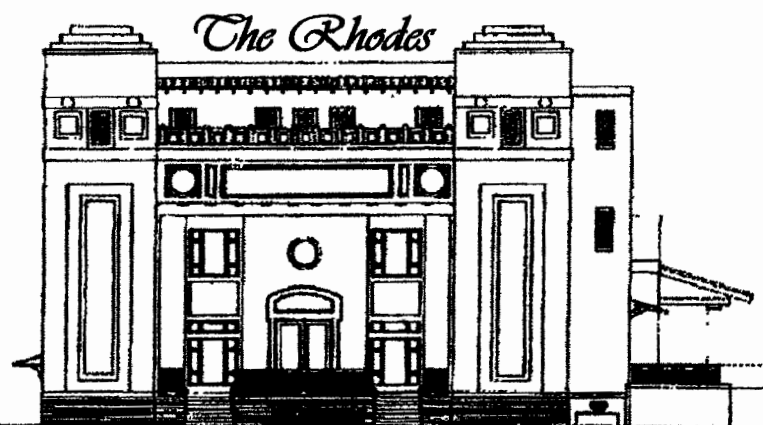
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4:00 P.M.

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Gov. Bobby Jindal Cuts the Music

Trimming Louisiana Schools



Dionne Character, Author
Data News Weekly Contributor

Shocked and almost needing to be resuscitated with some of that green smelling salt my grandmother carried in her purse every Sunday to church, I was a bit overwhelmed by the spirit of confusion after hearing of Gov. Bobby Jindal's budget cuts to NOCCA, a school specializing in dance, media arts, theatre arts, visual arts and creative writing.

While I didn't attend NOCCA, I can surely reflect on the day I picked up my uncle's trumpet at the age of 12, which led to my becoming drum major at Alfred Lawless High School and all the happy times I had walking home with Kermit Ruffin and others who enjoyed

the thrill of playing music. A member of the marching and concert band at John F. Kennedy, I later received a music scholarship to Grambling State University after mastering flute, trumpet, melophone, altonium, and french horn.

Every morning, I knew I had to be in the band room at least by 6:45 a.m., ready to march or play by 7 a.m. I had the opportunity to play with members of the New Orleans Symphony on Saturday mornings and even held a few section rehearsals at my home in preparation for sight-reading competitions.

I recall the feeling of being part of an organization that embodied leadership, professionalism, unity, and the commonness for the love of music, which gave me a different outlook on life. A life which seemed to keep me and my friends away from trouble and more focused on using our musical talents to escape the realities of the cold world.

The only reason I am able to write books, sing, act, teach creative writing, report to work on time and have the opportunity to travel the world as an artist, is because of music.

I give much credit to the structure of my life to band directors Herman Jones and Walter Harris, who passed the torch, gave their souls, time and efforts everyday to make a difference in



Gov. Bobby Jindal

the lives of many musicians we see and hear around the city.

It is indeed time for us to do something, say something, scream and holler like we do for those "Saints" because without music there will be continuous crime, bastards taking lives, bullies on buses, murder, teenage pregnancy, and more politicians who think paved streets are more important than "paving the streets through the success of music," robbing future generations with cutbacks and trimmings, which seem to land in pockets and freezers on the 6 o'clock news.

The City of New Orleans is MUSIC!

It is known for producing talented individuals like Wynton Marsalis, Harry Connick, Jr., Terence Blanchard, Trombone Shorty and Wendall Pierce, all who attended NOCCA, along with a host of others who made it through the New Orleans Public School System.

This budget cut is the beginning to the ending of all those kids who will never see the world through the eyes of music and the arts. This budget cut is discrimination at its best to take away the freedom of creativity. This budget cut is a social death stopping by many cities across the nation. This budget cut is a reason for parents to stand and say something. This budget cut is proof that musicians have to save the music.

This budget cut is a sign that little black kids are no longer needed unless they are tap-dancing in the French Quarter on cardboard boxes begging for quarters. This budget cut saddens my heart and is enough for me to take a ride to Baton Rouge because clearly there is no piped-music playing through the hallways of our State Capitol, no music playing in Gov. Jindal's car and certainly not a creative bone in Congress to realize "Music Is Life".

Dionne Character can be reached at www.dionnecharacter.com.

New Book on Michael Jackson Worth Reading

Terri Schlichenmeyer

"In the Studio with Michael Jackson"
by Bruce Swedien, forewords by Quincy Jones and Rod Temperton
c.2008, 2009, Hal Leonard Corp.
\$24.99 / \$29.95 Canada
272 pages

You know it by the first five notes.

Within three seconds of hearing that beat, you know you're listening to "Billy Jean" or "Thriller". There's no doubt "Off the Wall" has started or "Beat It" will make you want to dance.

And there's no doubt that Michael Jackson had talent. But while he sang those songs and made up those moves, he didn't do those million-selling albums by himself. In the new book "In the Studio with Michael Jackson" by Bruce Swedien, you'll find out how those blockbusters happened and who was involved.

Studio engineer Bruce Swedien met Quincy Jones in 1959 and he con-



sidered Jones as a brother. So when Q called Swedien one Sunday in 1977 and asked if he'd like to go to New York to work on a musical, Swedien jumped at the

chance.

It turned out to be a career-altering decision.

The movie Jones was working on was The Wiz, starring Michael Jackson, Diana Ross, and others. Swedien's work there began a long-time friendship and eventual partnership with Michael Jackson, whose music Swedien recorded and enhanced.

Swedien recalls, for instance, working on "Off the Wall", which he believes was Michael Jackson's first grown-up album.

"Michael is always totally prepared!" enthuses Swedien. (Note:

because this book was penned before Jackson's death, everything is written in the present tense).

Swedien answers fans' questions (the sob at the end of "She's Out of My Life" was an accident-on-purpose) and he gives insights (Jackson always said "please" and "thank you"). Swedien also writes about the technical aspects of recording with Michael Jackson, including his brainstorm of putting microphones around a wooden platform on which Jackson would dance, thus recording taps, snaps, and sounds that made every Michael Jackson song so memorable.

Let me start out by saying that, despite the scattershot way in which this book is presented, I liked it.

I liked it a lot. But I had issues with it, too.

First of all, despite the title of this book, much of it is about author Bruce Swedien: his methods, praise from pals, kudos from people who learned from him, his studio equip-

ment, his discographies, and so on. This is all quite interesting (particularly if you're a sound engineer), but it doesn't totally match the title and it's probably not what readers will be looking for when buying this book.

Secondly, while the first half of "In the Studio with Michael Jackson" has some wonderful stories and delightful little memories of working with The King of Pop, the latter half of this book is often identical (sometimes word-for-word) to the first half.

Lastly, while Swedien's writing is sweet in a star-struck-fan sort of way, I found the! overabundance! of exclamation points! to be!! extremely! distracting!!

And now that I've ranted, let me say this: if you're devouring every smidgen of Michael Jackson information you can find, you must get "In the Studio with Michael Jackson", too, because it's a peek you won't get anywhere else. For you, this book is definitely worth noting.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data News Weekly likes to showcase local events and parties around town each issue. We want to see you in pictures! If you would like to feature your function's candid photographs in Data News Weekly, email photographs with credits to datanewsphotos@gmail.com.

Friends Gather for Elliot's Birthday Bash



Friends gather to celebrate the re-opening of the Rhodes Family Building on Washington Ave.



The Prime Example was filled with people having a great time at a recent birthday party for Brandi.

Author E. Lynn Harris Dies at 54

Special to the NNPA from GIN

(NNPA) - E. Lynn Harris, the author of best-selling novels about the African-American gay community, has died at age 54, according to the Associated Press.

Publicist Laura Gilmore told AP that Harris died Thursday night, July 23, after being stricken at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills. According to reports, the cause of death had not yet been determined.

Harris self-published his first book, "Invisible Life," selling it out of his car around Atlanta. He wrote 11 novels in all, 10 of which reached the New York Times bestseller list.

"The truth is that most brothers who are attracted to men are desperately afraid of revealing it," Harris wrote in an article in Essence magazine. "Many ... fear that ... they'll be drummed out

of their families, destroying their only safe haven in an already unwelcoming society."

After graduating from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, Harris sold computers for more than a decade before self-publishing "Invisible Life," in 1991, according to his website. The book was sold mainly through Black-owned bookstores, beauty salons and book clubs, and became a sleeper hit. A few years later it was published by Anchor Books.

His other works include "If This World Were Mine" (1997), "Not A Day Goes By" (2000), "Any Way the Wind Blows" (2001), and "A Love of My Own" (2002).

Among his awards were the Blackboard Novel of the Year for "Just As I Am," "Any Way the Wind Blows and A Love of My Own," and the James Bald-



Author E. Lynn Harris

win Award for Literary Excellence for "If This World Were Mine." In recent years, he has also been named to Ebony's "Most Intriguing Blacks" list, Out

Magazine's "Out 100" list and New York Magazine's "Gay Power 101" list.

In a statement published in the New York Times, Alison Rich, the executive director of publicity for Doubleday, which published Mr. Harris's novels, said: "We at Doubleday are deeply shocked and saddened to learn of E. Lynn Harris' death at too young an age. His pioneering novels and powerful memoir about the black gay experience touched and inspired millions of lives, and he was a gifted storyteller whose books brought delight and encouragement to readers everywhere. Lynn was a warm and generous person, beloved by friends, fans, and booksellers alike, and we mourn his passing."

The NNPA News Service contributed to this story.

Local Organization Works to Rebuild Viet Village and New Orleans



Mary Tran, Executive Director of The Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation (MQVDC)

In the heart of the Viet Village at Village de L'est, Mary Tran and The Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corporation (MQVDC) are helping to make New Orleans and the Viet Village a better place.

The development corporation and the Viet Village community returned to New Orleans quickly after Hurricane Katrina. In 2006, Tran assumed the role of executive director of the

organization, which is in many ways the community's life blood.

Tran's ultimate goal was to help with the rebuilding and to create a better New Orleans East community. On an average day, Mary Tran is writing grants to help finance the goals of MQVDC and the Viet Village, one of New Orleans's target areas for recovery and an official Louisiana cultural district.

"I grew up in New Orleans and this community," Tran said. "I am doing this for the people I care about".

Tran is hopeful about the recovery and plans to stay in New Orleans.

"A lot of people have moved on, but I think New Orleans will be better than before".

New Orleans Children Have Unique Opportunity to Learn from Mayor Nagin's Photographer

The City of New Orleans is moving toward recovery, one day at a time. Although Hurricane Katrina, had a significant impact on all New Orleans residents, the children of the Crescent City have been uniquely affected. When the storm passed, it left schools, playgrounds and parks destroyed. Julie Plonk, the Mayor's photographer, was interested in documenting the City's recovery as seen by the children of New Orleans. She created Kids in Focus to share a unique perspective of the city. This interactive photography class teaches children how to take photos, capturing the beauty in everyday life.

For this project, 12 children from different areas of the city were chosen from a pool of applicants. These children meet with Ms. Plonk once a week in City Hall, where she teaches them how to use a camera and understand the basic ideas of composition, light, and exposure.

Each child has received a digital camera and a weekly project in their neighborhood to complete for the following week's session. These projects are geared towards producing imagery that reflects the city, its progress, and its people. The classes thus far have been very successful.

"It's amazing the photographs children are capable of taking. They are really quite good," says Plonk.

At the close of the program, the photos produced by the children will be printed in large format, matted and framed, and auctioned off at the African-American museum. Each student will be granted the opportunity to submit five of their best photos to be featured.

"I look forward to the silent auction so we can give back to our community through photography," says Plonk. Proceeds from this auction will be donated to a local charity.

Our PARTNERS in Recovery

Winn-Dixie



THE NEW ORLEANS
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ONE
NEW ORLEANS
Rethink • Renew • Revive
C. Ray Nagin, Mayor

Data News Weekly



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Picture
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What Do We Tell Young People After What Just Happened to Professor Gates?



Rev. Al Sharpton
NNPA Columnist

We often teach our children that if you study, go to school, work hard and remain focused, you will be able to transcend the many racial and social boundaries that permeate in society; that if you stay away from drugs, violence and criminal activity, the law will serve and protect you.

So what do we tell young people today when they see an Ivy League professor, a writer and producer for PBS documentaries, a renowned author, an editor of several influential anthologies, a board member

of esteemed institutions like the New York Public Library and much much more get arrested in his own home?

How do we even begin to explain the still evident and troubling notions of racism, injustice and institutional bias that exist in a country with an African-American President?

Professor Henry Louis Gates, director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African-American Research at Harvard University, was returning home to Cambridge, Mass., from filming a documentary in China last week when he and his driver had trouble getting into his home. After fiddling with the door and eventually gaining access, Professor Gates and his African-American driver entered the house, only to discover police arrive a short while later on reports of a burglary.

The 58-year-old mild-mannered professor with a leg disability then produced his ID in order to prove his residence in the posh neighborhood – in other words having to prove his worthiness despite his accolades of achievements.

And yet still, somehow, this distinguished Ph.D. scholar was handcuffed, humiliated, belittled and arrested for ‘disorderly con-

duct’ on his own front steps.

Almost immediately, Cambridge police – and some in the media – began painting Professor Gates as an angry Black man who became ‘irate’ or was ‘irritable and exhausted’ from his long voyage. Once again, many began drawing their own conclusions based off of one-sided police reports and statements that don’t take into account Professor Gates’ version of the incident.

Yet again, many have taken the police department’s words at face value and given a clear pass to any notion of agitation, harassment, instigation and abuse by the officers themselves. In 2009, we are again witnessing nothing other than racial profiling at its best.

In April of 1998, three Black men and one Latino were driving down the New Jersey Turnpike when their vehicle was pulled over and police fired 11 shots at the unarmed men. The late Johnnie Cochran and I fought diligently on behalf of these four innocent men and we pioneered a thorough investigation into police practices, protocol and an ingrained mentality we referred to as racial profiling.

Defined later by the ACLU as any police-initiated action (including surveillance,

search, detention, arrest or any other intervention) that relies to any degree on the race, ethnicity, religion or national origin of a person, racial profiling has virtually been in existence in some way, shape or form since the days of slavery.

Countless studies on racial profiling stats and discriminatory behaviors have since emerged following the NJ Turnpike incident, and yet we see the practice still in effect on our streets, in our cities and in our towns.

Time and again, history has proven that race-based policies do not make us safer. And time and again we see the vicious results of over-zealous officers who belittle individuals based on preconceived ideas – no matter how esteemed, educated or accomplished he/she may be.

I commend President Obama for personally acknowledging and defending Professor Gate’s honor at his press conference last week, and for highlighting the breath of work that still needs to be done in order to advance our nation into a true post-racial entity. Perhaps providing hope and urging young people to continue the good fight is the best thing we can do for the next generation.

Blacks and Blues



Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

stated that maybe Gates, although justifiably angry, perhaps should have been more cooperative with law enforcement.

I appreciate the service that both men have given to the country, and are great examples of inspirational stories to those who aspire to reach higher. I believe by simply minimizing it to Gates, that was in my estimation problematic. I think that President Obama inviting the two men for a beer trivialized something that is very serious in our nation. This is not just about two men, this is about something that is very prevalent in our society, the continuous sometimes adversarial relationship between black men and law enforcement. This could have been an opportunity where three of the most powerful black men in the world could have leveraged their power and visibility to put a face on a very real issue.

What happened to Professor Gates is something that is not unusual for black men in this country; getting harassed and getting treated differently by law enforcement because of the color of their skin. From John Punch in 1640 who was an indentured servant who ran away with his white cohorts and was given a life sentence of slavery where they were only given extra time of servitude. From the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision that declared him a non-citizen with rights whites were not bound to respect. In a nation where some of the largest uprising including Detroit in

the 1960s to the Los Angeles in the early 1990s were spawned by blacks being mistreated and in some instances killed by law enforcement. This is part of our sad legacy in America where courts of law and well as the police departments sometimes accost people where innocent until proven guilty is not case. It is a criminal justice landscape that usually is a justice vs. just us proposition.

This is something that happens to black men all the time across this country. I can recount one of my own episodes from some years ago. I was riding in a car with Anthony Bean who runs a theater company here in the city of New Orleans. As I got out of the car walking to open my door, a police car pulled up behind us with guns drawn. They began by frisking us and aggressively inquiring about a shooting that happened nearby and said we fit the description of the shooters. While answering a barrage of questions, some relevant and some completely irrelevant to why they were stopping us, I felt humiliated, degraded and disrespected. Here were two men serving their community, and several squad cars and police officers arrived on the scene while my neighbors, mostly white, looked on as two black men sat out for one hour before they decided that we were not the shooters.

Without a word of apology, the barrage of cars took off. If they ever solved this

shooting or not is a mystery to me, but looking back this night could have ended up very different for us as it has for many black men. We could have been arrested, shot, or killed on that night. What a shame that would have been, but it is a reality of being black in America. That you could be a law abiding citizen who has done everything the society has asked of you, but you could still be subject to ‘nigger’ treatment at any time.

So with this unfortunate incident, it could have put the issue on the radar screen again, but President Obama and Colin Powell let this one slip through their fingers by not looking at this issue in the larger context. There are many black men without the clout and resources of themselves and Mr. Gates who are nameless. And even when they comply with law enforcement, they often find themselves in situations where they are mistreated and do not have an avenue for recourse.

In the 21st century we need to put this issue of racial profiling behind us and reach a point when race is not factored into how citizens are treated by law enforcement. And while what happened to Professor Gates is unfortunate, it is my hope that this can shed light on this issue and finally put it to rest.

Lloyd Price Books, Inc announces the historic release of the new Lloyd Price Book

For the past 1,825 straight days, William 'Dollar-Bill' Waller spent many hours with Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame member American Icon Lloyd Price and on June 23, 2009 one of the most anticipated books in recent decades was released in Bentonville, Arkansas during Wal-Mart's Celebration of Black Music Month.

Inside this historic book about the music industry, Lloyd Price has shared detailed and dated incidents from his own personal experiences and encounters in the Record Industry commencing in 1940 when he was 7 years old through 1959.. He has shared never before told compelling stories that are Unique, Funny, Surprising, Shocking, Highly Educational, Eye-Opening Facts, and the authentic, historic, undeniable TRUTH! ABOUT the Music Superstars, Disc Jockeys, Promoters, Producers, Night Clubs, Theatre, 'Chitlin Circuit', Record Companies, Music Magazines, Record Shops, the key people in the 50s and the great contributions they all made to the NOW multi-billion dollar music industry as we know it TODAY.

Here is what Lloyd Price says about his new book:

"In this book, my love for America is greater than any words I can say. I am sure in the

beginning as things were set, an artist like me and others, were nowhere in the minds of the 'discoverers'. We untrained, talentless artists with no degrees of any kind and hardly any schooling. The road was tough believe me,



Lloyd Price

but the road was there!

But that is what makes America great. In 1952 my song, Lawdy Miss Clawdy opened up a new pathway to a new world through music. It caused black and white teenagers who never touched before to begin to touch each other on the dance floors across our great country. People who had never spoken to each other before were now speaking and their laughter had taken the place of frowns and dirty looks of hatred. WE ALL DANCED TOGETHER!

Lawdy Miss Clawdy brought all of us teenagers in 1952 together in the world as one.

I am the living proof of America's greatness. A little kid from Kenner, Louisiana brought up on dirt roads and catfish and able to tell my story. This book has been

written to preserve, protect, defend, and archive the undeniable truth while paying the highest tribute to the artists, songwriters, producers, and people who made significant contributions to the music industry during the forties and fifties era and time".

About Lloyd Price:

Born in Kenner, Louisiana, American music icon Lloyd Price has firmly established himself as a pioneer of Rock 'n' Roll music. He was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1998 and the National Black Sports & Entertainment Hall of Fame in 2001. He has 16 major hits and more, including "Stagger Lee," "Personality," "Just Because," "Where Were U on our Wedding Day," and of course, "Lawdy Miss Clawdy." Lloyd Price also co-produced the famed "Rumble in the Jungle" (Ali vs Foreman) over 34 years ago. Price also is credited with producing and discovering Wilson Pickett, Irma Franklin, and many, many more.

He is one of the most re-recorded artists in music history. Personality has been re-recorded 152 times. Stagger Lee has been re-recorded 269 times. Lawdy Miss Clawdy has been re-recorded 169 times. All of these songs were recorded by some of the biggest music icons in the world.

Lloyd Price is a United States Korean War Veteran and a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Southern University. More on icon Lloyd Price visit: www.lawdymissclawdy.com

VIBE Magazine Ceases Publication

Tiyana Jordan
Data News Weekly
Contributor

It was hip hop at your fingertips. From cover to cover, VIBE gave its readers a dip into the world of celebrities and artists that made up the provocative and ever changing world of hip hop's culture.

With the vision of Quincy Jones and entrepreneurial partner, Len Burnett, VIBE was founded in 1993. Gaining readership from its urban targeted audience, VIBE received approximately 800,000 readers in circulation to date. Having featured front cover appearances from artist such as The Fugees to a bare chest 50 cent, and its first non-photographic picture of r&b artist, Aaliyah, VIBE's pages has been home to the many interviews, reviews and issues relating to many high profile hip hop artist.

But, economic times have been strenuous on the minority media industry forcing many of them to close their doors, including VIBE.

After being head-to-head with the Source, called the Bible of hip-hop, who also previously filed bankrupt and rose again after being placed under new management and publication XXL, VIBE allegedly lost some of its prominent reign after being bought by the Wicks Group in 2006. From some inside VIBE employees, it was said that the vision of the publication was being changed and at the hands of executives that didn't understand the true hip hop culture. It was also speculated that the recent executives ran the industry to the ground.

But, was it the powers to be or was it the economic crisis that has made VIBE fold?

Reigning from the most influential hip hop source to having to close down immediately also leaves many employees at stake too. VIBE used strategies such

as resulting to four work days for employees and salary cuts. Tracy Nguyen, a spokesperson said she did not know how many people would be laid off as a result of the closure, according to The New York Times' blog, Media Decoder. The blog also reported that Steve Aaron, chief of the Vibe Media Group, said in a memo to employees that for months, the company tried in vain to either find new investors or "to restructure the huge debt on our small company."

VIBE spiraled off into different sectors to maximize their brand. They hosted the VIBE music awards beginning in 2002 and even went through some controversial publicity, when Dr. Dre was punched and the assailant allegedly stabbed. VIBE also had a short lived late night tv show that premiered in 1997, having featured President Bill Clinton as their first guest. It lasted until the summer of 1998 until it was cancelled.

The world received news on June 30 that the publication would be closing shop due to drops in print advertising caused by recent economic struggles. Danyel Smith, editor-in-chief issued the following statement in reference to its closing: "It's a sad day for music, for hip hop in particular, and for the millions of readers and users who have loved and continue to love the Vibe brand."

From skimming its pages in the grocery aisle or being die hard subscribers, VIBE has been part of hip hop for 16 years. Although this year hasn't been "sweet," VIBE has definitely found spots on many of coffee tables and bookshelves as part of print media history.

Founder, Quincy Jones has said that he plans to buy back his publication in efforts to keep the brand in spin as an online publication only.

Health, Continued from page 5.

activities like cheerleading or gymnastics.

Many parents question whether they need to go to a doctor or whether they may just allow the school to conduct a team physical.

The benefit of seeing a pediatrician is that your doctor knows your child's full medical history and can offer supplemental advice on diet, nutrition and rest. Congenital problems such as heart

problems may go undetected in a team physical, but doctors are trained to ask in-depth questions and to consider the medical history of the entire family during a screening.

Possible indicators that your child might be at risk of having health problems while playing sports include:

- symptoms while exercising, including chest pain, shortness of breath, fatigue or fainting.

- having a heart murmur or high blood pressure in the past
- having other family members with a 'history of premature death or cardiovascular disease.

If your child is old enough to visit the doctor by themselves, encourage the doctor to also raise questions about extreme dieting or the use of diuretics or steroids and their impact on the body.

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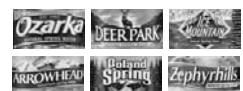
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