

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

**Data**

**News Weekly**

"The People's Paper"

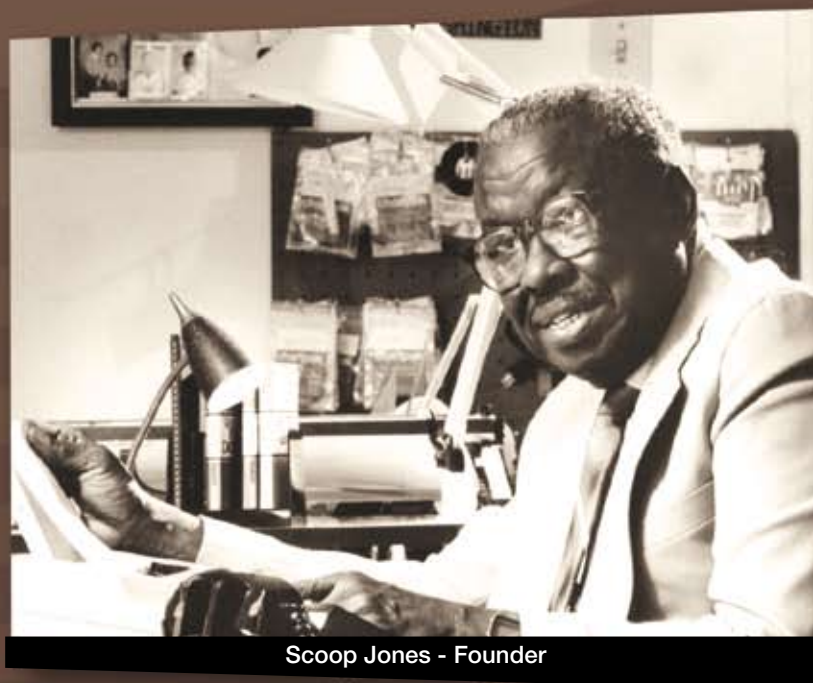


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April 30 - May 6, 2011 46th Year Volume 1 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

**45** Years

**of Being the People's Paper  
A Community Perspective**



Scoop Jones - Founder



Anthony Bean



Wendell Pierce



Carol Bebel



Marc Morial



William Oliver

*The Soul of New Orleans*

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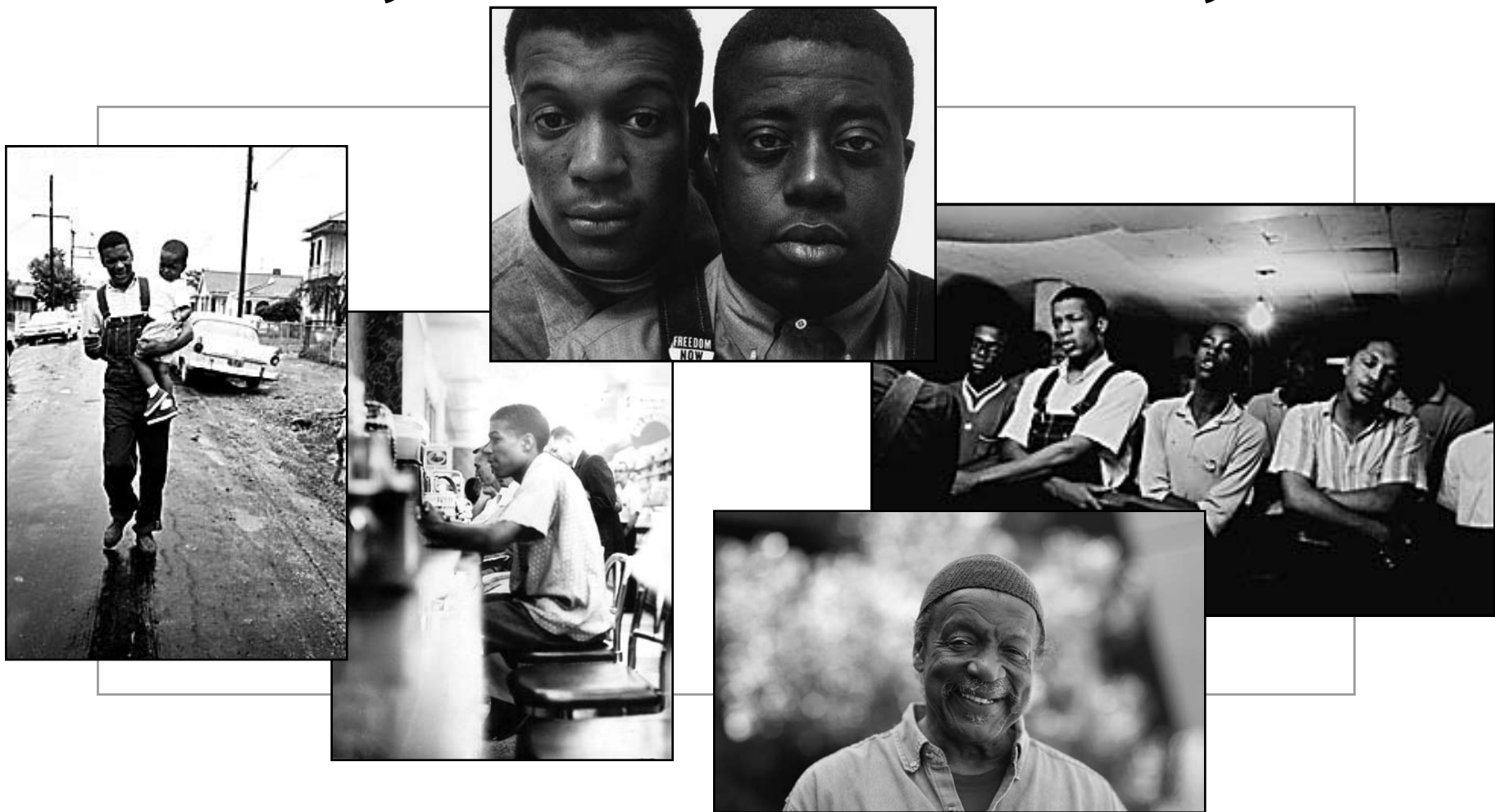
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# Data News Celebrates Forty-Fifth Anniversary



Jerome Smith - Community Activist

By Edwin Buggage

Forty-five years ago **Joseph “Scoop” Jones** was a man with a dream of creating a newspaper that would serve as a voice for the voiceless in the New Orleans Community. In 1966 he and several partners started the New Orleans Data News Weekly. Today under the ownership of his son Terry Jones, Data News Weekly has grown into one of the premier African-American newspapers in the country winning awards and garnering praise from the community as a news source people have come to trust. On this the Forty-Fifth Anniversary a host of people from the civic, business, arts and activist community in New Orleans have come together to congratulate Data News Weekly for its service.

**Jerome Smith** of Tambourine and Fan and former member of the Student

Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is a man with deep roots in the activist community of New Orleans. “Data News Weekly has always served as the pipeline to Black New Orleans giving us the news that other outlets seemed to ignore,” says Smith. “It has been the paper that has chronicled what’s important to our community.”

He recounts the early days of Tambourine and Fan in the early 70’s, “When we first took over Hunter’s Field and worked with young people Data News Weekly was the first newspaper to give us coverage.” Smith feels that Black newspapers are even more essential today in the city’s changing landscape, “I am glad to see Data is still around after forty-five years leading the charge showing that we are still a relevant force in New Orleans.”

As the city changes Data News Weekly continues to be rooted in the community and on a weekly basis takes its pulse through cutting edge journalism that engages the public. **Carol Bebel** is the co-founder and Executive Director of Ashe Cultural Center and feels Data News Weekly is a lifeline giving

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the community a much needed voice, "Data News has been a generous source of news coverage and spotlight for Ashe' Cultural Arts Center focusing on us in a big way and other times just keeping our news in the mix," says Bebelle. Continuing she says speaking directly to Data, "For 13 of your 45 years we have been a grateful recipient of your committed efforts to keep the community informed. Congratulations and Best wishes for 45 more years."



**Wendell Pierce**  
Actor

Data News Weekly in addition to being a valuable source of information has over the years forged relationships with companies interested in partnering with a newspaper with an interest in serving the community. **Bill Oliver** is a former CEO of AT&T and has had a business relationship with Data News Weekly for two decades, "This is a paper that in my twenty years of doing business is a vital asset and continues to serve New Orleans and deserves continued support in its mission," says Oliver.

Like Data News Weekly the Morial name is synonymous with a tradition of serving the citizens of New Orleans. National Urban League President and Former New Orleans Mayor, **Marc Morial** says of Data News Weekly, "Congratulations for 45 years of service to New Orleans. Data News weekly is very special to me for many reasons." He speaks of his early years in New Orleans and Data News being a valuable resource for the community to have a vehicle to have an authentic voice to express its plight and aspirations, "First, as I grew up, I would pick up my Data from Dooky Chase, Chez Helene, or Ray's Accident Records which was located on St. Bernard Ave. It was a source of truthful and insightful news on Black New Orleans at a time when mainstream New Orleans newspapers ignored, and twisted news concerning Black New Orleans," recounts Morial.

His the son of New Orleans first African-American Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial. During the ascendancy of Blacks running and winning elected offices Data News Weekly was important in helping the Black community to become politically active. As Marc Morial followed in the footsteps of his father in his run for mayor speaks of Data News Weekly in helping to rally support around his candidacy, "Data News Weekly strongly endorsed my candidacy for Mayor in 1994 providing me with a welcome acceleration to our support during our stretch run and thus helping a decisive victory in that historic election," says Morial.

Morial throughout his life has been a passionate advocate for the people of New Orleans and feels Data News Weekly has been akin in their commitment to community uplift for two generations, "Data News Weekly and the Founder "Scoop" Jones, and his son Terry Jones have always been community oriented, and have published with purpose and commitment to the people. I admire them, and will always support Data News Weekly."

**Anthony Bean** is the owner of the Anthony Bean Community Theater and has been involved in the arts for nearly four decades.

He says Data News Weekly has always been supportive of his projects, "I remember "Scoop" Jones as someone who was passionate about the community and Data News Weekly has always been the paper that has shed light on our issues and given us a voice and recognized our unsung heroes."

"I congratulate Data News Weekly on its 45th Anniversary and hope to see it grow to even greater heights in the days to come," says Bean. New Orleans is a city that's experiencing a decline in its Black imprint in Katrina's aftermath. And today the African-American media is more important than ever, a fact not lost on Bean, "After Hurricane Katrina there



**William Oliver**  
Former CEO of AT&T

were many questions surrounding the continuation of Black cultural traditions and institutions and Data News Weekly has kept the community informed and continues to inspire in the pages of its publication."

Actor **Wendell Pierce** is a man whose roots run deep in New Orleans. While his talent has taken him around the world, the Crescent City is where his heart lies. Coming back after Hurricane Katrina with renewed vigor he is a beacon light in the struggle to rebuild his city, and says the community needs an organ to articulate its aspirations. "I feel the most valuable thing in uplifting a

community is knowledge and for 45 years Data News Weekly has been a fountain of information," remarks Pierce.



**Marc Morial**  
President - National Urban League

He feels the movement towards change begins with a public that is properly informed, "Data News Weekly has been a vehicle that has not only talked about change, but also puts forward a message of optimism to fuel and implement that change." The search for truth is also another piece of what Pierce calls for in the struggle for justice and says Data News Weekly is the place where one who is seeking truth can find it, "Throughout its 45 years Data News Weekly is where truth can be heard and read and I give my congratulations in continuing to be the voice of a city and its people."



**Anthony Bean**  
Owner-Anthony Bean Community Theater



**Carol Bebelle**  
Co-founder & Executive Director - Ashe Cultural Center

**Congratulations on 45  
years of literary  
pioneering, and for  
consistently providing an  
unbiased portrayal of the  
news of our city. Thank  
you and I look forward to  
more growth and many  
more years of service  
from Data News Weekly.**

**Jon D. Johnson**

Councilman, District E



# The Coca-Cola Company And Wendy's Invite New Orleans To Experience The Fountain Of The Future

*New Orleans Wendy's to Feature Coca-Cola Freestyle New Touch Screen Fountain*

Wendy's is the first of The Company's customers to complete a market-wide test of Coca-Cola Freestyle including drive-thru, installing 100 fountains in all 50 of its New Orleans restaurants by May 2nd.

Along with New Orleans, Wendy's is currently testing Coca-Cola Freestyle in select locations in Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Phoenix while expanding a second market-wide test to its restaurants in Providence, RI.

The Coca-Cola Company's new proprietary fountain offering, is entering the New Orleans market. Long-time customer Wendy's, one of the world's most successful restaurant operating and franchising companies, will be the first to of-



fer the exciting

new fountain technology in the state.

To celebrate this milestone, state Rep. Austin Badon, along with Coca-Cola Freestyle and

Wendy's executives will gather at the Wendy's located at 5701 Read Road, New Orleans, LA to toast the arrival of the first Coca-Cola Freestyle in the city.

"We're pleased to partner with The Coca-Cola Company to test Coca-Cola Freestyle in our New Orleans restaurants," said Andy Sims, Wendy's director of area operations. "With more than 100 different choices, our customers will like having a wide variety of beverages to enjoy with their favorite sandwich or salad."

These sleek, stylish new fountains are touch screen operated, enabling consumers to select from more than 100 regular and low-calorie branded beverages – including many varieties of waters, sports drinks, lemonades and sparkling beverages that, prior to the arrival of Coca-Cola Freestyle, were not available in the U.S. The self-serve fountains – which represent a complete departure from anything The Coca-Cola Company has offered previously – were in development for more than four years prior to launching in 2010.

Coca-Cola Freestyle is now available in more than 400 outlets and 25 markets across the U.S., including Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Dallas, Jacksonville, Or-

lando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City and Northern and Southern California. The Company plans additional U.S. introductions throughout 2011.

"We have created a concept that is quickly becoming recognized as the soda fountain of the

future – a representation of the way people will experience Coca-Cola beverages years from now," said Gene Farrell, vice president & general manager, Coca-Cola Freestyle. "Wendy's has been a valued customer and partner for more than 20 years. We are delighted to see Wendy's expansion to marketwide testing of Coca-Cola Freestyle as they bring this exciting new technology to New Orleans."



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO DATA NEWSWEEKLY

FOR BEING THE VOICE TO A VOICELESS PEOPLE

## ABCT/NORD SUMMER THEATER CAMP

Got a budding actor in the house? The Anthony Bean Community Theater/NORD Talent Camp for ages 8 yrs. - 17 yrs. runs from June 6th to July 31st and includes acting classes/workshop, lectures, guest performances, and field trips, it ends with the production of America's favorite family musical, "CATS".

### Requirements:

Boys or girls between 8-17 years old.  
Have a talent! Come to the audition and do a skit, commercial, poem, acting piece, etc.  
Must be a good reader!  
Call the theater at 504-862-7529 for an appointment time to audition!



SUMMER THEATER CAMP  
A eight week program June 6th - July 31st,  
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Price: \$300.00

# AT&T Invests In Louisiana Network To Deliver Most-Advanced Mobile Broadband Experience

*Plans Call for Addition of More Than 30 New Cell Sites and the Expansion of Backhaul in 2011 as Part of the Initiative to Drive 4G Speeds, Increase Wireless Network Capacity.*

AT&T\* this week announced plans to add more than 30 new cell sites and upgrade more than 700 cell sites across Louisiana as part of its 2011 initiative to deliver the nation's most-advanced mobile broadband experience.

The Louisiana wireless network enhancements are part of AT&T's planned \$19-billion investment in its national wireless and wireline networks and other capital projects in 2011. The investment will support plans to enable 4G speeds over an increasing portion of the country throughout the year, including the planned initial launch of LTE beginning mid-year and the deployment of enhanced

backhaul connections that enable 4G speeds\*\*.

The 2011 investment will also support the build and upgrade of thousands of cell sites nationwide designed to increase network speed, coverage and reliability for both mobile voice and broadband services. AT&T also plans to install additional radio "carriers" at more than 30,000 cell sites nationally this year, enabling new layers of spectrum capacity to carry larger volumes of mobile broadband traffic. This additional capacity enables AT&T to support rising mobile data traffic volumes, which have increased more than 8,000 percent over the past four years.

"Louisiana residents are relying more and more on wireless technology to communicate with each other and access information," said Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal. "Network enhancements like these benefit countless consumers while making our state an attractive place to work, live, and play."

This week's announcement builds on the momentum established during AT&T's 2010 wireless investment, when it added nearly 50 new cell sites in Louisiana and upgraded



at&t

more than 50 existing sites to mobile broadband. From 2008 through 2010, AT&T's capital investment in its Louisiana wireline and wireless networks was more than \$2.8 billion.

"A more advanced mobile broadband experience drives economic growth, stimulates jobs and equips Louisiana businesses to meet the network demands of today and tomorrow," said Sonia Perez, President, AT&T Louisiana. "We've significantly ramped up our wireless investments to enable an experience that offers Louisiana consumers better speed, better reliability and better availability."



Thank you  
New Orleans and all  
our readers wherever  
you are for supporting  
Data News Weekly  
for the past 45 years.

We've enjoyed keeping you abreast of local and national news and "Lighting the Road to the Future". We've given recognition to the unsung heroes in our community; Published your opinions and our own and provided you with the information you needed and desired during election season. You've helped us to flourish and we are thankful for this.

We've grown and have enjoyed that growth along with the popularity. You gave us the title of "The People's Paper" and we will continue to maintain this title thanks to you. We look forward to serving you for next 45 years.

Terry B. Jones  
Publisher/CEO



You know when it's real.®

*Congratulations*

Data News Weekly

For 45 Years of Publishing

And Service

to our Community



# Jumping the Broom

## A Film that Inspires



By Edwin Buggage

In the world of Hollywood many films released promotes sex, violence and mayhem. The explanation simply being these types of films make money and in regards to films featuring African-American actors multiply this negativity by 100.

It is the rare film that can marry the sex, sass, and class in a tasteful way, "Jumping the Broom" executive produced by T.D. Jakes is a film that seeks to fill this prescription. With an all-star cast of who's who in the world of Black Hollywood the film stars Laz Alonso and Paula Patton as a couple that falls in love and plans to remain celibate until marriage.

"What's inspirational about this movie is to say that we're all human beings and we're not perfect," says Patton of the film. Continuing she says, "When you watch this movie at the beginning, Sabrina is not a perfect woman. She's made mistakes. She's made some bad choices with men. The idea is with the help and guidance of God, that she can be a better person."

"Jumping the Broom" is a film that showcases the diversity of the Black community, something that is rarely shown in entertainment. Alonso says while there is still room for growth in the diversity of roles for African-Americans on the big screen, he sees growth in quality roles in television for African-American actors, "When I first moved to L.A. in 2001, it was the year the NAACP, Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton were having talks with different studios and television networks about the lack of minorities on their channels and television shows," says Alonso. "Nine years later, you can turn on a CSI and all of the different one-hour dramas you now see, Laurence Fishburne heading his own show," remarks Alonso. "Forest Whitaker is heading his own show; Terrence Howard is heading his own show. I have a show on A&E called Breakout Kings that I'm one of the leads of. So, times have significantly changed in the positive for African-Americans and minorities in general in television," says Alonso of the progress of Black talent in significant roles.

Jumping the Broom is less a fairytale this film is rooted in the search for true and unconditional love, "What's most important about this movie is love and hope and creating—in some ways, movies—fairytales are the best," says Patton. "It's to say that this is a possibility for you. This is something for you to strive for." Saying of the film and its intent, "It's a beautiful film that makes you feel good, makes you feel happy and want to strive for family, a wonderful husband—that's what this movie's about. I don't know if it speaks to what it is to be single right now, but it speaks to the dream that we all have."

Inspiration and redemption is an important goal of this film, and the stars of "Jumping the Broom" say New Orleans holds a special place in their hearts. "Well, you have to believe. You have to believe and trust in God and know that better days will always come," says Patton. Continuing with her words of inspiration she says, "If you are good in your heart, and you treat people with kindness, and you try your best, I truly believe that anything can be overcome. You can find success and find enlightenment. You just can never give up. Never give up."

Alonso says that he is deeply touched by the spirit of perseverance and resilience of the people of New Orleans. "For me, when disaster struck in New Orleans, it did not only strike one set of people, it hit the entire town. It did not discriminate who got hit." Continuing he says of the citizens of New Orleans, "One thing that New Orleans did was it came together. Once all the panicking settled down and once all of the immediate reaction to what happened set in, the city bonded together, came together, and worked together and believed together, prayed together, fought together to get out of that situation."

Continuing on the theme of people coming together despite difference Alonso says, "In Jumping the Broom", you see two sets of families come together who, on the surface, may appear different. Some people have money, some people don't, but at the end of the day, we are more alike than we are different." Spewing more words of wisdom Alonso says, "If we focus on our likenesses versus what makes us different, we can get through anything. New Orleans is an example of that. We saw that. Once people focused on how they are more alike than how they are different, New Orleans rose up and is still continuing to rise. It is an inspiration to the rest of the country on how to come together and get out of a bad situation. So, I feel like New Orleans is actually inspiring the rest of us as much as we can inspire the people of New Orleans."



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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Captain Charles Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Children from across the city came to A.L. Davis Park last Saturday for the 3rd Annual Captain Charles Easter Egg Hunt and Data Was There!



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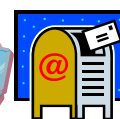
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# Women in Prison

## What About the Children?



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

the car with the drugs, but they weren't theirs); an equal number are in jail for property crimes – stealing, shoplifting, kiting checks, all crimes that are crimes of poverty. If these women were rehabilitated and given good jobs instead of incarcerated, we might save both money and lives.

Between 66 and 80 percent of the women who are incarcerated are mothers. Most of them provided primary care to their children before they were locked up. Many of the children whose mothers are incarcerated are in foster care, although some remain with relatives. Some are allowed to visit their mothers in jail, but what kind of maternal bonding experience is that? The children of the incarcerated are likely to be incarcerated themselves a generation later. In some ways they serve time for their mama's crimes. Why, in some of these cases, is rehabilitation not an option?

White women are the majority of those incarcerated, at 45 percent. African-American women, just 13 percent of the population, are 33 percent of those incarcerated. Latina women are 16 percent of those incarcerated. This is not a "Black thing" though Black women are so disproportionately incarcerated that it is striking. Why? Perhaps because the Criminal Justice System is a system that is mostly White male, and there is little sympathy for women of African descent.

The well-documented reality of prosecu-

torial discretion cuts a break for some women, but not for Black women. Police officers, prosecutors, parole officers, and judges are disproportionately White male. They bring all their biases about Black women to the table when they arrest, charge, and sentence Black women. Why else would an Ohio court (thank you Boyce Watkins for lifting this case up) sentence Kelley Williams-Bolar to days in jail because she sent her children to the "wrong" school, using her dad's address to allow them access to a better education? Had Williams-Bolar been a White woman, she would be a poster child for the school choice movement. Instead, this sister will not be able to pursue her dream to teach (as she completes her education), if she is convicted of the crime she is accused of. How dare Connecticut prosecutors go after Tonya McDowell for grand larceny because she used a friend's address to send her child to school? Homeless, what was she supposed to do? Keep her child out of school and support ignorance? Again, a White woman might be described as enterprising for taking these steps. A Black woman is incarcerated.

What about the children? What happens when a child sees her mother fighting for her rights only to end up in prison? What kind of bitterness and anger does this engender? What does it mean for the next generation? When mothers choose to fight for their children they should be affirmed,

not jailed, for their tenacity. When we choose to recklessly disregard the power of mother advocacy and motherlove, the result is a multi-generational cycle of societal indifference.

Michigan State University's African-American Studies Department produces a Biennial Race Conference, and this year's theme was Race and the Criminal Justice System. In preparing my closing keynote on the Economic Impact of Women in the Criminal Justice System, I had the opportunity to revisit some of my old work, and to think about the many complex ways that gender collides with a "just-us" system that is replete with bias. I am grateful to colleague Curtis Stokes for the opportunity to review this issue once again, but I am mostly chagrined that things have gotten worse, not better, for women who connect with the Criminal Justice System.

The United States incarcerates more people than any other country – about 753 people per 100,000 in 2008. The next highest countries are Poland, at 224 per 100,000, and Mexico at 209 per 100,000. Ten percent of those we incarcerate are women, and too many of them have children. Can we do better? If we prioritized rehabilitation over incarceration we could. And if we can't, we will have hell to pay next generation.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women and Author of *Surviving and Thriving: 365 Facts in Black Economic*

# Smarter on Crime



Judge Greg Mathis  
NNPA Columnist

### Mathis' Mind

The nation's decades long war on drugs and 'tough on crime' posture has failed to reduce crime rates and control the rising prison population. Additionally, our current crime fighting strategy puts us at a disadvantage in other critical sectors, namely education. Knowing what we now know, it is clear that it's beyond time to take a different approach on crime...a smarter one.

According to a recently released NAACP report entitled "Misplaced Priorities: Over Incarcerate and Under Educate," state spending on prisons in the last 20 years grew six times faster than education spending. In fact, 33 states increased prison spending in 2009 while simultaneously reducing education funding.

Much of this increase in prison spending can be blamed on mandatory sentencing laws that require mandatory jail time for even low-level, non-violent offenses rob the sentencing judge of the ability to hand down a punishment that is more suitable to the crime. Instead, offenders who might be better served in a drug rehab program are sent to prison, causing prison populations to go up and requiring prison budgets to increase in order to keep up with the 'demand'.

As states around the country are forced to make tough cuts to balance their budgets, very few are pulling funds from those allocated for prisons. Instead, they are pulling money from education, health-care and social services programs that serve those in need. This is definitely not

the right approach.

Reducing the prison population and, in turn, reducing prison budgets, stabilizes state budgets so that other key programs won't have to take such hard hits. Restoring the judge's ability to use creative sentencing for non-violent offenders is one way to reduce prison populations around the country. Employing alternative sentencing methods, such as home confinement and drug treatment, is another.

Our priorities as a nation are currently skewed...we are placing far more emphasis on incarcerating people than we are on educating and healing them. By taking a smarter approach to crime, one that looks for lower cost ways to punish and rehabilitate offenders, we can free up billions of dollars that can be put to much better use.



# Louisiana NAACP and Others Say State Agencies Failed to Register Minority and Low-Income Voters Under Voter Registration Act (NVRA)

Special to the NNPA from thedefendersonline.com

New Orleans, LA –The NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. (LDF), Project Vote, and New Orleans Attorney Ronald Wilson filed a complaint in federal court on behalf of the state conference of the NAACP and several private individuals, alleging that Louisiana is disenfranchising minority and low-income voters by failing to offer them the opportunity to register to vote as required by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).

“By failing to comply with the National Voter Registration Act, Louisiana is denying minority and low-income voters across the state equal access to the ballot box,” said Dale Ho, Assistant Counsel with LDF’s Political Participation Group.

The NVRA requires public assistance agencies that provide services to low-income residents to offer their clients the opportunity to register to vote with every application for benefits, renewal, recertification, or change of address transaction. The complaint cites evidence showing that Louisiana agencies are failing to carry out their responsibilities under this law.

Despite consistently high numbers of participants in Louisiana’s food stamp and Medicaid programs, voter registration applications originating from public assistance agencies have been surprisingly low. As of 2008, voter registration applications originating in these agencies had dropped 88 percent since 1995, despite increased participation in public assistance programs. The complaint

also cites the results of agency investigations and interviews of public assistance recipients showing widespread non-compliance.

“Registration at public assistance agencies is important for reaching populations that are less likely to register through other means, including low-income residents, minorities, and persons with disabilities,” says Nicole Zeitler, Director of the Public Agency Voter Registration Project at Project Vote. “By ignoring this vital law, Louisiana is denying this right to thousands of its residents every year.”

“Of course, we would have preferred to resolve this matter absent the need for litigation,” said New Orleans Attorney Ronald Wilson. However, continued Wilson, “the State’s refusal to make the changes required to bring it

into compliance with federal law, left us with no other alternative.”

In recent years, similar lawsuits in other states have resulted in tremendous increases in voter registration numbers. For exam-

ple, the number of clients registering through public assistance agencies in Missouri and Ohio has increased more than tenfold following settlement of NVRA lawsuits in those states.

## African American Leadership Project To Hold Town Hall Meeting

The African-American Leadership Project (AALP) has announced that it will follow the Mayor’s “State of the City” Address with a Town Hall Meeting designed to elicit goals for the second year of the Landrieu Administration.

AALP is a network of community, religious and business leaders, activists, educators, researchers, attorneys, and interested citizens. It carries out its work through direct and indirect involvement in policy analysis, research, advocacy, organizing, agenda development and consensus building.

“Whether we view the glass as ‘half-full’ or ‘half empty’, the undeniable fact is that it is not close enough to the top” said Attorney Ernest L. Jones, current AALP Project Manager. “While we share in the gains and losses of New Orleans as a whole, the African-American community

has special historical challenges which must be addressed by City government. We think it is only fair that we articulate approaches to meeting those challenges which are clear, understandable, and attainable with reasonable effort.”

The Town Hall Meeting will discuss areas which impact the quality of life in New Orleans with a special focus on economic issues. Dr. Calvin Mackee will lead the overall economic discussion and Dr. Raynard Sanders will guide the discussion on school system issues. Patricia Hightower will discuss home ownership and rental property issues in the city.

Following the panel presentation, the public will be invited to comment on the issues discussed as well as make recommendations on future public policy. “Our intent is to end with a set of specific recommendations which can provide goals and timetables for

measuring progress in year two of Mayor Landrieu’s tenure” said Jones.

In addition to the Town Hall Meeting, AALP will hold its annual commemoration of the election of the first African-American Mayor of New Orleans, Ernest “Dutch” Morial on Sunday, May 1st.

According to Gail Glapion, AALP Chairperson, “Dutch was a strong personality with both admirers and detractors, but no one can deny his historical importance to this city.” As we have done since 2004, we will commemorate his election, and the lessons learned since he left us. The Commemoration will take place on Sunday, May 1, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the African-American Museum at 1418 Governor Nicholls Street. A Wreath-laying at St. Louis Cemetery will immediately follow.

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NDF relies on the generosity of the philanthropic, government, and business communities to finance its program operations.

Other operational fees are generated from service fees, service contracts, consulting fees, fundraising events, and individual donations.

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To Donate: go to [www.ndf-neworleans.org](http://www.ndf-neworleans.org) or make check payable to neighborhood development foundation send to: 1429 South Rampart Street, New Orleans, LA 70113

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# April 27, 2011

## A Day of Shame for America

By Cheryl Mainor

"My name is Barack Obama", I was born in Hawaii, the 50th State, and I am an American Citizen."

- President Barack Obama, April 27, 2011.

It was with great sadness and dismay today, that I watched, along with now hundreds of thousands, and perhaps even millions of Americans, as our duly elected, 44th President of these United States, had to bow down, and produce his papers. And while many Democrats and others breathed a sigh of relief, as I was tempted to do at first; my second thought overtook the momentary relief, and a wave of profound sadness rolled like a wave through my body, and I quietly cried for him and for us as Blacks in America.

How can it be, that in 2011, we still have to prove our American-ness? How can it be that this man, this Black man, who has accomplished some of the greatest things one can do, and has done it not by being born into privilege, or favors. Rather, this man accomplished great things just as we all have; by using what is supposed to be the best of American values, the "bootstrapping" authentic American way that we boast makes this the best nation in the world. According to history teachers all over the country, this makes us an "exceptional nation", yet when a Black man achieves greatness, he must prove he is American. It makes me want to scream. It makes our ancestors cry out-loud from beyond, for it seems the more things change, the more they stay the same. It's a sad day indeed, now how do we explain this to our children? How do I tell my Black children, that yes, you can be the President of this country one day, but you will never be a "Real American".

Today, I witnessed several Republicans say "oh well now that proves it, but what took him so long." Or it's their relief because he should have shown his papers three years ago when they first demanded he bow down and do

what they tell him to do... I think I heard one follow it up with "Boy"? Okay, I didn't hear that, but I know where this goes from here if left unchecked. One Republican Presidential candidate even boast-

with the next pound of flesh they will require, calling on the President to now produce his college transcripts, and making slimy references to his not being "a very good student" while at Occidental

or Columbia. Going further, he questioned how Obama could have been admitted to Harvard if he wasn't a very good student. I seem to recall the open secret that our last President, G.W. Bush was at best a "C" student who pulled a lot of strings to get into Yale, but that was not an issue. He deserved to be there because, well, just because he did. Trump,

ed that he is proud he forced the White House to produce the birth certificate. How can they be proud that they have again chosen to revisit the darkest period of our existence; the days when America only counted, or you only counted if you were a whole person (meaning White), you know, the 3/5th rule? What sane person would be proud of this shameful behavior? Have things really changed when our President is reduced to this level? What's next, proving he is fully human? Are they going to eventually call for samples of his DNA? Where does this stop?

Yet through it all, he has my deepest gratitude and admiration for showing time and time again, how gracious and good he is, for even while his basic humanity has been unfoundedly and disgustingly questioned, he has remained above it all, and keeps his focus on what is important for the nation. Yes, he showed his papers, and gritted his teeth, smiled and moved the conversation along while remaining Presidential. Or did he?

As our President stood in front of the cameras, and showed his papers and proved his citizenship, the ultimate media whore, Donald Trump, held his own press conference in New Hampshire, and true to form, sprinkled more unfounded and unprecedented innuendo into the conversation

pontificated on it, opening the next leg of the inquisition of President Obama by proxy by inserting the convenient phrasing, that "the word is" and "they say" and of course "I've read" never citing what, who or where the sources are he cites. Just letting the words drip from his lips, like water for the thirsty, he shows that he is morally and intellectually bankrupt and is willing to go to whatever lengths to put this man, in his place. Based on his "questions", I venture to guess that according to Trump, and his ilk, including many of the other Republican candidates and elected officials and even our illustrious Governor and his Louisiana State Birther Bill, the place our President must learn to reside in is in the back of the bus, where all good and happy darkies belong. They cannot imagine this nation as it is today, a place where a proud and strong Black man, could be President, and leader of the free world, so they continue on, pushing to put him in back in his place.

It's a sad commentary that they were in fact correct, in this country, today, all of the change and hope and the votes of the majority of Americans are not enough to conquer that old snake, racism and white superiority that still seethes just under the surface. Cry for America today because today is her day of shame.

STATE OF HAWAII		CERTIFICATE OF LIVE BIRTH		DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	
		FILE NUMBER 151		61 10641	
1a. Child's First Name (Type or print)	1b. Middle Name	1c. Last Name			
BARACK	HUSSEIN	OBAMA, II			
2. Sex	3. This Birth	4. If Twin or Triplet, Was Child Born	5a. Birth Date	5b. Month	5c. Day
Male	Single	1st	August	4	1961
6a. Place of Birth: City, Town or Rural Location	6b. Island	6c. County and State or Foreign Country			
Honolulu	Oahu	Honolulu, Hawaii			
7a. Name of Hospital or Institution (If not in Hospital or Institution, give street address)	7b. Is Place of Birth Inside City or Town Limits?	7c. If not, give judicial district			
Kapiolani Maternity & Gynecological Hospital	Yes	No			
8a. Usual Residence of Mother: City, Town or Rural Location	8b. Island	8c. County and State or Foreign Country			
Honolulu	Oahu	Honolulu, Hawaii			
9a. Street Address	9b. Is Residence Inside City or Town Limits?	9c. If not, give judicial district			
6085 Kalanianaʻaʻole Highway	Yes	No			
10. Mother's Mailing Address	11. Is Residence on a Farm or Plantation?	12. Date of Signature			
	Yes	No			
13. Full Name of Father	14. Race of Father	15. Date of Signature			
BARACK	African	8-7-61			
16. Age of Father	17. Birthplace (State, Territory or Foreign Country)	18. Usual Occupation			
25	Kenya, East Africa	Student			
19. Full Maiden Name of Mother	20. Race of Mother	21. Date of Signature			
STANLEY	Caucasian	8-8-61			
22. Age of Mother	23. Birthplace (State, Territory or Foreign Country)	24. Type of Occupation Outside Home During Pregnancy			
18	Wichita, Kansas	None			
I certify that the above stated information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.					
I hereby certify that this child was born alive on the date and hour stated above.					
25. Date Accepted by Local Reg. AUG - 9 1961					
26. Signature of Local Registrar					
27. Evidence for Delayed Filing or Alteration					



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