

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data Zone

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**Black
Don't
Crack!**

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A Passion for Fashion

NOLA Fashion Week 2011



The Soul of New Orleans

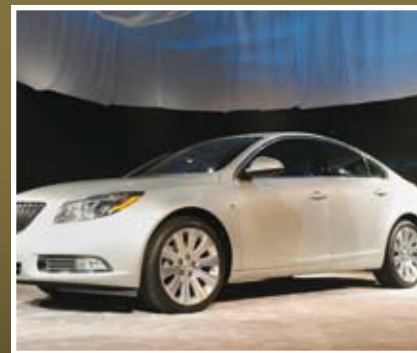
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Tracee Dundas: A Passion for Fashion and Giving Back



Tracee Dundas with Contestants in the called "Talent Teens Pageant", which is one of the youth oriented programs Dundas dedicates her time and attention. Dundas, trained, rehearsed and emcee the event.

By Edwin Buggage

Photos by: Suzannah Johnson-Malbreaux

She is a woman who has the gift of style and poise and a passion to pass it on to young people. "I wasn't always into fashion, as the only girl in my family with three brothers I was actually a tomboy," says Dundas laughingly of her pre-teen years. As she entered high school her love of fashion began to take shape, "I remember taking clothes and personalizing them and giving them my own personal touches and people began to notice and I started helping my friends with their wardrobes and saw how when people looked better it could make them feel better about themselves."

After graduating from college and spending several years in Corporate America, Dundas found herself at an impasse, while being financially secure she wanted to pursue a career that could incorporate her passion for fashion and her love for helping young people feel better about themselves. "I wanted to do something I could feel good about doing everyday and know it could make a difference also, so I started a modeling and talent agency called 'About Faces' and within my company I also began to use modeling and fashion as a way to help young girls with building healthy self-esteem," says Dundas, but what she found was that her program's impact was not limited to young ladies, "As my company continued to grow some parents thought my program could make a difference in the lives of young men as well by introducing them to the world of modeling and fashion." Continuing she says, "So I am glad that something I created has been able to help so many young people feel better about themselves and give them the will to succeed in whatever they are pursuing in life."

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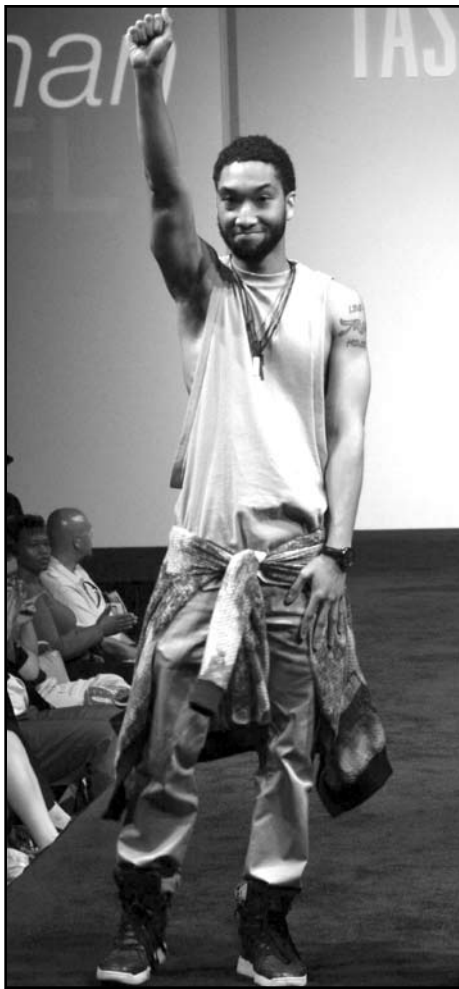
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Brennan Manuel Top Designer Finalist take a bow after showing his collection at FW NOLA



Alicia Zenobia FW NOLA Top Design Winner



Tracee Dundas



Kano Branon collection showcases at FW NOLA

Tracee has been active in fashion on a national and international level before Hurricane Katrina and saw much of what was not happening in a city trying to rebuild itself after the storm and the breaching of the levees. As an extensive traveler and veteran in the world of fashion, she's seen Fashion Week's presented across the country and globe and began to see regional events began popping up in smaller markets outside of the fashion mainstays of New York, Paris and Milan. "I thought as I started to see more of these events New Orleans would be a great place to produce a similar

event but with my own spin," says Dundas. "So as opposed to a show that was presented primarily for the press and fashion insider's I made it more accessible and consumer friendly." "Also I felt there was a need to use this as a platform to discover some of the untapped talent that exists locally and regionally in the world of fashion so I had a top designer competition."

Dundas is a woman that feels it is important to give back, and in doing fashion week she felt it was important to partner with non-profit organizations that helped in the development of young people, "One of the organiza-

tions we partnered with was Fashion Institute of New Orleans (FINO). It is a program that works with the Recovery School District (RSD), exposing young people to careers in the fashion industry." She says she received great joy seeing many of the young people participate in Fashion Week, "I was so proud of the kids, they did such a good job," says Dundas. "Many of them worked as models in the show, while others who had more of an interest behind the scenes, helped to produce the event in addition to doing hair and make-up." Continuing she says of her support of FINO "This is an organization I am very committed to and we also had a silent auction that helped raise money for them and to help them with their mission."

As there is the perception of a generational divide Dundas feels that the young people she comes in contact with are open to receive guidance and advice. "I think it is more a myth that young people and the elders do not communicate in our community, I think the larger problem is that older people do not step up to mentor our young people who are looking for people to help give them a road map and guide them to successful paths in life."

Today, as has been the case for

many decades, young people have wanted to express their individual or group styles through clothing. While other groups sometimes can do this more freely, African-Americans sometimes are penalized for this behavior. It is a tightrope that has to be walked as you navigate social space in America. Dundas says there is a compromise which can be made while one can remain authentic, "I tell young people that they do not have to lose their personal style, but simply understand that there are parameters as you look to build a professional look for yourself, and it is important to understand that how you are perceived based on your appearance sometimes can either open doors for you or in some instances keep them closed."

Dundas is a woman dedicated to helping young people and throughout her life has found a way to marry her passion of fashion and social consciousness. She says she could not have done it without the support of her husband New Orleans businessman Arnold Baker. "We work together as a team and I could not do as much as I do without his love and support, and through both of our businesses we are committed to serving others and giving back."

Jena Six Activist Convicted, Faces Decades in Prison

By Jordan Flaherty

Civil Rights Activist Catrina Wallace, who received national acclaim for her central role in organizing protests around the Jena Six case, was convicted today of three counts of distribution of a controlled substance. She was taken from the courtroom straight to jail after the verdict was read, and given a one- million dollar bail. Her sentencing is expected to come next month.

Wallace, who is 30, became an activist after her teenage brother, Robert Bailey, was arrested and charged with attempted murder after a fight in Jena High School. Bailey and five others later became known as the Jena Six, and their cause became a civil rights rallying cry that was called the first struggle of a 21st Century Civil Rights Movement. Their case eventually brought 50,000 people on a march through the town of Jena, and as a result of the public pressure the young men were eventually freed. The six are all now in college or - in the case of the youngest - on their way. Wallace and her mother, Caseptla Bailey, stayed in Jena and founded Organizing in the Trenches, a community organization dedi-



Civil rights activist Catrina Wallace

cated to working with youth.

Catrina Wallace was represented by Krystal Todd of the LaSalle Parish Public Defenders Office. The case was prosecuted by LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters, who also prosecuted the Jena Six case, and

famously told a room full of students, "I can make your lives disappear with a stroke of my pen." The case was presided over by 28th District Judge J. Christopher Peters, a former Assistant District Attorney under Reed Walters. Peters is the son of Judge Jimmie C.

Peters, who held the same seat until 1994. The 12-person jury had one Black member.

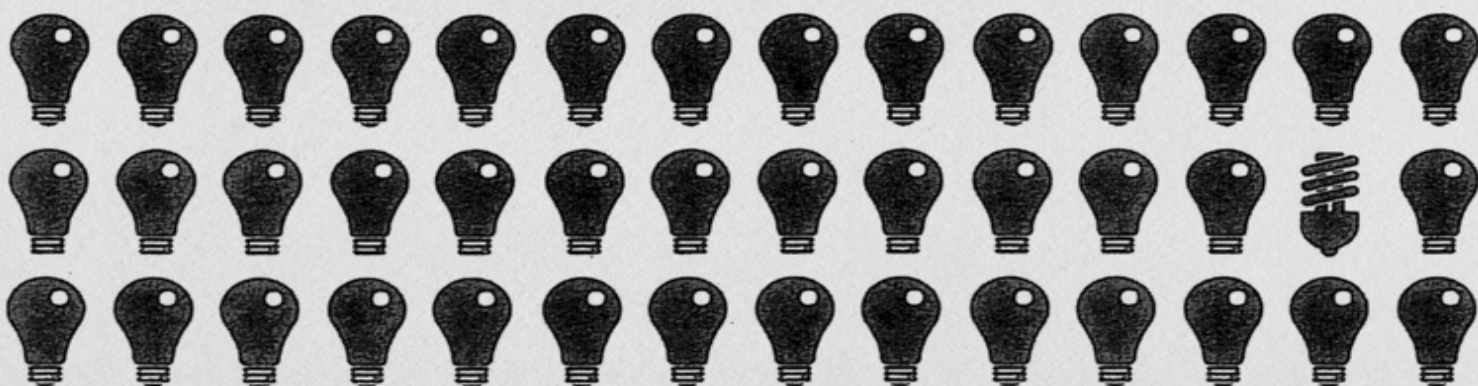
Wallace was arrested as part of "Operation Third Option," which saw more than 150 officers, including a SWAT team and helicopters, storm into Jena's Black Com-

munity on July 9, 2009. Although no drugs were seized, a dozen people were arrested, based on testimony and video evidence provided by a police informant, 23-year-old convicted drug dealer Evan Brown. So far, most of those arrested on that day have pleaded guilty and faced long sentences. Devin Lofton, who pled guilty to conspiracy to distribute, received ten years. Adrian Richardson, 34, who pled guilty to two counts of distribution, received twenty-five years. Termaine Lee, a twenty-two-year-old who had no previous record but faced six counts of distribution, received twenty years.

In response to the verdict, community members responded with sadness and outrage. "We don't have any help here," said Marcus Jones, the father of Mychal Bell, another of the Jena Six youths. "Catrina tried to keep in high spirits leading up to the trial, but when a bomb like this is dropped on you, what can you do?" Jones and others are calling for the US Department of Justice to investigate.

Wallace, a single mother, has three small children, aged 3, 5, and 10. The youngest child has frequent seizures.

CAN YOU SPOT THE ENERGY-SAVING BULB?



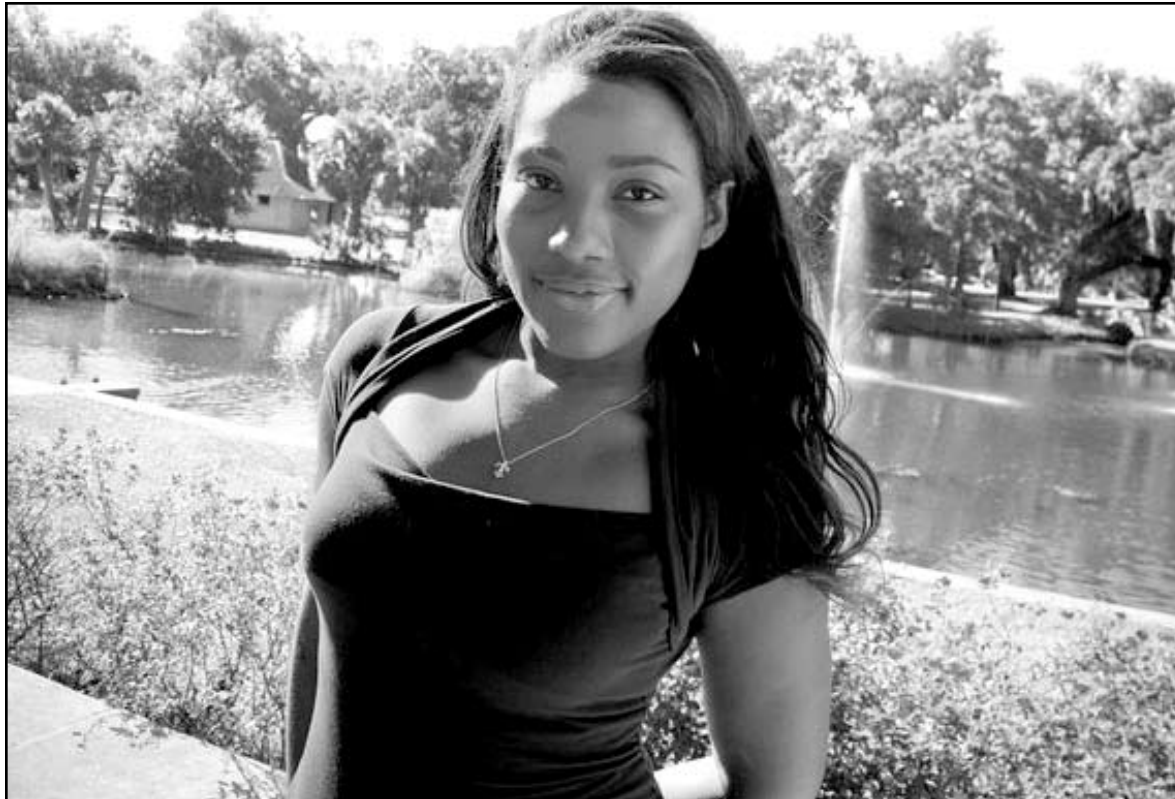
WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?

The Importance of Children and Youth

Keeping with her tradition of being untraditional, India James celebrated her 25th birthday by hosting a party not only to commemorate her day but also aimed at raising money for a youth mentoring program. She is a member of the Board of Directors at Einstein Charter School, a Pre-K through 8th grade school in New Orleans East. Asking for only \$20 donations upon admission to the party, India raised thousands of dollars for the 7th and 8th grade girls' mentoring program. While served a full menu of dinner and dessert, guests were also treated to a performance by a live jazz band. Using the attention on her to focus upon a greater cause, she educates others on the importance of mentoring and the ease in which we can all contribute to the future.

"Children are the future. Even Aristotle long ago acknowledged that the fate of empires settled upon the education of its youth. However, the value of children is often under-appreciated. As more money is invested into academics, other factors of education must not be forgotten. To maximize the impact of financial investments in education, there must be balance amongst all the needs of children. The younger generation is changing the way people interact and conduct business," says India.

According to the Department of Education, Louisiana's 4th graders on average read better than the same students in Mississippi. The inverse means, on average, 4th graders in every other state except Mississippi read better than Louisiana's children.



New Orleans resident, India James recently celebrated her 25th birthday by hosting a party with a purpose, raising money for a youth mentoring program.

This State spends about \$8,500 per public school pupil on education. Orleans Parish, specifically, spends about \$15,000 on education per pupil. Although that's about 50% more than the state average, it does not reflect in academic achievement. While one academic year of tuition, room and board at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge is about \$10,800, the National Institute of Corrections figures Louisiana's expenditures per prisoner at about \$14,500. India comments, "A lyric in a familiar rap song talks about that statistic. How can we expect children to compete in a

global economy if they have not been prepared to do so? Those prisoners could have been investment bankers, businesspeople, and perhaps even clients of someone's civil law practice. Behind bars, their talent is going to waste. Those numbers should be especially disappointing for Black businesspeople because these are a great number of your potential customers and clients."

About 70% of poor families in Louisiana are female led households with no husband present. "What's even more interesting is New Orleans specifically. When you breakdown the percentage

of poor residents in unmarried households, you see that less than 10% have full-time year round employment. This is a cyclical behavior. It's important to help kids understand exactly what those numbers mean for their future so they can avoid becoming another statistic. That is why mentoring is so important."

Mentoring is important because much of what happens in life depends on relationships. It is an effort to form a relationship that helps someone succeed. Some relationships bring out the best in people while others bring out the worst. Good mentoring pro-

vides support, accountability, and opportunity. "I decided to hold myself accountable by hosting this event. The idea surfaced as I brainstormed ideas to celebrate my birthday. Instead of pointing a finger at some politician, I looked in the mirror and thought about what I could do to make things better," says India.

With a mind for business and innovation, she raises the bar for philanthropists and community leaders. She is very humble about her academic and professional accomplishments. "I'm the first in my family to do a lot of things - and not just the good stuff!" she giggles. "I didn't start out at the top, and I have a long way to go before I get there. I just hope to make the process easier for someone else." When asked whether she plans to enter politics, she responds "I'm living a great life. That's not something I want to change."

Her energetic and bubbly personality is as much welcoming as she is unpredictable. "It was important for me to do more than just talk. I enjoying doing stuff - building and watching things grow. People who complain and repetitiously talk about the same things help me appreciate the action in watching paint dry. At least that's one action I'm almost certain will actually occur. Community involvement shouldn't only be stirred in response to some tragic event. This was a fun opportunity so that everyone could enjoy giving back, simply, just because. I challenge others to do the same."

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Data News Weekly
45th Anniversary Edition
April 30, 2011

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Skin Facts: Black Don't Crack



Janice Meredith Data Columnist

As a sister of a certain age, I still get the question; "How old are you twenty-seven?" Or when my mom and I are out together we get the confused look. You know that unsure look that begs the question, mother and daughter or sisters?

So, is it a fact? Black don't crack.

This expression has been a part of the Black community for years. Women of African descent tend to retain their youthful attribute well into their prime. My grandmother would tell us how slaves would drink and bath in salt water to clean their teeth and keep their skin tight. Is there any truth to that story? I really don't know, but I don't think there is any truth to it. But all of my granny's stories were purely entertainment for the grandkids.

Beyond the salt water stories, the question still lies; how do African-Americans age so gracefully?

Since you asked, I'm going to drop a little science on you. It's all about the melanin.

Darker skin has more melanin than lighter skin. Melanin protects the body from UV rays.

Ultraviolet light from the sun damages the elasticity of fibers beneath the skin's surface. This is the primary cause of wrinkled, dry and tough looking skin.

Fair skinned people have less melanin and so have less protection from the sun's damaging rays. Also as a defense mechanism the body attempts to produce additional melanin but this often results in age or liver spots.

Mother Nature has given African-American's a leg up, so to speak, when it comes to aging gracefully. Not only does our skin contain enough melanin to naturally combat the damaging rays of the sun. We are also protected from age or liver spots because our bodies are not forced to over produce melanin. The end result is that we come out of the deal with wrinkle free, supple and refreshed looking skin well into our golden years.

Now, it is a fact the "Black don't crack", but we must still take care of our skin. Although our genes are design to prevent wrinkles, we can still expose ourselves to skin cancer.

Here are a few tips to cleaner, healthy skin:

Use sunscreen at least 20 minutes before exposing your skin to the sun.

Cleanse your face daily to remove dirt, oil and makeup.



Avoid abrasive cleansers or cleansing products that tend to irritate your skin.

Be careful how you sleep. Sleeping in the same position night after night may cause wrinkles due to the skin remaining in a pressed or folded position for extended periods.

Drink plenty of water and eat a healthy/balanced diet. Proper hydration and nutrition will give your body the things it needs to repair itself.

I'm proud when I look at my granny, now 87, beautiful and still glowing. I starting to think that salt water may hold the "fountain of youth". Any way the melanin flow works well for me. After all, I still get carded at the club. And for a woman of a certain age, let's just say thirty-something; I gladly hand over my identification with a smile.

My Black is Beautiful. Oh, did I mention, it don't crack either.

Janice Meredith/Stylebrity



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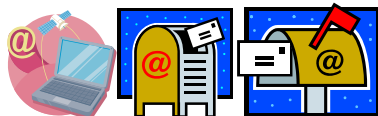
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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

NOLA Fashion Week Highlights!

Fashion Week NOLA was created to spotlight the talents and collections of both local and national designers, boutiques and retailers through a series of runway shows, fashion exhibit & chic parties. It began with a kick-off party on March 15th, followed by three days [March 16-18, 2011] of incredible runway shows at The Sugar Mill.

Photos by Stewart Johnson



FW NOLA Creative Director congratulate top design participants: Brennan Manuel (finalist), Alicia Zenobia (winner), Tracee Dundas (FW NOLA), EstherRose(finalist).



Stephanie Jordan welcomes fashionistas to FW NOLA with a song.



NOLA Creative Director Tracee Dundas with husband Arnold Baker take time out to savor the moment.



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The State of Black America: Washington Are you Listening?



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

To Be Equal

"Welcome to America in the second decade of the 21st Century. An army of long-term unemployed workers is spread across the land, the human fallout from the Great Recession and long years of misguided economic policies."

Bob Herbert's final column for the New York Times

Last week, the nation's leading historic civil rights organization, the National Urban

League, came together with the nation's leading Historic Black University, Howard University, to hold the first ever State of Black America town hall meeting focusing on the jobs crisis in urban America. The Town Hall, hosted by Howard President, Sidney Ribeau, culminated two days of meetings with Congressmen and Senators on Capitol Hill where Urban Leaguers from across the country made the case: There can be no complete economic recovery as long as already too high unemployment for African-Americans continues to go up even as the overall unemployment rate gradually ticks down.

Yes, we were pleased to learn last week that the unemployment rate has fallen to 8.8 percent, the lowest level in two years. And, we applauded the actions by the Obama Administration – the Stimulus bill, Health Care Reform and Bank Reform – that have kept the mighty titanic of the American economy from sinking to the bottom of the sea. But, this is no time for a victory party. As the National Urban League's 2011 Equality Index reveals, there remain large and widening gaps between the status of Afri-

can-Americans and Whites in this country, particularly in the areas of economics and children's health. For Hispanics there are big gaps too, especially in the area of college enrollment. And, with Black unemployment now at 15.5 percent and Hispanic unemployment at 11.3 percent, clearly, it is time to declare war on inequality and unemployment in urban communities of color.

As we stated at the Town Hall, we must not let other major concerns, including war and partisan fights about deficit reduction, distract us from the number one issue facing the American people – jobs, jobs, jobs. The National Urban League's nearly 100 affiliates across the country haven't lost that focus. We remain economic first responders for millions of Americans desperately seeking to rebuild their lives, families, and communities in the wake of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. We highlighted three outstanding examples at our Town Hall.

Lonnie Grayson, President of Environmental & Safety Solutions, Inc. has been able to win new contracts and double his workforce with the help of the Entrepre-

neurship Center of the Urban League of Cincinnati. The Urban League of Philadelphia helped David Simms, owner of Eatible Delights Catering, develop new branding and marketing tools that have boosted his business. And Donna Hodge Harper of Newark, an unemployed casualty of the great recession, said that were it not for the job training and job placement assistance she received from the Urban League of Essex County, she doesn't know where she would be today.

Lonnie, David, and Donna show us how to dig urban America out of the great recession: Training for 21st Century jobs. Putting investments in people over the politics of deficit reduction. Summer jobs for teens. All of these solutions are part of the National Urban League's 12-points jobs plan. Washington, are you listening?

To view the Town Hall webcast and find out how you can obtain a copy of the 2011 State of Black America Report log on to www.nul.org

Marc H. Morial is the President and CEO of the National Urban League

Investigate Standardized Testing



Judge Greg Mathis
NNPA Columnist

Mathis' Mind

For several years, ever since the "No Child Left Behind Act" took effect, students, teachers, and school districts have felt the pressure that comes from living in a nation that uses standardized tests as its sole method for measuring student proficiency. When too many students at one school perform poorly on these tests, teachers can be fired, principals replaced and schools closed. Hundreds of teach-

ers were fired in D.C. schools because of poor performance by students on test. The stakes are high. But, no one would have guessed that the pressure would lead to alleged cheating on these exams.

An investigation by USA Today into drastic test score turnarounds at Noyes Elementary, a Washington, D.C. public school, it was revealed that seventh grade students in one classroom at the school each had, on average, nearly 13 wrong answers that were erased and changed to the correct answer.

Coincidence? Maybe not. In 2006, 10% of the school's students "passed" the standardized Math test. In 2008, nearly 60 percent did. Tests scores showed the school made similar gains on the reading portion of the test. Perhaps the teachers simply worked harder and ensured students absorbed the lessons? Maybe. But it's important, for comparison, to note that the average wrong to right erasure for seventh graders throughout the D.C. public school system was less than one. Noyes Elementary School isn't the only one with questionable score improvement. Fifty-eight Atlanta schools are under investigation because

high rates of wrong answers changed to right on student answer sheets raised flags. Similar occurrences have raised red flags in Detroit as well. If this is, in fact, cheating, who is responsible? Teachers? School principals? No one is sure but one thing is certain: if it's happening in D.C., Detroit, and Atlanta, it is happening in other cities.

Changing test answers to fake improvement doesn't help our students. It hurts them. That is why a federal task force needs to be formed to investigate drastic improvement on standardized tests at our nation's public schools. We want to believe that our teachers and principals are honest but we also know that fear - of being fired

if students perform poorly – or greed – teachers and principals at Noyes received bonuses when scores improved – are powerful motivators.

There also needs to be another way to measure student performance. We cannot simply rely on standardized tests. Periodic monitoring can easily show how students and teachers perform in the classroom. Required essays and math 'projects' will show us that students can actually apply what they are taught. Diversifying the way we measure student performance – and deciding the fate of teachers, principals, and schools - will also help keep things honest.



US Supreme Court Denies Payments to Wrongfully Incarcerated Man

Overturms \$14 Million Jury Award, Man Served 18 Years in Prison Due to Wrongfully withheld Evidence



NNPA Newswire - The Supreme Court recently overturned, in a 5-4 vote, a \$14 million jury award to a Black man who was freed from death row after it was found prosecutors withheld key evidence in his case.

The money had been awarded to John Thompson, who spent 18 years in prison, including 14 years on death row, for a 1984 armed robbery and a murder conviction. He was reportedly just weeks away from execution when his lawyers unearthed proof that prosecutors had withheld evidence, including eyewitness reports pointing to a suspect that did not look like Thompson and blood tests that established he wasn't at the scene.

Prosecutors dropped the robbery charges in 1999 and a state court exonerated him of the murder in a separate trial in 2003.

Thompson then sued New Orleans former District Attorney Harry F. Connick for withholding evidence that could have resulted

in an acquittal and failing to properly train prosecutors. Thompson was awarded \$14 million in damages in a civil suit, but the prosecutor's office appealed the verdict and the case wound up before the high court.

On behalf of the majority, Jus-

tice Clarence Thomas said there was an "absence of proof" that such prosecutorial misconduct was a regular occurrence in the New Orleans district attorney's office or that it was a result of insufficient training.

"By their own admission, the

prosecutors who tried Thompson's armed robbery case failed to carry out (justice)," Thomas wrote in the opinion. "But the only issue before us is whether Connick, as the policy maker for the district attorney's office, was deliberately indifferent to the need to train the attorneys under his authority."

In a concurring note, Justice Antonin Scalia singled out Assistant District Attorney Gerry Deegan as the only "miscreant prosecutor" who suppressed information.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and Samuel A. Alito Jr. also joined Thomas's opinion.

But in a dissenting opinion, supported by Justices Stephen G. Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote that "no fewer than five prosecutors" were involved in a violation of Mr. Thompson's constitutional rights. "They kept from him, year upon year,

evidence vital to his defense."

Their actions, she said in the first dissenting opinion to be read from the bench in the term of the court, were "a foreseeable consequence of lax training."

Current New Orleans District Attorney Leon A. Cannizzaro Jr. praised the court's decision at a recent news conference, saying his office "should not be held financially responsible for the intentional, unethical and illegal acts of a rogue prosecutor," according to The New York Times.

The office would have had to shell out what now totals nearly \$20 million to pay the judgment and interest accumulated in the years since the original ruling.

Thompson harshly criticized the decision.

"If I'd spilled hot coffee on myself, I could have sued the person who served me the coffee," he told The New York Times. "But I can't sue the prosecutors who nearly murdered me."

Capital One Bank Launches 'Investing for Good Award' for New Orleans Area Nonprofits

Award to recognize local non-profit organizations for excellence in advancing community development, education, and financial literacy

New Orleans (April 4, 2011) – Capital One Bank today launched the 'Investing for Good Award,' a new Philanthropy Program through which Capital One Bank will provide support through volunteerism and grants totaling up to \$300,000 to four local non-profit organizations advancing education, financial literacy, and small business and workforce develop-

ment in Greater New Orleans.

Capital One Bank will accept letters of intent from local non-profit organizations to participate in the program through May 4, 2011, online at www.cybergrants.com/capitalone/GNOinvestingforgoodawardLOI. Four local non-profit recipients will then receive support in the form of grants and volunteerism over a two-year period to bolster their efforts to build strong neighborhoods in Greater New Orleans. Award recipients are each eligible for grants totaling up to \$75,000 over the two-

year period.

"The 'Investing for Good Award' is a natural outgrowth of Capital One Bank's long-standing commitment to foster the economic vitality of Greater New Orleans," said Steve Hemperley, Capital One Bank's Greater New Orleans Market President. "By investing in effective community partnerships and programs, we are working to deliver solutions that can make a tangible difference for the community and each person we reach."

Eligibility is open to organiza-

tions serving the Parishes of Orleans, Jefferson, St. Tammany, St. Bernard, St. Charles and St. John. The Letter of Intent and complete award guidelines may be found at www.cybergrants.com/capitalone/GNOinvestingforgoodawardLOI. Letters of intent must be submitted online by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. Capital One Bank executives will review all submissions and invite full applications from those organizations selected to receive further consideration. Grants will be awarded in early August 2011.

For interested non-profit organizations, Capital One Bank will host two informative conference calls – one on April 13, 2011, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the other on April 14, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. To register, non-profits should RSVP by April 12 with their organization's name, contact person, email address and preferred conference call date to InvestingForGoodLA@capitalonebank.com.

The 2011 Buick Regal

Where Sporty Meets Luxury



The 2011 Buick Regal

By Terry Jones

The 2011 Buick Regal is a driving experience that combines the amenities of a luxury car in a sporty sedan. Driving through the sometimes bumpy roads of New Orleans I enjoyed a smooth and comfortable ride as the Regal has great suspension that surpasses the competition. It is equipped with an OnStar System, and the ability to control features located

on the console is an extra bonus that adds to what I thought was an enjoyable driving experience.

As I drove the Buick Regal, I found joy in its adjustable cockpit seats which is another asset to what I think is a great vehicle. Aesthetically the car is designed beautifully with its aerodynamic shape, but in terms of its design, the only thing I would change is its side door mirrors. With their

oval shape they add to the sleek styling, but I found it increasing my blind spot while driving.

After driving the 2011 Buick Regal I give it two thumbs up and would recommend it for anyone who desires to have the experience of driving a car that is sporty and luxurious. It is another great product from GM, a brand that continues to make great vehicles.

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Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper", is seeking an energetic professional who can juggle many tasks. Could this be you? Are you an experienced administrative assistant seeking a position with great people? If so, this could be the right opportunity for you! This position will assist the Publisher, Sales, and Customer Service departments.

We are looking for an experienced administrative assistant who has the ability to handle multiple tasks in a small team environment. Some other duties will include proofing, editing and issuing weekly sales reports; performing general clerical duties (i.e. phone coverage, mail, fax, letter, etc.); maintaining social network sites; implementing activities associated with in-house meetings; and maintaining inventory of office supplies for multiple departments.

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Job Experience:

- Candidates MUST have at least 2 years of Administrative experience
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint and social media sites
- Experience supporting a sales team and executives

Will CBC and Black Leaders Stick with Obama?

The President is Walking on a Slippery slope on the Healthcare Reform, Jobs and War

By Yussuf J. Simmonds
The Los Angeles Sentinel

NNPA Newswire - A year ago when President Barack Obama signed the landmark legislation known as the Healthcare Reform Act, he said, "At this moment, we are being called upon to fulfill our duty to the citizens of this nation and to future generations... I don't know how passing health care will play politically, but I do know that it's the right thing to do. It's right for our families. It's right for our businesses. It's right for the United States of America."

That was a milestone and since then, many state's attorney generals have challenged its constitutionality. However, California's Attorney-general Kamala Harris has filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit strongly asserting the legality of federal health care reform and urging the court to uphold the law stating, "The law strikes an appropriate—and constitutional—balance between national requirements that will expand access to affordable healthcare while providing States with flexibility to design programs that achieve that goal for their citizens," according to the amicus brief states.

In addition, since President Obama came into office, he has been dogged by chronic unemployment and a faltering economy when he inherited from his predecessor. The effects of those twins of national disaster have reportedly been on a rollercoaster ride, according to many economists.

However, the disastrous effects can also be readily seen through the experiences of the average American and especially Black Americans. Massive foreclosures, joblessness, unprecedented homeless, high consumer prices added to the aforementioned have lowered the standard of living and quality of life for a large segment of Americans.

Now comes war—another unprovoked military entanglement—in addition to the two that the President inherited that at present seem unwinnable and an inability to be extricated from. And, that is exacerbating most of what is ailing the country—economically and otherwise.

Some statistics: 46 of the 50 states are operating 'in the red' and cannot expect any assistance from the federal government, which is also operating 'in the



President Barack Obama launched his 2012 re election campaign this week, speculation remains whether or not he will have the full support of the CBC.



Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) at press conference discussing the Budget crisis in Washington, DC.

red'; one of the generals, reported to the Defense Budget Committee that the recent military engagement has cost approximately half a billion dollars; recovery from disasters such as Hurricane Katrina (more than five years ago), the more recent BP oil spill, and recoveries from the mid-western and eastern seaboard weather-relative tragedies, just to name a few, have been stalled at the expense of military expenditures.

The light at the end of the tunnel appears to be the support that President Obama has received especially from members of his own party even though they are the minority in the House (of Representatives); but the slim majority that he enjoys in the (U.S.) Senate

often acts as a buffer to counteract the GOP majority in the House.

For example, during floor debate on the Republican legislation to repeal health care reform earlier this year, Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) said in part, "I'm proud to join my Democratic colleagues on the floor this afternoon to state our unequivocal stance against health care reform repeal. The landmark health reform law takes a stand against the health care disparities that exist for low-income Americans, people of color, and people with pre-existing conditions.... I implore my Republican colleagues to work with us to strengthen the law, make it better, and provide health care and jobs to millions of Americans."

Rep. Laura Richardson (D-CA) released the following statement marking the anniversary of the Health Care Act: "One year ago, history was made when President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law. On this important anniversary, there is certainly much to celebrate. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, millions of Americans are far better off now than they were a year ago. More Americans have increased access to quality health care than ever before, as well as improved coverage, more control and fewer obstacles to receiving the care they need...."

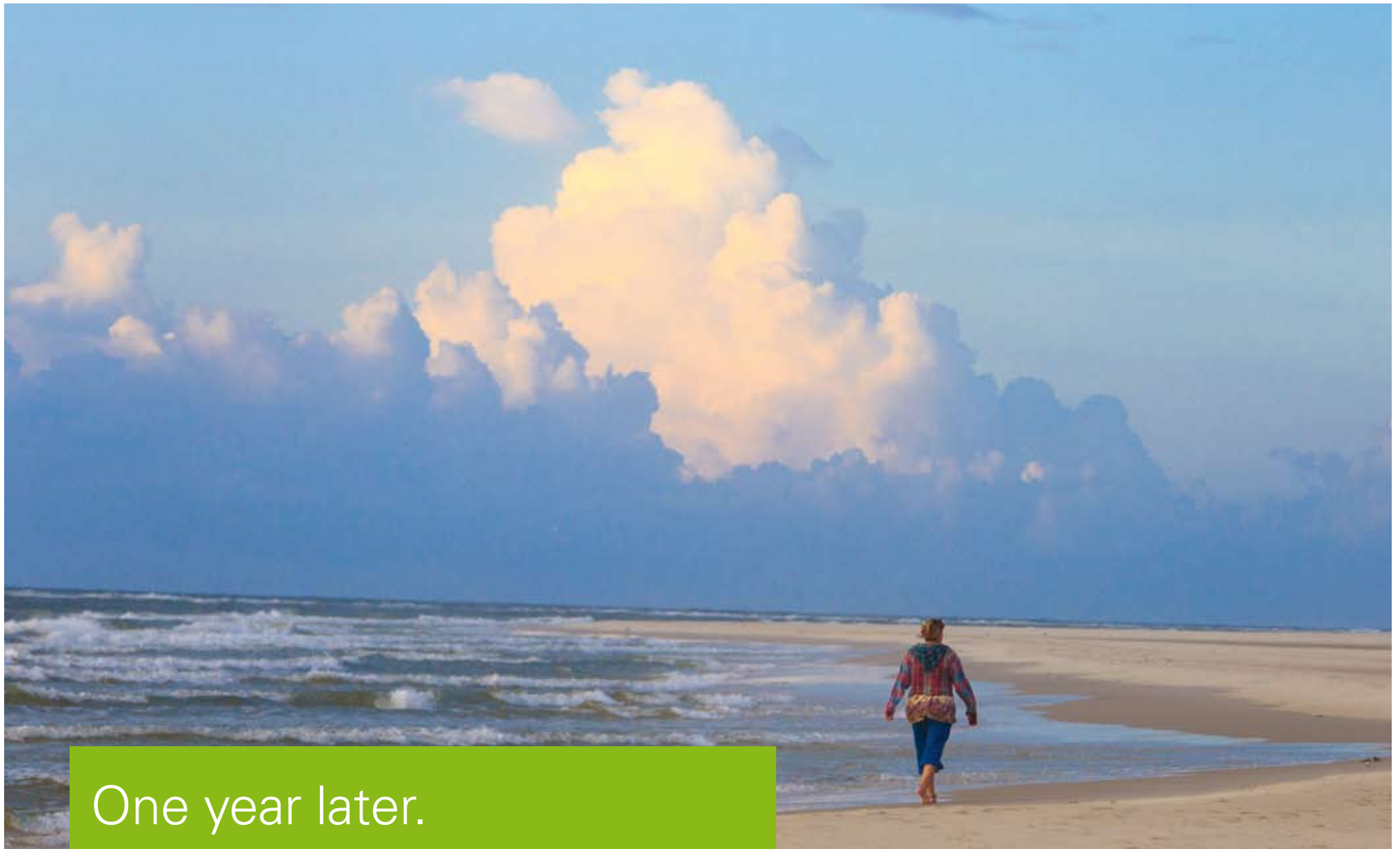
In an op-ed, Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA) stated: "This week will mark one year since the Health

Care Reform bill was enacted, making quality health care more accessible and affordable for all Americans. Before President Obama, before this legislation, we were the only modern industrialized nation in the world to lack any kind of comprehensive system ensuring that its citizens had access to basic medical care. Now we are headed towards a future where Americans of every economic level can afford basic health insurance...."

The plaudits for the President came from throughout the nation as Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) reiterated his continued support of the act that was designed to provide quality and affordable health care for all Americans: "The Affordable Care for America Act has the same monumental significance that Medicare and Medicaid has had for all Americans," Thompson said. "The Affordable Care Act has extended health coverage to more than 32 million Americans by providing security for seniors, guaranteeing health insurance coverage for the uninsured, and making health care more affordable for middle class families...." Thompson maintains that the law is highly beneficial.

But, the light at the end of the tunnel dimmed somewhat as some of the President's supporters, though standing shoulder to shoulder with him, questioned the value of him sending America's military once again into battle. Thus far, many have proceeded cautiously.

Chairman Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO) of the Congressional Black Caucus issued the following statement on his recent address to the nation: "As an ordained minister, I am an advocate of the seven principles of a just war which are not, in my opinion, theologically present in the military policy relating to Libya. As a Member of Congress, however; I can understand the position that President Obama was in to protect the Libyan people in order to prevent a potential genocide. I am pleased that NATO will take control of the enforcement of the arms embargo and No Fly Zone on Wednesday, and equally pleased that the United States will take a supporting role in this effort. We cannot afford another Iraq or Afghanistan and I firmly believe that the President fully understands that."



One year later.
Our commitment continues.

Soon a year will have passed since the Deepwater Horizon accident in the Gulf. From the beginning, we have taken responsibility for the cleanup. Our commitment to the Gulf remains unchanged, as does our responsibility to keep you informed.

Committed to the Gulf

No oil has flowed into the Gulf since July 15th. As our efforts continue, nearly 100% of the waters are open and the beaches are clean and open. To ensure its safety, Gulf seafood has been more rigorously tested by independent researchers and experts than any other seafood in the world. To date, BP has spent more than \$13 billion in clean-up costs.

Restore the Environment

An additional \$282 million has been spent on environmental issues, including wildlife rescue and restoration of wildlife refuges across the region. We have also committed \$500 million to the Gulf of Mexico Research Institute to fund scientific studies on the potential impact of the spill.

Help to Rebuild the Economy

\$5 billion in claims have already been paid. We've committed \$20 billion to an independent fund to pay for environmental restoration and all legitimate claims, including lost incomes. More than \$200 million in grants have been made to the Gulf Coast States to promote tourism and seafood.

Learn and Share the Lessons

This was a tragedy that never should have happened. Our responsibility is to learn from it and share with competitors, partners, governments and regulators to help ensure that it never happens again.

We know we haven't always been perfect but we are working to live up to our commitments, both now and in the future.

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