

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



Data Zone
Page 6

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Holiday Cheer

December 25 - December 31, 2010 45th Year Volume 30 www.ladatanews.com

New Orleans 2010



Page 2



Trailblazer
Vera Warren-
Williams

Page 9

Merry Christmas
New Orleans!

New Orleans 2010

The Year in Review



By Edwin Buggage

Black and Gold in the Super Bowl

We are yet at the dawn of the end of another year. One that began with the New Orleans Saints who after many years occupying the cellar of the NFL finally winning the Super Bowl; as a city noted for celebrations of course jubilant fans arose in the streets as people celebrated the triumph of the black and gold. During this time of victory it also gave much needed attention to the City and the continued plight of its proud and resilient citizens who continue to march on in the face of adversity.

As always the City was in a festive mood during the Carnival season and Mardi Gras this year was heightened as a result of the Saints win, as people flooded the street in this annual event in record numbers. As people 'buck jumped' and had a good time. While the weather was cold, the people were warm and the camaraderie was at a fever pitch. People for that brief time were unified and the city had temporarily forgotten about the divisions of Black and White and became truly one New Orleans.

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA			
Cover Story	2	Trailblazer	9
Data Zone	5	National News	10
Shoot Ya Best Shot	7	Health News	11
Commentary.	8		

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



A New Mayor and Moment in History

2010 also saw the man who had come to personify New Orleans politics post Katrina make an exit. Outgoing Mayor Ray Nagin during his tenure received an equal share of bouquets and brickbats during his eight years in office and is a figure that will be steeped in the history of a City as a man who for better or worse captained the ship during the darkest hour in the City's history. And it is too early to evaluate his performance as history will tell his story as the City unfolds into a new era.

New Orleans is a City that has been mired in the issue of race and class and this situation has been exacerbated with Katrina and its aftermath as the wounds that were exposed further divided the City. In 2010 the City elected a new Mayor in Mitch Landrieu. He is the first White mayor since his father Maurice "Moon" Landrieu, who in the early 1970's oversaw a shift in power in the City and was a racial healer. As his son takes over the office he is the hope of a lot of people in the City that he as his father accomplished can bring people together in a spirit of unity and steer the City in the right direction in the area of racial relations.



BP Oil Spill Impacts Region

The City and region was also affected by the BP Oil Spill disaster something that affected the entire region and nation. This calamity lasted for three months, but has affected a region's way of life with its long-term impact is still unknown. Fisherman, to restaurants, hotels, oil companies and other businesses were affected by the spill; in addition to larger long-term questions concerning deep water drilling and its future.

Cover Story, Continued on page 4.



Black, White and the Men in Blue

With the election of Landrieu we also saw the City get a new police chief in Ronal Serpas. Who has returned to his native City after a stint as the police chief in Nashville. He is the first White police chief of the City of New Orleans since the early 1980's. It is a department that has been rocked by scandal and miscreants within its ranks. In two recent trials the Danziger Bridge shootings, where police fired on unarmed civilians during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and attempted a cover-up.

And in another incident during the horrid days of New Orleans when the levees broke Henry Glover was shot by police who then burned the body. In a recent trial several of the officers who were involved in the cover-up were convicted while others were reassigned to desk duty. It is this environment that is the backdrop for the new police chief. And it is the hopes that under his administration the ranks of the NOPD can reform itself and root out corruption and work to serve and protect all its citizens.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 3.



New Orleans: A City With the Best Fests

As a City that loves to party this year's large festivals brought in people from around the world as the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival had another banner year as people braved the elements converging on the New Orleans Fair Grounds to sample the food, music and arts and crafts of the City, region and the Diaspora.

Also during the Fourth of July Weekend the Essence Music Festival hit the Crescent City. A sea of ebony faces came to the City to celebrate the party with a purpose. Although this year the usual headliner Frankie Beverly and Maze was absent. The performances were still amazing and there was also a large turnout during the seminars. The weekend was truly educational, entertaining and enlightening bringing much needed revenues into the City's coffers.

Voicing a Choice: New Leaders Emerge

In citywide elections there are a blend of old and new faces in the seats of elected power. One of the seats that garnered national coverage was the race for the 2nd Congressional District of the House of Representatives; a seat long held by William Jefferson. Cedric Richmond in a hard fought and sometimes contentious race ousted Joseph Cao the Republican candidate who defeated Jefferson some two years earlier. Richmond received a rousing endorsement from President Barack Obama that led to a resounding victory for the newly elected Congressman. He is only the second African-American elected to the U.S. Congress from Louisiana since Reconstruction.



The Revolution is Being Televised

On the entertainment front the City and its uniqueness has been broadcast for the world to see. The HBO television show Treme has put the City further on the map. New Orleans is already a world class destination city with people coming from around the world to marvel at the splendor of it as a melting pot of cultures. But rarely do they see the City beyond the tourist map.

Treme in a way has been able to do that to a certain degree. Giving viewers a window seat to not simply look at what the people in the arts create, but out of the circumstances which they create them in, that it is not as simple as just the performances, but these things emanate out of traditions that are centuries old. And that this plays against a Post-Katrina backdrop is important to helping people understand the City and its people. Not as simply living artifacts to be observed, but people who have a living breathing culture that they are fighting to preserve as a City goes through a transition.

Five Years Later: New Orleans and its Future

And most importantly this year marks the Fifth Anniversary of the moment that changed the lives of New Orleanians forever. Today people are still living with the after affects of Hurricane Katrina, and are still suffering the sleepless night longing for the flavor of a City that was washed away during those tumultuous days of that which was our holocaust.

A City that five years later is struggling to regain a sense of normalcy as the inevitable changes of a new landscape is upon it. But how as a City and its people deal with these new challenges is important to its survival. With the question being how can a new and renewed New Orleans march to the beat of change with one voice? Secondly, how to build for a future where all can prosper and live with dignity and respect? It is the hope that after five years that in 2011 moving ahead all can drink from the fountain of prosperity of a City that's progressive and moving forward. That together people can take their separate fingers to make a fist and pummel the collective enemies of ignorance, fear and doubt. That together the people of a City can build and navigate a new ship that can rise from the abyss and sail to an oasis that is a City that is renewed, revived and ready for a rebirth and renaissance.



Therapy Wine Lounge

Revolutionizing The Sexy In The Wine



Dionne Character, Author
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

Therapy Wine Lounge is one of the sexiest spots one can indulge in fine wines from around the world, right here in the Crescent City, located in The Shops at Crescent Club, Midtown New Orleans at 3001 Tulane Avenue.

Created to stimulate all of your senses, it's stunning décor of plush black and white leather, individual wine stations, private VIP quarters, cultural foods, self-serve wines, red roses, a game room, ultra-beer selections, and cozy lighting. Therapy is exactly what you will experience the moment you step into this Chic, New York style establishment.

Therapy Wine Lounge allows you the freedom to be in control of your own night, as the lounge is available

for private/semi-private events as well. There are no attendants once you purchase your own NAPA Technology card, which allows you the automated pleasure to sample or purchase full glasses of dispensed wines.

Therapy Wine Lounge is open Sunday thru Tuesday from 5:00 pm to 2:00 am and Wednesday thru Saturday from 5:00 pm to 5:00 am. Weekly happenings consist of Sunday Jam Sessions, Mondays Benefits for Charities, Foodie Tuesdays featuring local chefs, Industry Wednesdays, Tippin Point Thursdays featuring Mario Abney and The Abney Effect at 10:00 pm, and a Live Jazz Trio on Sexy Fridays, featuring Manny Burke, Dionne Character and Mario Abney from 7 pm – 9 pm.



For more information email Therapy Wine Lounge at therapynola@gmail.com or for immediate contact, reach Ernest at 504-784-0054.

Real Housewives' Nene Leakes & TV Reality Star Antonia "Toya" Carter Support Charity Event

By Chiquita Simms

Television Stars Nene Leakes & Antonia "Toya" Carter use their celebrity to support single parents of teenage children in New Orleans and Atlanta with a fundraiser themed around the upcoming Falcons and Saints NFL game

The Board of Directors of Navigation Foundation recently launched its Winter/Spring edition of THE MAKE A MAN PROJECT and HI HEELS PROGRAM FOR GIRLS. With a mission to "Chart the course for today's youth to be tomorrow's dream, program participants learn valuable life skills including but not limited to community service, tolerance and respect, proper etiquette, articulation and discipline in group settings and one-on-one time with adult mentors. Exposure to international food, experiences, foreign languages and worldwide customs are also major components of the free program. Fans of the Atlanta Falcons and the New Orleans Saints will have an opportunity to help offset the expenses associated with the free programs by attending the star-studded Battle of the Fans event, Sunday, December 26, 2010 at the Georgia Freight De-



Nene Leakes

pot located 65 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, 9pm. The event is hosted by Real Housewife of Atlanta Nene Leakes and BET Reality TV Star Antonia "Toya" Carter and it promises to be the most anticipated event in the history of this NFL rivalry.

Founded by a single parent, in support of other single parents, The Navigation Foundation is proud to have two of television's most influential single moms representing the cause. "Although Nene Leakes is still married



Antonia "Toya" Carter

to our knowledge, she was, at a time, a single parent and understands the difficulty of raising a child alone and the ill effects it leaves on the children, explains ChiQ Simms, Navigation Foundation's founder and fundraiser. Nene is not only a great fit for the Foundation, she is a great person to represent the Atlanta Falcons for the Battle of the Fans event." More than half of U.S. families are comprised of only one parent. "Single parenting is very difficult, but it also can be done successfully

and our host-select representing New Orleans, Toya Carter is an example of that." Other invited guests include the cast of Real Housewives of Atlanta, Hip Hop Stars Young Joc, Dee Woods, Jazzy Phae, Ludacris, Shawty Lo, Don-dria, New Orleans Saints Mike McKenzie, Michael Lewis, Ricky Jackson and Comedian Rodney Perry, to name a few.

The event is a fundraiser and all ticket sales are 100% tax deductible. "I am excited to represent the City of New Orleans, but more importantly to have a major role for such a good cause, shares Toya Carter. Not only was I a single mom, I was a teen mom. I am happy to contribute my time and resources to be a part of the solution." The Board of Directors for Navigation Foundation are hoping to gain awareness for the foundation and raise \$20,000 for it's Keep It 100 Fundraising campaign. Donations of \$100.00 or more are acknowledged on the foundation's website. For more information, to make a donation and to purchase tickets call 404.816.6000 or email chiq@divadendentertainment.com or visit online at www.thenavigationfoundation.org.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data Around Town

Zulu's Celebrate Christmas

The Zulu Social Aid & Pleasure Club celebrated the holiday season with music and dancing and Data was there!

Photos by Ray Bonne, Bonnefied Images LLC



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Zulu's Host Toys for Tots Drive

The Zulu's teamed up with the US Marine Corps to hold a Toys for Tots Drive here in New Orleans. Mountains of toys were donated for the cause and a visit from Santa Baby and Mrs. Claus made the day.



Happy Birthday Terry Williams

Terry Williams celebrated his birthday with a little help from the Zulu Bros and Data was there!



Give the Gift of Caring and Sharing This Season



Marian Wright Edelman
NNPA Columnist

No matter what faith traditions we come from or celebrate—Ramadan, Christmas, or Hanukkah—this time of year is one of reflection on what really matters. The average American family spends hundreds of dollars on gifts during this season. It's wonderful to share

special times and gifts with friends and family, but for many adults this holy season has been commercialized and become defined by shopping for the "in" toys, clothes, and other material gifts we think our children want. And, while it's fine to give children these things when we can, we should never forget to give them the more important gifts of ourselves—our time, attention, and family rituals—that children need. We also should be teaching them the importance of sharing with others. Too many children are afflicted by physical poverty, but too many are afflicted with "affluenza", the spiritual poverty of having too much that is worth too little. Perhaps this season we can teach that the greatest gift is one of caring, sharing, and service.

As those of us who are Christian celebrate a poor, homeless child threatened by Herod's violence which took the lives of innocent first born boys, let us commit to standing up and caring for the millions

of children in our midst who are destitute, homeless, hungry, and threatened by violence in our rich, powerful nation today. A law enforcement officer is less likely to die from gun violence than a child under 10. Nine children and teens die from gun violence every day in our gun saturated nation. Let's care and call for justice for the more than 15.5 million poor children, millions living in extreme poverty and with daily food insecurity. It is time for all of us to do better; to reset our nation's moral and economic compass to protect and invest in every child.

Let's pray that we may commit to acting on God's call through the prophet Zechariah "to see that justice is done, to show kindness and mercy to one another, not to oppress widows, orphans, and foreigners, who live among you or anyone else in need" by joining together and serving and caring.

I Care And I Am Willing To Serve

Lord I cannot preach like Martin Luther King, Jr.
or turn a poetic phrase like Maya Angelou
but I care and I am willing to serve.

I do not have Harriet Tubman's courage
or Franklin Roosevelt's political skills
but I care and I am willing to serve.

I cannot sing like Fannie Lou Hamer
or organize like Bayard Rustin
but I care and I am willing to serve.

I am not holy like Archbishop Desmond Tutu,
forgiving like Nelson Mandela,
or disciplined like Mahatma Gandhi
but I care and I am willing to serve.

I am not brilliant like Elizabeth Cady Stanton,
or as eloquent as Sojourner Truth and
Booker T. Washington

but I care and I am willing to serve.

I have not Mother Teresa's saintliness,
Dorothy Day's love or Cesar Chavez's
gentle tough spirit

but I care and I am willing to serve.

God it is not as easy as it used to be
to frame an issue and to forge a solution
but I care and I am willing to serve.

I can't see or hear well or speak good English,
I stutter sometimes, am afraid of criticism,
and get real scared standing up before others
but I care and I am willing to serve.

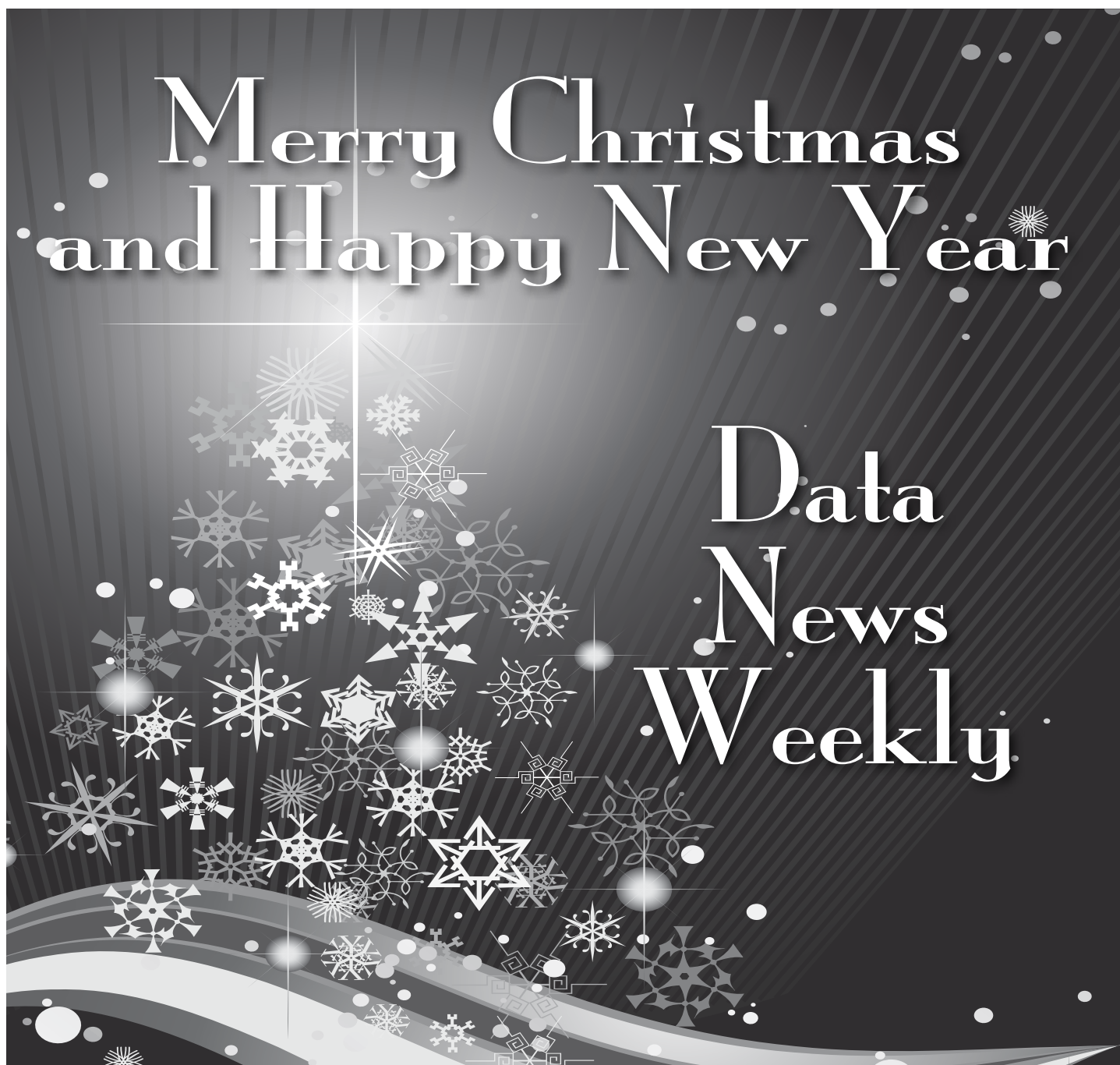
I'm so young
nobody will listen

I'm not sure what to say or do

but I care and I am willing to serve.

Use me as Thou will today and tomorrow to help
build a nation and world where no child is left
behind and everyone feels welcome and justly
treated.

Marian Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund 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 go to www.childrensdefense.org.



Vera Warren-Williams

Demonstrates How Entrepreneurship and Community Activism Go Hand in Hand

By: Christopher Williams

Photo by: Eddie Francis

In the culturally rich City of New Orleans, we have many famous landmarks and personalities. From the food to the history, to the folklore, our City is full of history and mystery. One place to get much of this information is the Community Book Center. A neighborhood institution since 1983, the Community Book Center is known for its niche market of African centered books, art and gifts. And, the person who is the catalyst for this institution is Mrs. Vera Warren-Williams, the Owner and Founder of the book center. "We are Community Book Center because we are more than a book store. We also serve as a meeting place for organizations and events related to our community."

Warren-Williams started the bookstore inside her 9th ward home with a mobile book cart before moving to Poland Ave. From there the store moved to the Treme' area at the corner of Ursulines and St. Claude Ave. After a move to North Broad St., the CBC moved to its current location at 2523 Bayou Rd., where Warren-Williams purchased the building. Along with running the center's day-to-day business, Sister Vera, as she is affectionately called in the community, she served for many years as the co-coordinator of the African Market Place inside the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. She has also served as a producer of the author signings at the Essence Music Festival and book emporium held annually in New Orleans.

Mrs. Warren-Williams serves as a member of the Broad St. /Bayou Rd. Merchants Association, SUNO's School of Business Board, President Of the Downtown Neighborhood Association, as well as, numerous other local and national committees and boards. With a commitment to serving the needs of the community and having open cultural exchanges, Warren-Williams, along with the help of family and friends who are a constant presence at the CBC, is dedicated to spreading knowledge and the enlightenment of people. As a former Social



Worker and Teacher, she has a deep understanding of the needs of the people.

Recently, Warren-Williams, along with CBC Manager Jennifer Turner, were awarded the 1st Annual Toni Cade-Bambara Award for Cultural Leadership. When the nation of Haiti experienced the devastating earthquake, Vera and the CBC became a center for organizing the donations for the citizens of the ailing nation. "Sometimes you can't go to certain

places and discuss things, so we created a safe haven here for political, cultural and social discussions," says Warren-Williams.

After 27 years of business the Community Book Center has sold books to generations of New Orleans residents. Not often do we have a place in our own community that provides information and literature for and by people of African descent. While they do provide works by mainstream authors, they are committed to African-American Authors. You can find, on almost any weekend, a book signing going on at the CBC, from the nationally known and critically renowned to the self-published, do-it-yourself,

out-of-the-trunk authors. Not to mention the myriad of other events that occurs at the CBC. Our institutions are only as strong as the people that create them and make them work. With that being so, we are indeed blessed to have a community leader like Vera Warren-Williams in our corner.

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Civil Rights Groups Sign Ground Breaking Agreement With Comcast, NBC Universal

The NAACP, National Urban League, and National Action Network announced an agreement with Comcast and NBC Universal to expand current diversity initiatives intended to increase diversity in a wide range of areas including programming and employment.

The Memorandum of Understanding, filed on Dec. 17th with the Federal Communications Commission, creates initiatives to improve diversity in the areas of corporate governance, employment/workforce recruitment and retention, procurement, programming, and philanthropy and community investments.

"The NAACP stands with the National Urban League and the National Action Network in applauding Comcast and NBC Universal for committing to this memorandum of understanding," stated NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous. "This agreement demonstrates the power of partnership and collaboration. We look forward to working closely with Comcast and NBC Universal and commend



NAACP President Ben Jealous, National Action Network President Rev. Al Sharpton and National Urban League President Marc Morial announced an agreement with Comcast and NBC Universal to expand current diversity initiatives intended to increase diversity in a wide range of areas including programming and employment.

them for their corporate leadership in embracing the rich diversity of our nation. Business models that incorporate the importance

of diversity increase prosperity and strengthen our economy. Ultimately, we must work together to create one America."

"This agreement represents a positive step in the right direction for the principle of diversity, inclusion and economic opportunity," said Marc H. Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League. "We applaud Comcast and NBC Universal for its willingness to enter into written commitments toward the goal of building a first-class communications concern. We thank them for their insight and commitment."

"This historic agreement is a template for how major corporations should commit to concrete ways they will make equity and fairness part of their business plan. This agreement supports workers, businesses, artists, and charities in our community. It is

a major step toward changing the corporate culture in how it relates to our community and will help define 21st century Civil Rights," stated National Action Network President Rev. Al Sharpton.

Highlights of Comcast and NBC Universal's diversity commitments include:

Adding at least eight new independently owned and operated networks where minorities have substantial participation either through ownership or operational control will be launched.

Establishing a \$20 million venture capital fund intended to expand opportunities for minority entrepreneurs in the development of new digital media applications.

Creating Diversity Advisory Councils, including an African-American Advisory Council, to facilitate open communication over the development, monitoring, and

evaluation of diversity initiatives and to provide advice to senior executives

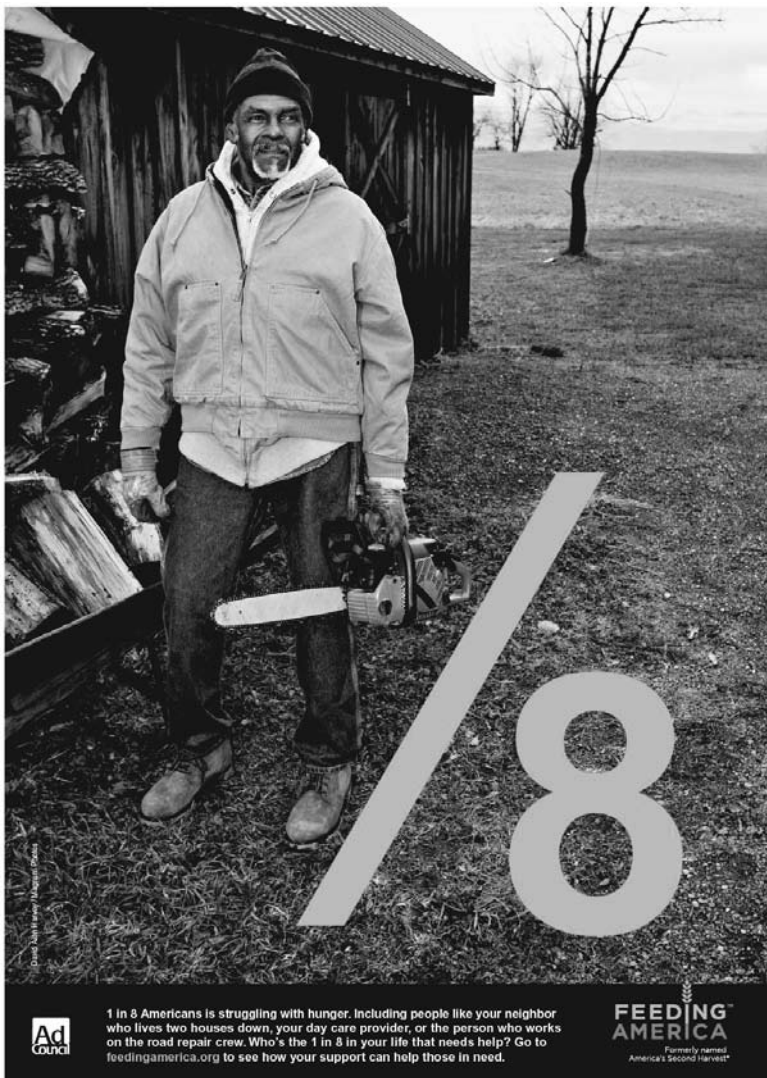
Enhancing minority participation in news and public affairs programming

Expanding investment priorities, including the building of tomorrow's leaders, the expansion of digital literacy, and the promotion of community service.

Increasing philanthropic efforts to African-American led and African-American-serving institutions

"We are proud to partner with these outstanding leaders of the African-American community on this Memorandum of Understanding," said David L. Cohen, Executive Vice President, Comcast Corporation. "This comprehensive commitment resulting from the Comcast NBC Universal transaction will bring key benefits in the areas of programming, investment and procurement. We look forward to continuing and deepening our relationships with these organizations and the broader African-American community, as well as with other diverse communities with whom we are entering similar commitments."

"We are delighted to be working with the NAACP, the National Urban League and the National Action Network as we further our shared goal of diversity in both the workplace and in the media," commented Paula Madison, Executive Vice President, Diversity, NBC Universal. "We are also proud to be able to build on NBC Universal's considerable progress over the past few years, and to accelerate the momentum of our commitments to minority ownership, expanded diversity programs, philanthropic efforts targeting under-served and diverse communities, and diversity among our suppliers."



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Data News Weekly

Be Kind to Your Lungs

Whether you smoke or not, you may already know that tobacco use is the single largest cause of preventable death in the United States, exceeding the death toll from HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, motor vehicle accidents, suicide, and homicide combined, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, an estimated one out of five deaths in this country are caused by cigarette smoking alone.

As the curtain starts to come down on the year, it is the time of year when we focus on Lung Cancer Awareness, and many people use this period to smoke less or to quit smoking for good on a specially designated day called the Great American Smokeout, which this year was November 18th. But, whether it is during the Lung Cancer Awareness period or any other time of year, it is never a bad time to take the pledge to stop smoking. If you don't smoke, pledge to help a family member or a friend quit. If you or someone you know needs help with quitting, please call the National Cancer Institute's Smoking Quitline toll-free at 1-877-44U-QUIT (1-877-448-7848). The information specialists on the Quitline can provide free cessation information and support. Additionally, the Smokefree and Smokefree Women websites (smokefree.gov and women.smokefree.gov) allow you to choose the type of help that best fits your needs.

People of all races and ethnicities smoke cigarettes, but certain groups have been targeted for marketing of specific kinds of cigarettes. For example, menthol-flavored cigarettes have been marketed particularly heavily in minority communities. Just this month, leading researchers released a series of papers about the marketing of menthol cigarettes



and their impact on smoking in minority communities. These papers were published in a special issue of the scientific journal *Addiction* that was funded by the National Cancer Institute. The studies indicate a wide range of effects of menthol cigarette marketing, including greater menthol cigarette use by African-Americans, women, young people, the unemployed, and those with lower education. Another finding from the studies is that Hispanics and African-Americans who smoke menthol cigarettes are less likely to quit successfully than those who smoke non-menthol cigarettes.

Also a few weeks ago, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is your lead federal agency that oversees America's health initiatives, announced a new tobacco control strategy that calls for new warnings and graphic images to appear on cigarette packs and advertisements. If this plan goes into effect, expect larger text sizes and more clear and direct language for warning labels as well as some pretty shocking graphics and photos of people who have been affected by cigarette smoking.

Whether it takes strong new

graphic images or more sternly worded health warnings, the fact remains clear that this must be

the message that people get on tobacco: Smoking causes lung cancer, which is the most common cause of cancer-related death in the United States. African-Americans have higher rates of death from lung cancer than any other racial/ethnic group. Smoking causes about 90% of all lung cancer deaths in men and 80% of all lung cancer deaths in women, and the risk increases according to the amount smoked, the length of time someone has been smoking, and the age at which smoking began. Cigarette smoking also causes many other types of cancer, including cancers of the esophagus, larynx (voice box), mouth, throat, kidney, bladder, pancreas, stomach and cervix, as

well as acute myeloid leukemia.

Take action today to live tomorrow by quitting smoking and by helping others in your life quit. It is never too late to quit smoking, and quitting reduces your risk for lung cancer and other diseases. The National Cancer Institute has a wealth of resources for you to learn more about lung cancer—and all other types of cancer as well: call the Cancer Information Service toll-free at 1-800-4-CANCER and speak to an information specialist; visit our Web site at www.cancer.gov (www.cancer.gov/espanol); or access some of our multicultural cancer information, including other articles in the Lifelines series, at www.cancer.gov/lifelines.

Haven't had a mammogram?
This is what you could be missing.



With no-cost mammograms* available at professional, medical facilities, there's no reason to wait. The sooner you have a mammogram, the greater your chances are of finding cancer in its early stages and making a full recovery. It's your life. Go live it.

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*Eligibility criteria may apply.

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