

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

# Data

## News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



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### ABT Premieres Marrero Action

March 5 - March 11, 2011 45th Year Volume 39 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)



# Zulu King Anthony "Tony" Barker

*The Soul of New Orleans*

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# The King of Carnival

## Zulu King Anthony "Tony" Barker



This year's Zulu King Anthony "Tony" Barker and his Queen and wife Chanel Barker

By Edwin Buggage

Photos by Ray Bonne

### Carnival Time: A Celebration of Life

Once again "It's Carnival Time" a time when a city that is known for its festivals, laid back lifestyle, "joie de vivre" (joy of living) and living by the motto "laissez le bon temps rouler" (let the good times roll). New Orleans is a great American city that blends Europe, Africa and the Caribbean into a flavorful gumbo of culture drawing people from across the globe that come to experience the Big Easy. Mardi Gras is a time where Krewes have lavish balls and the medians and streets of New Orleans are transformed into parade grounds where colorful floats roll by and club members throw trinkets that are highly sought after as the streets are flooded with people. It is a time to celebrate three of the most important things in the life of a New Orleanian: fun, frolic and family.

### Zulu King Anthony "Tony" Barker

One such organization that has become synonymous with the holiday is the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club that for over a century has been parading through the city in what has become one of the most popular parades. Past kings have included former City Council Member Roy Glapion, Dr. Myron Moorhead and the great Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong. This year's Zulu King is Anthony "Tony" Barker and his Queen is his wife Chanel Barker. "I am excited about being the king, it is a dream come true I am humbled and honored to represent the organization and its membership," says Barker of being the Zulu King.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347

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**  
 Cheryl Mainor  
**Managing Editor**  
 Edwin Buggage  
**Editor**  
 Dionne Character  
**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
 Melanie Mainor  
**Copy Editor Intern**  
 June Hazeur  
**Accounting**

**Contributors**  
 Edwin Buggage  
 Ray Bonne  
 Julianne Malveaux  
 Judge Greg Mathis  
 TaRessa Stov

**Art Direction & Production**  
 MainorMedia.com  
**Editorial Submissions**  
 datanewseditor@bellsouth.net  
**Advertising Inquiries**  
 datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



## Zulu Lundi Gras Festival 2011 Line-Up

### Frito Lay Stage

Seafood Village featuring DJ Cool Breeze and DJ El Green

Sophie B. Wright High School Band .....	0:00 - 11:00 am
Heat Index .....	11:15 - 12:00 pm
Charmaine with Kourtney Hart .....	12:30 - 1:30 pm
Kirs Baptiste .....	2:15 - 3:15 pm
Three Kings .....	3:30 - 4:30 pm
Kourtney Hart.....	4:40 - 5:00 pm

### Zulu King's Stage (Pawn Lawn)

Pin Stripe Jazz Band .....	10:00 - 10:45 am
Bucktown All-Stars .....	11:00 - 11:45 am
Bobby J R&B Band.....	12:00 - 12:45 pm
Bruce Sunpie Barns .....	1:00 - 1:45 pm
Charmaine Neville - Kourtney Hart .....	2:00 - 2:45 pm
Jeff Floyd.....	3:00 - 3:45 pm
Rockin Dopsie.....	4:00 - 5:00 pm
King & Queen - Mr. Anthony Barker, sr. and Mrs. Chanel Howard Barker Arrival	

### Zulu Golden Nugget Stage (Hibernia Pavilion)

Zulu Ensemble with special guest Joe Cool Davis .....	10:00 - 10:45 am
Benny Turner .....	11:100- 12:15 pm
Waller Waiters.....	12:30 - 1:45 pm
Ed Perkins .....	2:00 - 3:00 pm
Big Al Carson & the Rare Connections.....	3:20 - 5:00 pm

### Other Entertainment

Zulu Characters, Zulu Rascals  
2nd Line Bands - Algiers Brass Band - Free Agents Brass Band  
Zulu King and Queen arrive by Coast Guard Boat at 5:00 pm  
King Zulu meets King Rex at 6:00 pm

The Nineteenth Annual Lundi Gras Festival is sponsored by:  
Audubon Nature Institute, City of New Orleans, Coca Cola, Abide Health Care,  
Frito Lay, Crescent Crown Distributors- MillerCoors, Republic Distributors

### 2011 Lundi Gras Food Vendors:

Dunbar Creole Cooking, Inc. · Seafood King · Pearl's Catering · Tasty Bones · Dee's Cuisine · 4 of Us · Ms. Linda C & J Caterers · Salt Water Grill · Charbroil Oysters · Gloria's Restaurant · Me Me's Café & Catering · Fin International Catering · Lulu's · George Seafood · People Of Substance, Inc. · Boil Seafood, Etc. · Cool Fruit Sensation · Hot Dog Willie · Confectionary Delight · Daddy Turkey Legs · Adam Nelson Catering · Vance Vaucressson Sausage Company · Down Home Creole Cooking · Rainey's Restaurant · Gild's Steakhouse · Panache Palate · Palmer Catering · Catering Unlimited · Elsie's Place Food Concessions

Barker has been a member of Zulu for nineteen years, saying of his wife Chanel Barker and her reign as Zulu Queen, "It feels good to be able to have her by my side as I take on this role, she is my best friend and confidant and that makes this even more special for me." He says of his wife and family, "She has been my queen for life, now she the Queen of Zulu and we have three amazing children and four grandchildren who are always a joy to see, I have had an incredible life and being Zulu King adds to that."

### Zulu Inspires a City by Giving Back

When some think of Zulu they simply think of it as a Mardi Gras organization, but they are an organization involved in the community, "We are more than just a Carnival Club, we have many things we do in

the community, for example we have a "toys for tots program", we give out Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and we also award scholarships to students in addition to mentoring young people through our Junior Zulu Program," says Barker of their community initiatives.

In these times where there seems to be a questions of a Black presence in New Orleans post-Katrina, Zulu is an organization that continues to be relevant in the city, "After Hurricane Katrina we were one of the first Krewes to commit to parade during the year after the storm, we feel that we wanted to be an inspiration for the people of the city who are trying to rebuild and let them know that we are here to stay," says Barker of the organization's commitment to the City of New Orleans.

He says Zulu is looking at a bright future, "I am optimistic about the future of the organization, there are so many young people joining, with fresh ideas and a new vision moving us forward, this is truly an exciting time for Zulu. Continuing on the note of young people something Barker has a passion for he says, "It is up to us to inspire our young people to know that the sky is the limit." Continuing he says, "Through hard work anything is possible, for example I didn't think I could be Zulu King, but through hard work I reached that goal and it is important that our young people know they can do whatever they can and I have through my life tried to affect change and through the Zulu Organization we are working to inspire, nurture and support the leaders of the future."

# Recipe For a Good Life George Rainey 2011 Zulu Honorary Grand Marshall

By Edwin Buggage  
Photos by Ray Bonne

## A Man and His Times

George Rainey is a man who in his nearly eight decades of life has contributed to humanity in so many ways. He is a business owner, activist and staunch advocate for the empowerment of people to be their best selves. His life began in Treme during the heart of segregation during a time when the windows of opportunity for Blacks were sometimes closed. Although facing these tumultuous times it did not stop the young Rainey from dreaming of prospering in life and contributing to society. "I saw a lot of things that were wrong during

that time with all the restrictions of not being able to fully participate in society, but these were also good times because we had our own institutions and business and these things were a source of pride," says Rainey.

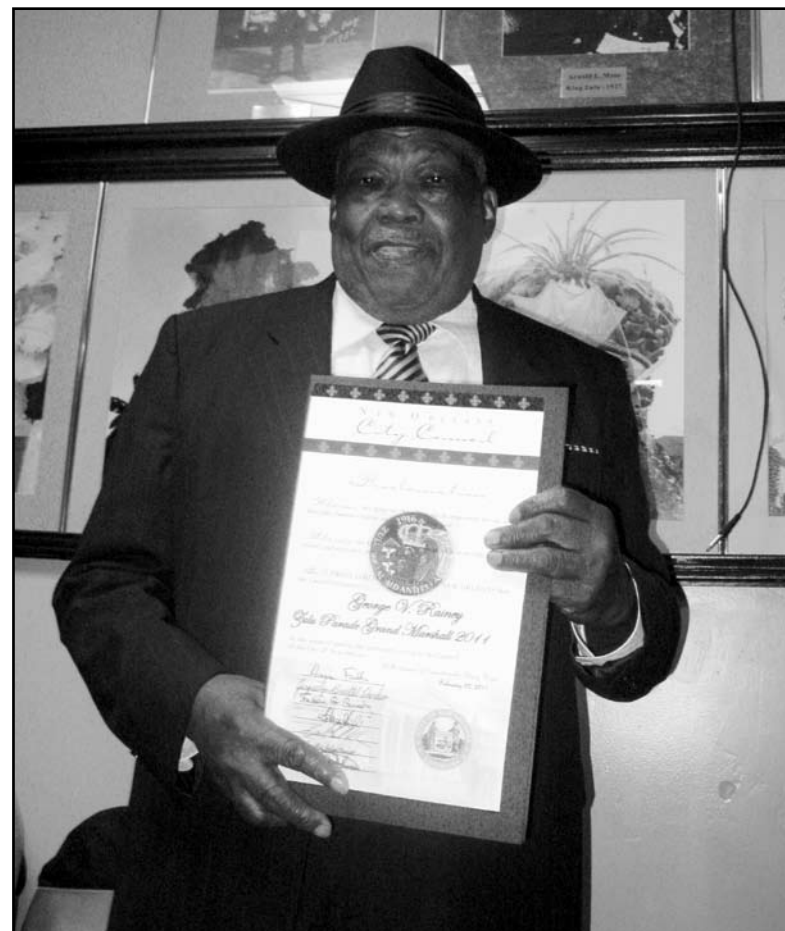
On the importance Blacks telling their own story and being the gatekeepers of their history he says, "I remember as a young boy selling the Louisiana Weekly and being there in the beginning of Data News Weekly, I feel it is these papers and others that are important in giving us information about us and our achievements that others sometimes ignored and to see ourselves in a more positive and

accurate light."

He is one who believes in giving and through his work with the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club of which he has been a member for over four decades holding a number of offices and is presently Board Member Emeritus. "We are not only a Mardi Gras organization, we do things year round and I have seen the organization evolve where we are more involved in the community," says Rainey. Continuing he says "I have been fortunate to be part of an organization that works to contribute something positive to the people and its citizens and it is an extension of me and what my purpose has always been and that is to help people."

## Each One Teach One

Rainey is a man who believes in Black economic empowerment and as the owner of Rainey's Restaurant and Catering thinks that Black-owned businesses are an essential part of the equation and is the new frontier of the Civil Rights struggle. "I have owned a business for over forty years and work has seen the heyday of Black business come and go, and it's important that we get back to understanding that we have to look at building wealth in our community," says Rainey. For his many years of toiling he has a recipe to success for young people just starting out in life, "Don't be afraid to start at the bottom, work hard and master everything you can and you will find



George Rainey

your pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

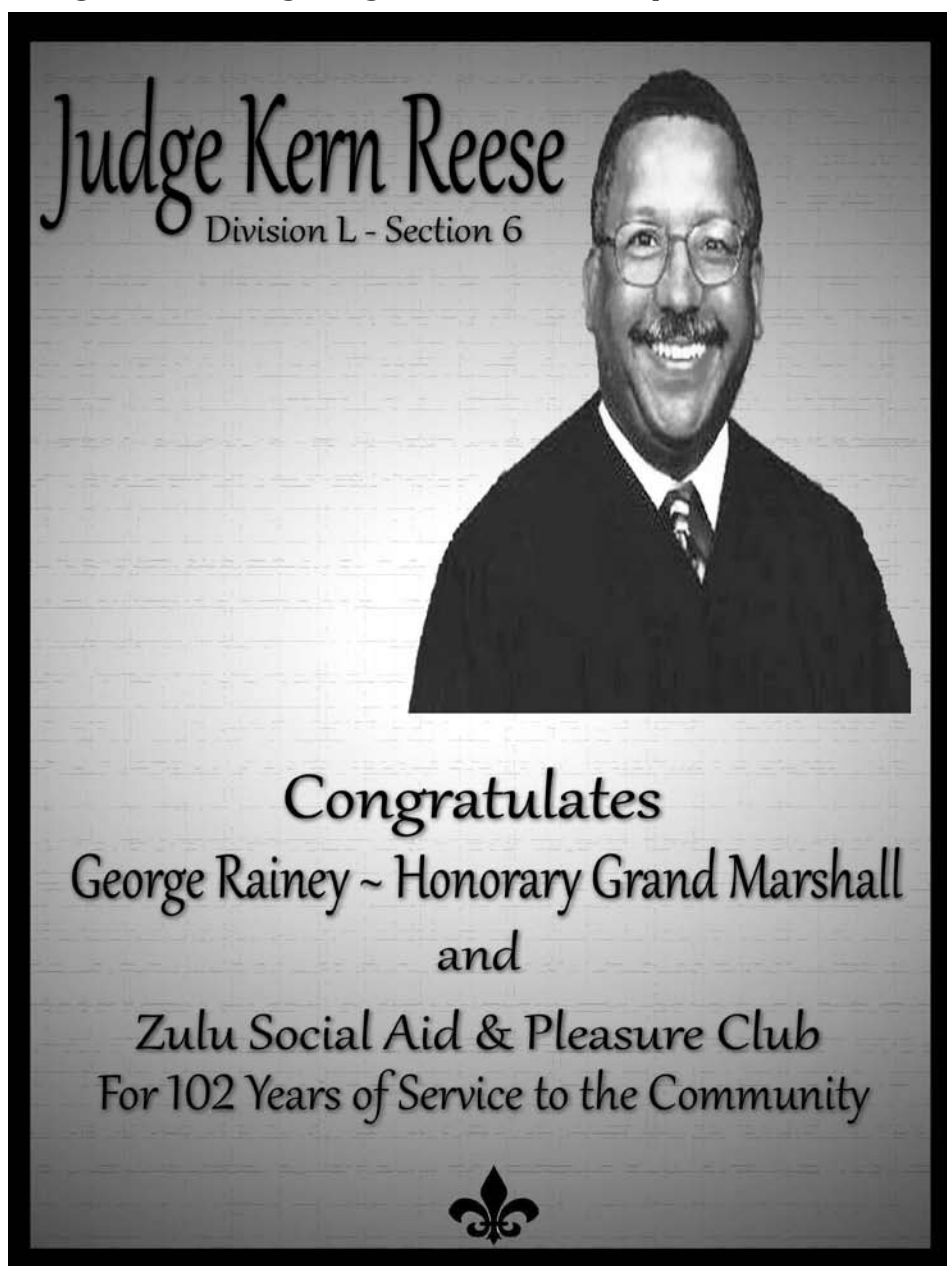
As part of the Zulu organization he has been responsible for raising millions of dollars for the club. And he is also the co-founder along with Karyn Noles of the Audubon Institute of the Zulu Lundi Gras Festival. "I am glad to see that it has grown to one of the biggest festivals in the city and state and that our organization can put on a first-class event for everyone in the city to enjoy," remarks Rainey of the event.

## The Spirit of Giving

They say that life is what you make it and George Rainey has found the ingredients and put together a gumbo that tastes of the good life. He is a man whose contributed in so many areas of life, that his legacy, a template to follow for those who have the desire to serve. Chiming in on the relationship between success and service, "Anyone can serve, the only thing you have to do is have

a sincere heart and a willingness to help your fellow man, to see them smile, to know your efforts gave somebody hope and in our city today this is something we need more than anything moving forward."

Rainey talks of a man of wisdom and experience, claiming boldly that the city is on the verge of a resurgence and renaissance, "During and since Hurricane Katrina I have seen people working together from different backgrounds, because this recovery is about all of us accepting that things have changed and figuring out the things we have in common and how we can move forward united." He is a man who has fed many people both figuratively and literally with his great tasting food and his "food for thought"; for today George Rainey through his life and legacy have the ingredients and the recipe for a good life.



# Anthony Bean Theater's World Premiere of MARRERO ACTION

The Anthony Bean Community Theater presents the World Premiere of an original drama, "Marrero Action". "Marrero Action" is written by WYLD's Sunday Journal host, Hal Clark. It tells the story of Kerwin Volcy, who comes home from Paris, France for the first time in twelve years when his father, Carl, suffers from a major stroke. Kerwin hates his father for supposedly causing his mother's death. A unique cast of characters attempts to prove to Kerwin that love and forgiveness are truly stronger than pride.

"Marrero Action" also highlights the pride the Volcy's display about their Haitian Heritage. One of their relatives fought valiantly against the French during the Haitian Revolution and reportedly stripped a sword from a French general in a decisive 1803 battle. The sword became an heirloom that has been passed from generation to generation. The historical aspects of the play are special to Clark, who learned last year that he is a descendant of the Bamileke people who live in Cameroon.

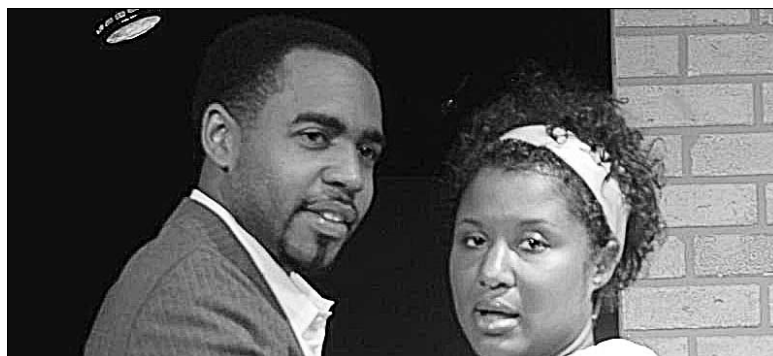
"The revelation of my ancestry came months after I had written the play, which proved to be an interesting development, because some aspects of the play represent a personal longing of wanting to learn more about my family's history," said Clark. "Knowing one's history, to me, serves as an anchor. It can assist us with knowing that despite life's many challenges, we'll overcome them like family members who came



The Cast of 'Marrero Action'. (L.) Darryl Luther, Samantha Beaulieu, Harold X. Evans, Sam Johnson, Alfred Aubry and Venita Matthews.

before us."

"Marrero Action" honors the meaningful, lifelong relationship that Hal Clark has had with his father, Rev. Dr. Harold Clark, Sr., Pastor of Greater St. John Baptist Church in Barataria, LA, a retired Jefferson Parish Public School educator/administrator and linguist. Rev. Clark assisted the play's cast with pronouncing the



Darryl Luther and Samantha Beaulieu

French terminology that's sprinkled throughout the script.

Rev. Clark didn't have a relationship with his own father, but purposely made sure that his and Hal's would be special. Hal, however, noticed that several people in his circle didn't share this experience, an element which became the core of "Marrero Action". The play also touches on the realities of life in post-Katrina New Orleans, and the tragedies experienced by current-day Haitians in their quest to immigrate to America.

"Marrero Action" is directed by Anthony Bean. Starring Big Easy winner Harold Evans as the father, Carl Volcy, Darryl Luther as the son, Kerwin. Big Easy Winner Samantha Beaulieu as the father's friend, Roxanne, Damany S. Comier as Business man, Paul Touzan, Alfred Aubry as Uncle Willie. Sam Johnson as Sheriff Deputy, El Head and as the Nurse, Miss Brackens, Venita Matthews.

Performances are March 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 & 27. On Friday and Saturday at 8:00 pm. And Sunday matinee at 3:00 pm. Tickets are \$20.00 for adults, \$18.00 for students and seniors, and are available by calling the Box Office at (504) 862-7529. (Box Office hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 5-7 pm. And two hours before performances.) You can also charge by phone or charge on line at [www.anthonybeantheater.com](http://www.anthonybeantheater.com)

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Zulu Club Honors One of Its Oldest Members George Rainey and Data Was There



# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Zulu Members Get Ready for Lundi Gras and Mardi Gras and Data Was There



# White Out

## Oscar and Culture



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

Months ago, we knew that there would be no African American Oscar winners, mainly because we knew there were no Oscar nominees. What a denouement from that glorious year when both Denzel Washington and Halle Berry were winners for films that, if flawed, celebrated their artistic genius. While the Oscars have not been an equal opportunity experience, there have been celebrated nominations and wins that have lifted up African-Americans in film, and it may be a mistake to take just one year and turn it into a trend. Still.

What do films depict? In some ways they are reflections of our hopes, dreams, visions, fantasies and realities. Those who “green light” films offer opportunities to films that resonate – a stuttering king, a troubled ballerina. Those of us who know writers and thinkers in the African-American world know there are equally compelling figures, but those who see film often reflect the sensibilities of their own age. In other words, what did it take for someone to decide that *The Great Debaters* would be a film that resonated? Why has Tyler Perry had to go the independent route? Who interprets culture and reality? Through which prism do they view the world? What do they see?

I think this question is especially pointed during this Great Recession, when there are such compelling economic stories that can be cast in a comedic and/or a dramatic light. I know that entertainment is partially about escapism, not just reality. Why else would a king’s stutter be more compelling than a sister’s foreclosure? Still, if I could give a green light, I’d ask someone to dramatize the story that Iyanla Vanzant tells in her latest book, *Peace from Broken Pieces*. How does a nationally acclaimed spiritual leader, teacher, and commentator emerge

from a woman who has been broken, battered, abandoned and then some? Isn’t there some drama there? Why not tell that story?

Or if a king is so compelling, what about a queen? Why not tell the stories of the African-American women in Black History who have made tremendous contributions. If we can talk about Ray Charles through Jamie Foxx, what about Cathy Hughes through Angela Bassett? Imagine the resonance of an entrepreneur so dedicated to her dream that she slept in the radio studio when she could not afford rent so she could keep her dream alive. Or what about Maggie Lena Walker, the woman who founded Penny Savings Bank in Richmond, a woman with a scant second grade education? Can we get some drama from the story of Elizabeth Keckley, the seamstress who supported a dissipated White master and his 17 relatives with her needle, a woman who bought her own freedom, became the confidant of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln, and only fell out with her when she wrote a book because she needed the money?

Popular culture does not lift these women up, no matter how dramatic their stories, because we have not often been able to bridge the racial divide in drama,

culture, and entertainment. Whatever is compelling in these stories is often muted by the racial aptitudes that shackle our nation. Thus, it is more interesting to learn of a British king who can’t speak the King’s English than an enslaved man like Frederick Douglass whose elocution inspires a nation. We could put the Frederick Douglass story on film, but then we’d have to deal with the miscegenation that makes many uncomfortable, the Black man, the White wife, the cultural barriers. Better to run to England with a stuttering King.

I’m not mad at Colin Firth and *The King’s Speech*, but I’m mad at a Hollywood that won’t take chances, a Hollywood that won’t lead with the films that are “green lighted”. If films reflect our turgid reality and our royal fantasies, not the vision for a redemptive future, then films hold us back instead of moving us forward.

This Oscar season is an exciting season for many individual artists. It is repudiation for African-American people.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina. Her most recent book, *Surviving and Thriving: 365 Facts in Black Economic History*, is available at [www.lastwordprod.com](http://www.lastwordprod.com)

# Union Busting Politicians



Judge Greg Mathis  
NNPA Columnist

### Mathis' Mind

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker has set off a fire storm among the state’s unions and public employees. To compound matters other states are proposing similar laws and will soon have to deal with their own revolts. Walker, in the name of balancing the state budget, has proposed legislation that will essentially deny public employees their collective bargaining rights and increase their payments to the state’s health-

care and pension plans.

Union employees, including teachers and others, from around the Midwest (some even came in from New York) flocked to the Wisconsin State Capital en masse to protest and continue to do so. The state legislature’s 14 Democrats oppose the plan and don’t want to vote on it. Instead of staying in Wisconsin and simply not showing up for the vote, which would have been in violation of the law, they left the state to prevent the state legislator from having the necessary number of members needed to vote on the legislation.

Wisconsin definitely has a big mess on its hands. Soon, Tennessee, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio - all of which have similar legislation in the works - may be dealing with their protests and stonewalling from state Democrats.

Supporters of the proposals in all the states say these types of cuts are necessary to reduce state deficits. Yet, Governor Walker, a Tea Party backed Republican, has proposed tax breaks for corporations. If Walker is truly interested in sorting out Wisconsin’s finance, why would he, on one hand, give away revenue by cutting corpo-

rate taxes and then, on the other, jeopardize the job and financial security of union employees, all of whom are tax paying citizens? Something here doesn’t compute.

Also interesting is the fact that Walker received more than \$40,000 in campaign contributions last year from a political group run by David and Charles Koch. The two Koch brothers run a booming gas and oil business and have been uncovered to be major financial supporters of the Tea Party movement. Is Walker, and other politicians like him, doing his own bidding, or is he paying back the Tea Party for its support

by moving their agenda forward?

We may never know for certain. But, we do know this: balancing the budget, whether it be at the state or federal level, on the backs of public employees who provide the services we all need to maintain and enjoy our quality of life is unfair, especially when rich corporations are being given tax breaks. Walker’s attempt is an old maneuver from the Republican playbook of the past and the Tea Party of new. Opponents of union busting legislation must stand strong and reject these modern day union busting efforts.



# City Announces Plans For Curbside Recycling

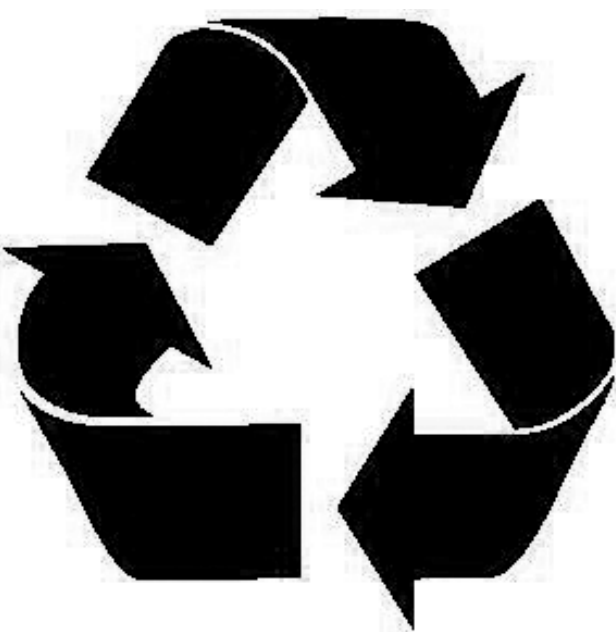
*Citizens Can Register for Carts Now*

This week, the City announced plans for expanding its recycling opportunities by initiating a curbside recycling program in the service areas covered by Metro Disposal and Richard's Disposal.

Residents in those service areas can visit <http://recycle.nola.gov> to register for curbside recycling carts. Carts will be provided by the City on request. Residents may also fill out the Recycling Service Notice manually and mail it to City Hall at 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA 70112 or fax it to (504) 658-3801.

Items accepted for curbside recycling will include:

Paper products including of-



ice paper, newspapers and color inserts, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, paper boxes (including cereal boxes, 12-pack soft drink boxes), telephone books, and shredded paper;

Plastic containers coded #1 through #7 (water, soda, juice bottles, etc.) and plastic pots from nurseries;

Small metal cans; and cardboard.

The curbside recycling program is slated to begin in the 2nd quarter of 2011. Additional details will be forthcoming.

The curbside recycling program supplements the City's ongoing recycling and e-waste drop-off, which will continue to be held on Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2829 Elysian Fields Avenue.

For more information about the city's recycling program, please visit <http://recycle.nola.gov>, or call the Department of Sanitation at (504) 658-3800.

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- Experience supporting a sales team and executives

# Ochsner Medical Center Named One of 50 Best

Hospitals in America by Becker's Hospital Review

Becker's Hospital Review has named Ochsner Medical Center one of the 50 best hospitals in America. Each of the 50 organizations is recognized for putting patients' needs first and for their achievements on a variety of innovations that have helped set the bar for high-quality care.

Ochsner is recognized as one of the largest non-university based physician training centers in the nation, with more than 200 medical residents and more than 300

medical residents from affiliated programs. Its innovative achievements to improve patient care include reducing crowding by creating a protocol called qTrack to separate out the sickest patients and speed up care for the others. In addition, Ochsner was the recipient of the 2010 HealthGrades Emergency Medicine Excellence Award and Kidney Transplant Excellence Award.

"This award is very important to us because it recognizes Ochsner as an institution which puts 'patients' needs first' and

'sets the bar for quality care,'" said Dr. Patrick Quinlan, CEO, Ochsner Health System. "These values are central to our identity and it's gratifying that a respected third party validates our national-caliber work."

The Becker's Hospital Review editorial team analyzed, scored and weighted data from outside sources on factors including patient safety, clinical outcomes and reputation. After examining these national rankings, the editorial team performed additional research and sought insight from industry sources before determining final selections. The list covers a wide spectrum, from well-known academic medical centers to less widely recognized community hospitals. Hospitals do not and cannot pay to be included on this list.

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# Entergy Urges Customers to be Safe around Power Lines during Mardi Gras

*Companies offer safety tips during the Carnival season*

Almost anyone who has spent time in the New Orleans metro area during Mardi Gras recognizes the scene - beads hanging casually on utility lines.

And while you might be tempted to reach up and try to get the

best looking ones, Entergy New Orleans, Inc. and Entergy Louisiana, LLC want to remind you about the importance of keeping your distance from power lines . . . and anything touching them.

Overhead power lines can carry

thousands of volts of electricity. The electricity wants to take the easiest path to the ground and will look for shortcuts wherever it can. Touching a power line with any part of your body, grabbing beads hanging from a power line

or touching a power line with an object like a ladder or a net at the end of a pole can provide an instant path for electricity. If that happens, you can be seriously hurt or even killed.

Safety is Entergy's top priority. Each year, Entergy crews ride the parade routes in advance of the Carnival season to correct any potential clearance issues so that floats don't come into contact with power lines. Entergy also has trucks ride in front of parades as an additional precaution.

"While Mardi Gras is a time for celebration and enjoyment, we at Entergy want to remind locals and visitors alike that safety should be your number one priority," said Melonie Hall, director of customer service for Entergy New Orleans, Inc. "When you are out on the parade route and see beads hanging from power lines, it is best to just leave them alone."

Other safety tips to remember during Mardi Gras include:

Float riders are encouraged to avoid throwing beads on to power lines.

Don't climb utility poles looking for a better view.

If you use long-handled nets to try to catch throws, be careful that you avoid reaching the net into overhead power lines.

Also be careful when climbing ladders on the parade route.

Even the smallest amount of electricity can cause injury or death. The amount of electricity used by a 7.5 watt bulb (like the ones used in outdoor holiday lighting) can be fatal if it passes through your chest. Even if the shock doesn't kill you, the electrical current can cause burns, cuts or internal bleeding.

"Electricity brings a lot of value and benefits to our lives but it is important to remember that it can be dangerous, as well," Hall said. "Staying away from power lines and recognizing hazards can help keep us all safe."

Daughters of Charity Health Centers

## Full-Service Family Dental Practice

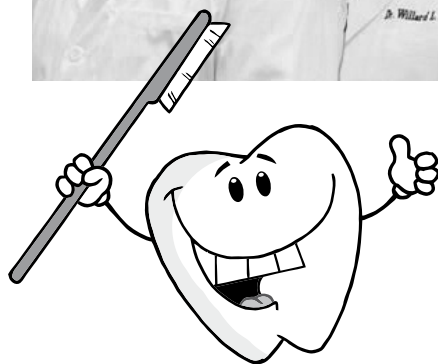
Dental care is very important to your total health and wellness — especially children and pregnant mothers.

**Dr. Jay Dumas**

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# Readin', Writin' & Race

## Education Snapshots in Black and White

By TaRessa Stovall

Special to the NNPA from thedefendersonline.com

A quick round-up of recent education stories offers a glimpse into the complex stew of progress, setbacks, and conflicting news that represents race and learning in America today.

**Higher Learning:** A rare piece of good-news-in-Black-education comes from a widely-reported story about Urban Prep, a charter school for Black males from some of Chicago's most disenfranchised neighborhoods, which has sent 100 percent of its graduates to college for the second year. The four-year-old school was founded to provide quality alternative education to its students, 85 percent of whom live below the poverty line and most who came to Urban Prep reading below grade level. All 107 of last year's inaugural graduating class were accepted into colleges.

"Not only are these young men being accepted to college, they are being recruited by some of the best higher education institutions in the United States," reported EduinReview.com. "One student this year was accepted to 21 colleges, and received \$719,000 in scholarships." Among his choices: Harvard, Yale and Wheaton College.

Two additional campuses have opened in Chicago, and plans were announced to reproduce the Urban Prep formula in other cities.

**Mo' Down in Motown:** A new plan to close 44 schools and one administrative building in the financially-devastated Motor City this June "will create a leaner, smarter Detroit Public Schools," according to Robert Bobb, emergency financial manager for the city's school district. Bobb unveiled a \$1 billion plan slated to cut some \$31 million in operating expenses and lower future maintenance costs.

"We have no more time to waste. We know that we have not only a financial emergency but an academic emergency as well. In many of our schools, we have a reading emergency, a writing emergency, a science emergency, and a math emergency," Bobb

said in a statement.

This is in addition to 29 Detroit schools that were closed last year. "The nearly 88,000-student district faces a deficit of at least \$219 million. Full-time enrollment is projected to drop to about 56,000 by 2015," reported MSNBC.com. "The plan seeks to reduce costs by eliminating unused space in the wake of shrinking enrollment, as students flee to the suburbs. It will mean thousands of students once again will be shuffled between neighborhood schools."

The closures and mergers dovetail with an academic plan Bobb unveiled recently that call for a 98 percent graduation rate and 100 percent of students being accepted to college by 2015.

Detroit may regret turning down a \$200 million gift to revitalize its schools in 2004. As a September 30, 2010 editorial in the Detroit News reports, Bob Thompson, a road builder, wanted to give the bulk of his fortune to local education to help schools graduate 90 percent of their students and send 90 percent of those graduates on to college. "Instead of grabbing the money and doing a happy dance, Detroiters, as is their custom, wailed about a suburban outsider taking away their schools and stealing their children," the paper stated. "Then-Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick told Thompson to just drop off the check and let Detroit Public Schools decide how to spend it."

Memo to Detroit: See Newark.

**Newark's Facebook-funded Consolidation:** Newark, N.J. school officials are looking at a consolidation plan to make more space for 11 charter schools, according to The Washington Post. The story suggests the move is part of an "overhaul" funded by a recent \$100 million grant from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg to Newark Mayor Corey Booker.

"The plan calls for some long-struggling schools to be closed and their students sent elsewhere. Other schools with low enrollment could be consolidated, The Post reports. "The buildings freed up by the moves would be used to house new and existing charter schools. It's unclear

whether they would pay rent."

But officials say the news is premature. The Star-Ledger newspaper obtained the draft of a proposal that wasn't meant for the public, according to Rochelle Hendricks, acting state deputy education commissioner leading the team that is overseeing the transition of Newark's schools. "While Hendricks told the Star-Ledger that "The co-locations for charters is not finalized in any way, shape or form," the paper reports that Newark school officials will announce the creation of five new public schools at a meeting of the Newark Public School Advisory Board on February 22.

The new schools are: Bard Early College, Green School, Diploma Plus, Harvey Milk (designed for gay and lesbian students) and YouthBuild (for students transitioning from jail and other trouble). Unlike charter schools, they will be run by the Newark School District. Each will be housed or share space within an existing Newark school.

Hendricks emphasized that the goal is to offer more options to Newark students while making the best use of the buildings. She said that no school facilities will be closed.

**Black Professors, Where Art Thou?:** Dr. Boyce Watkins, a popular blogger, media commentator, speaker and a professor of finance at Syracuse University, reports that a recent survey at his YourBlackWorld.com site reveals that "42 percent of Blacks who attended White universities never had a Black professor, and that close to three-quarters of Blacks have had only one Black professor during their college career," according to NewsOne.com. Watkins said he hadn't had any Black professors in his college career, adding that few Black professors are granted tenure, but are given temporary or visiting positions to pump up school diversity statistics. He also reported that half of the survey respondents from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) said they hadn't had more than three African-American professors in fields outside of African-American or Africana Studies.

While related statistics weren't available at press time, at least one undergraduate student felt the sting of racism in pursuit of her studies. Murray State University freshman Arlene Johnson arrived early to a political science class to find a film in progress. When she asked the Professor, Mark Wattier, about the timing, he said that he typically started films before class, adding that, he "expected" Black students to be late because "slaves never showed up on time, so their owners often lashed them for it."

Johnson filed a complaint with the Office of Equal Opportunity that day, and Wattier was later suspended.

**Minorities Given 'Unfair Edge?':** The Center for Equal Opportunity, which opposes race-based affirmative education in colleges and universities, is attacking Ohio State University and Miami Uni-

versity, both in Ohio, for allegedly admitting "Blacks over Whites" with their new report, "Racial and Ethnic Preferences in Undergraduate Admissions at Two Ohio Public Universities" released last week.

Officials from both schools criticized the study, releasing statements that they select students based on a variety of factors beyond race and ethnicity, including the rigor of their high school courses, strength of their school essays, leadership and work experience, and examples of overcoming obstacles and demonstrating progress. With OSU and MU released statements last week saying that they look at a variety of factors that transcend a student's race and ethnicity when doling out seats on campus.

TaRessa Stovall is Managing Editor of TheDefendersOnline.

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