Occupy NOLA and Civil Disobedience
Occupy NOLA and Civil Disobedience

The Origins of a Movement

America is in a state of turmoil with a crashing economy and growing inequality, a movement originally fueled by the energy of young people formed Occupy Wall Street; where people came together through grassroots organizing to fight for change. As the world economy is in a state of flux and the promise of if you work hard and access to the American Dream was obtainable. In contrast today this is a fading reality. According to the Congressional Budget Office from 1992 to 2007 the top 1 percent of Americans income grew by an average of 275% and in 2007 the top 1% owned 34% of wealth in the U.S. This state of affairs of today’s crumbling global economy paints a bleak picture for the future of many people across the globe that by no fault of their own have the means to maintain or sustain themselves. These conditions have given birth to the Occupy Movement. In cities spanning the globe people are organizing to fight for what they feel is their right, the right to self-determination and the end of inequality.

Questioning the Right to Protest

As this movement began to take shape, in early October concerned citizens converged on Duncan Plaza, which stands several hundred yards away from New Orleans City Hall. After two months of occupation at this site and several legal battles.
Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

a federal judge finally ruled against the occupiers. Amidst a sea of controversy Mayor Mitch Landrieu in a statement to the media stated, “Judge Africk’s decision is a welcome decision. The Constitution and the Bill of Rights are precious documents that govern our behavior and help maintain both freedom and liberty. That is why wherever there is a right; there is also a responsibility to exercise that right in a way that does not infringe on the rights of other American citizens. A person’s right to free speech, perhaps the most precious right in a democracy, is tempered by the same principles that protect the rights of other citizens,” Lan-
drieu statement is one where he is trying to appease his oppo-
ents and solve this issue but his actions caused a firestorm among his critics.

One of his critics and person who took part in the Occupy New Orleans Movement is au-
thor Shahid Wall Muhammad, a retired N.O.P.D. officer who was then known as Charles Kelly. He says the protest was peaceful demonstrations and the people took care of the park and simply wanted their voices to be heard. “These are real issues that the people in the City and for that matter the country are dealing with, a lack of hope for their future and getting the basic things they need; and Mayor Landrieu who is in a position to help the people but he refuses to listen; he came into office talking about bring-
ing people together but it seems he is working against the people who helped him get elected,” Muhammad told Data News Weekly.

Occupy Movement and the Right to Fight

In another controversial move against the protesters a week before Judge Africk’s decision to shut down the encampment site, 150 policeman came out in the middle of the night placing barricades around the occupiers and told them to leave the site while people watched as sanita-
tion workers came to clean up the area and many of the occupi-
ers belongings were not spared. One of his critics and person who took part in the Occupy Movement, “One

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

of the signs we had, ‘I support good cops not bad policy,’ I feel some of the policies by the top brass in the NOPD and this administration are as bad if not worse than George Wallace and Bull Conner in Alabama when they tried to suppress the Civil Right Movement in the 1960’s.”

Civil Disobedience

In another part of the state-
ment released by the Mayor’s Office following the decision to shut down Duncan Plaza to the Occupiers justifying their actions the week before, “Last Tuesday, the City moved forward with well-planned, well-executed enforcement of city and state laws in Duncan Plaza. We did so in a fashion that respect-
ed the First Amendment rights of those in the park within the bounds of the law that protect-
ed the common good. Our ac-
tions—successfully cleaning the park, housing homeless individ-
uals, and reducing the threats to public health and safety—were lawful, fair, and reasonable.” Continuing he said, “As Mayor I believe that we have balanced the rights and responsibilities of all citizens of New Orleans according to the law. In this re-

Occupied NOLA has been moved from settlement in Duncan Plaza but vows to continue movement.

Occupied NOLA says movement’s purpose is focused on securing the American Dream for all citizens of the nation.
Tulane Names First Black Head Football Coach

Curtis Johnson Named Tulane Head Football Coach

Tulane Director of Athletics Rick Dickson announced last week the appointment of New Orleans Saints’ Receivers Coach Curtis Johnson as the Green Wave’s new Head Football Coach at a news conference at the James W. Wilson Jr. Center.

A New Orleans native and graduate of St. Charles High School, Johnson becomes the 39th Head Coach in school history. He brings over 25 years of coaching experience from both the collegiate and professional level to the Green Wave and has been a part of an NFL Championship with the New Orleans Saints and an NCAA National Championship with the University of Miami (Fla.) Hurricanes.

“Coach Johnson has a proven track record at the collegiate and professional levels,” said Tulane President Scott Cowen. “His Saints Super Bowl ring and national championship at the University of Miami are witness to the quality of programs that he has played for over the highest levels of achievement. Finally, he’s a New Orleanian with an outstanding record as a great developer, motivator and leader of men. I am confident he will be highly successful in building a culture and a sustained record of winning.”

Johnson, 50, makes the short trip to the Tulane campus after spending the last five seasons (2006-2011) as the wide receivers coach for the New Orleans Saints. During his time with the Saints, he and his electrifying receiving corps helped the franchise to its first NFL title in 2009 and New Orleans has made playoff appearances in three of his five seasons.

“After conducting an extensive, thorough national search, we consistently gravitated to someone close to home that best fit our profile,” Dickson said. “Curtis Johnson is a man of impeccable character and integrity. He has demonstrated a remarkable knack to evaluate, recruit and develop talented young men to their maximum capacity as both student-athletes and professionals at the highest level. He is a leader, motivator and effective teacher, who diligently strives for excellence. His relentless will to win makes him the right man for Tulane.”

The Saints have been rewarded with outstanding results from his wide receiver group since his arrival in 2006. He came to New Orleans after forging a reputation for developing top-flight targets on the college level for over two decades, and his stature has only grown on the NFL level.

“Today is a dream come true for me,” Johnson said. “I would like to thank Scott Cowen and Rick Dickson for entrusting me with this wonderful opportunity. I am truly excited to be Tulane’s Head Coach. “As a New Orleanian, I grew up watching the Green Wave and have always wanted to be a part of their football program. It is a true honor to work at such a prestigious academic university and look forward to building the football program into a consistent winner and annual bowl participant. I want to win championships and compete for national titles and I will work tirelessly to make this program into a perennial contender.”

Over the last five and half seasons, Johnson has worked with both veteran and young wide receivers, with all benefiting from his guidance and high-energy teaching style. Among the players who have continued to improve under his watch through their own dedication and his tutelage are Marques Colston, Devery Henderson, Robert Meachem and Lance Moore.

Johnson boasts a list of prominent pupils that very few coaches at any level can match. While specializing with wide receiver development, the group of standouts includes some of the top wide receivers over the last decade, including NFL first-round picks Andre Johnson, Santana Moss, fellow New Orleans native Reggie Wayne and Yatil Green.

At Miami (Fla.), Johnson was part of a staff that went to nine bowl games and won the 2001 National Championship. He polished the skills of at least one All-Big East performer each season from 1996-2005, including Johnson - the third overall pick by Houston in 2003 - and Moss, who became the Hurricanes’ all-time leader in receiving yardage before making the Pro Bowl for the Washington Redskins. Wayne departed ranked first in school history in catches a five time Pro Bowl performer for the Indianapolis Colts.

In his five-year stint at San Diego State (1989-93) Johnson landed some of the school’s biggest recruits, including 2000 NFL MVP and fellow New Orleans native Marshall Faulk, who was recently inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame, as well as wide receiver Darnay Scott, who completed his eight-year NFL career with 408 grabs and 37 touchdowns. Each year Johnson was with the Aztecs, the school had an all-conference performer at wide receiver.

Johnson began his coaching career as a Receivers Coach at Lewiston (Idaho) High School in 1984, serving for three seasons before holding a similar position at the University of Idaho. He spent 1987 and 1988 at the school before becoming Receivers Coach at San Diego State. His next stop was at Southern Methodist in 1994 before becoming Wide Receivers Coach in 1995 at the University of California-Berkeley.

Johnson attended the University of Idaho and received his Bachelor’s Degree in Physical Education in 1985. He was a four-year starter for the Vandals and an All-Big Sky Conference selection.

Johnson and his wife, Angel, have six children, Janene, Kianon, Curtis III, and Aaron, Angele and Justin. Curtis III is a junior receiver on the University of Memphis football team.
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100 Black Men Scholarship Gala
Recently 100 Black Men held its Scholarship Gala where they raised money for young people’s education and recognized leaders from the community and Data News Weekly was there.
Photos by Glenn Summers

Ringing in the Holidays
The holidays are upon us and businesswoman Lisa Crinel owner of Abide Home Healthcare held a holiday party at her new establishment Lace Reception Hall located in New Orleans East and Data News Weekly was there to catch the night of holiday cheer.
Photos by Glenn Summers
It takes One Man to Make a Difference

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

On Sunday Dec 11, 2011 New Generation Social Aid & Pleasure Club was scheduled to second line but the weather did not want to cooperate. The police escort cars were ready and the Hot 8 Brass Band too, as well as a sprinkling of photographers, spectators and participants but, there was no New Generation SA & PC. Except, that is, for Big T who saved the day. Big T paraded with the band and the crowd, and put on a show that proved righteous!!! It’s true, one man can make a difference, and Data was there!
And its aftermath are affecting the most vulnerable among us—America’s school children. Out of a total of 3,142 counties in the United States, 653 saw significant increases in poverty among school-aged children from 2007-2010—an increase of 20 percent. Nationally, 19.8 percent of school children are now living in poverty.

This poverty increase has hit large, urban school systems the hardest with 96 of the 100 biggest school districts reporting increases in the number of poor children. In Detroit, 47 percent of school children are poor. In New York, the poverty rate rose to 29 percent, up from 26.6 percent in 2007. This is a moral outrage. While the debate drags on about how the Great Recession and its aftermath are affecting the most vulnerable among us—America’s school children. Out of a total of 3,142 counties in the United States, 653 saw significant increases in poverty among school-aged children from 2007-2010—an increase of 20 percent. Nationally, 19.8 percent of school children are now living in poverty.

The new Census Bureau report comes on the heels of news in September that the number of poor people in America has risen to 46.2 million—that’s 15 percent of all citizens and the largest number in 52 years. Many previously middle-class families are finding themselves standing in line at food banks and homeless shelters. And, according to the Children’s Defense Fund, one-in-three African-American and Hispanic children are living in poverty. This should be a loud and urgent wake-up call to Congress and policy makers.

By the end of this year, only weeks away, if Congress fails to act, already struggling families face the end of the payroll tax cut. This would add about $1000 to a family’s tax bill. The extension of unemployment benefits is also in jeopardy. According to the non-partisan Center for Budget Policy and Priorities, unemployment benefits together with support like the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit are keeping 7 million people out of poverty.

Beth Davalos, who runs Families in Transition in Seminole County, Florida, was interviewed for the “60 Minutes” segment on children living in cars. She explained in stark terms the impact poverty is having on a kindergarten child she was trying to help: “That little 5-year-old was so troubled over where she would be sleeping; she was not thinking about 2 + 2.” The fact is, we should not even be talking about child poverty in the richest nation on earth. We have the means; we simply need to summon the will to end it. If we can find the money to bail out Wall Street and give tax breaks to the wealthy, surely we can find the resources to provide food, shelter, health care and a good education for our children.

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

To Be Equal

“A country that does not stand for and protect its children—our seed corn for the future—does not stand for anything.” Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children’s Defense Fund

Last week the Census Bureau delivered disturbing news about how the Great Recession is not standing for anything. Marian Wright Edelman, President of the Children’s Defense Fund, delivered disturbing news about how the Great Recession and its aftermath are affecting the most vulnerable among us—America’s school children. Out of a total of 3,142 counties in the United States, 653 saw significant increases in poverty among school-aged children from 2007-2010—an increase of 20 percent. Nationally, 19.8 percent of school children are now living in poverty.

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Dillard University Appoints Ruth Simmons and Ronald Burns to Board of Trustees

Dillard University has appointed two new members to its board of trustees: Dr. Ruth J. Simmons, President of Smith College from 1995 until the time of her appointment at Brown. She was President of Smith University since July 3, 2001 and plans to step down from that position at the end of the 2011-2012 academic year. She was Smith President from 1995 until the time of her appointment at Brown. She was named one of America’s Best College Presidents by U.S. News & World Report’s top U.S. leaders.

Ronald V. Burns Sr. owns BMG Enterprises, a diverse corporation consisting of three different businesses. Burns graduated from Dillard University in 1973 with a B.S. in Accounting. In 1974, he assumed the position of Vice President and Internal Auditor with Liberty Bank and Trust Company, which he held until 1984. In 1984, Burns founded Quick Courier Services, Inc., a same-day delivery and logistics service. In 1992, he started Burns Management Group, a consulting firm with an emphasis on business development and government relationships. In 1993, he founded Global Parking Systems, a parking management company whose clients include Louis Armstrong International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, San Francisco International Airport, and the William Hobby and George W. Bush airports in Houston.

City and FEMA announce new funding for City Streets

Neighborhoods Including Broadmoor, Lakeview, Lakeshore/Lake Vista, Milneburg and St. Claude Join Lower 9th Ward for New Funding Approved

Mayor Mitch Landrieu and FEMA officials have announced over $52 million in new funding for neighborhood street repairs following the Landrieu administration’s prioritization of a second assessment of neighborhood streets. The first neighborhood to have new funds obligated in this program was the Lower Ninth Ward in August 2011 which included approximately $45 million for street repairs, a major infrastructure improvement targeted for one of the hardest hit neighborhoods in Hurricane Katrina. This round of obligated funding includes other hard-hit neighborhoods including:

- Broadmoor- $4.8 million;
- Lakeshore/Lake Vista- $7.5 million;
- Lakeview- $16.7 million;
- Milneburg- $1.3 million;

and St. Claude- $21.8 million.

During Katrina, roadways throughout New Orleans were inundated with flood waters, resulting in widespread street damages. Additionally, excessive weight from emergency vehicles and construction trucks on the already vulnerable roadways caused further damages. As such, these additional eligible damages have been realized.

“Our recent grants are not only noteworthy in terms of dollars but significant in what they actually represent—ongoing, joint recovery efforts between local, state and federal leaders,” said FEMA's Louisiana Recovery Office Acting Executive Director Joseph Threet. “Such committed teamwork always benefits those directly affected by disasters. In this case, the citizens of New Orleans who were greatly impacted by Hurricane Katrina will now see streets throughout many of their neighborhoods repaired and made safer for travel.”

The GOP and the Search for a Great White Hope

By Edwin Buggage

Today’s political climate and its media coverage have become more of a sport, more spectacle than spectacular. Much of it focuses not so much on issues; it is about polling, sound bites and other things that in my view trivialize the democratic process. As I look at the GOP Nomination Contest I feel I am akin to a reality show, meets a bad horse race, where what may have once been thoroughbreds are now mules plowing along. I feel we are in a shameful state in this country when a political party refuses to embrace real change. And refuses to acknowledge things that are going on in a society that is transforming itself in so many ways, and a major political party that refuses to rebrand itself and embrace the wide diversity that is The United States today.

I look at the GOP and wonder why it is still using old strategies to fight a new fight where the rules of engagement have changed since the days of their hero who is invoked in every debate, Ronald Reagan. Further, I would like to say that when the candidates go through these joint presentations or side shows that passes off as debates there is an underlying issue that many of the pundits are either ignoring or too afraid to discuss in a public forum when analyzing the race for the Oval Office. Absent in their analysis is the primary reason that President Barack Obama could lose the race for the White House in 2012 is not about his handling of the economy, but because he is an African-American.

If history serves as evidence of this practice of racial paranoia or panic when there is an African-American first we can look at the first African-American Heavyweight Champion Jack Johnson. Gaining the title during the beginning of the 20th Century, a time of racial repression where the mere thought of him having the title infuriated many. This led the American Writer Jack London to call for “A Great White Hope,” to win the title and restore the rightful place of the White man in society. Today a century later some of this type of psychology or more accurately the pathology of historical racism is the primary reason some will not vote for Barack Obama.

As we enter the presidential season, if I were to grade Barack Obama he would receive a 90% approval rating. Here is a man who has restored honor to the Oval Office. There has been no Watergate, Iran-Contra, Monica Lewinsky, perjury or impeachment proceedings, or an ill-timed unjust war and eight years of general incompetence. During the last Presidential campaign cycle there were questions of Obama’s ability to lead, today he is the man who is responsible for leading to the death of one of the man responsible for 9/11 Osama Bin Laden, and soon troops will be coming home to reunite with their families. Healthcare Reform has given many who weren’t covered health insurance; he has ushered in student loan reform, during his first term he helped save the American auto industry, thus saving many American jobs. This is only a short list of accomplishments of a man who ran a campaign centered on bringing people together and making this country and the world a better place.

Today, as I look at the field of GOP candidates all I see is the politics of old; negative and polarizing rhetoric that does not bring Americans closer together, but drives a wedge between us. I ask what would a presidency by any of the GOP candidates really look like and how will it seal our place in the world with such a narrow thinker as our Commander-in-Chief in a world that has changed so much? We need a leader that understands the Cold War is over and cowboy rhetoric and posturing does not work any more in a world that requires more diplomacy than diatribes and dictates to our partners in the world. Also we are in a world that is less and less looking to old White men to lead, and that there are others whether it is woman or people of color “the new majority” that are fit to lead.

It is time for the GOP to embrace the fact that this country is changing for the better and to revert to the politics of old is a move in the wrong direction. It is perhaps time for the GOP to rethink itself less as the “Grand Old Party” and look at today assisting in ushering in a new majority” that are fit to lead.

It is not about a Black or White majority” that are fit to lead. It is not about a situation in our partners in the world that requires more diplomacy than diatribes and dictates to our partners in the world. Also we are in a world that is less and less looking to old White men to lead, and that there are others whether it is woman or people of color “the new majority” that are fit to lead.

It is time for the GOP to embrace the fact that this country is changing for the better and to revert to the politics of old is a move in the wrong direction. It is perhaps time for the GOP to rethink itself less as the “Grand Old Party” and look at today assisting in ushering in a new age for this nation as a “Great Opportunity for Progress.” Those in the Republican Party must realize that it is foolish to turn back the hands of progress. And that as opposed to looking for a “Great White Hope,” should consider looking for a “Great Right Hope,” with polices and rhetoric that can bring people together in the spirit of unity in this great nation. It is time for the modern GOP to embrace change and realize that the citizens of America may come here on different ships but now we are all in the same boat. And when making a decision on electing a president it is not about a Black or White president but the right president. Someone that can restore hope and fuel the positive change we all desire, and if we can achieve that Lady Liberty’s light will shine brighter on this nation.
Gingrich’s Idea Exploits Stereotypes

By Dwight Ott

By Dwight Ott

By Dwight Ott

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By Dwight Ott
Five Golden Wins

By Kingfish
Data Sports Columnist

I'm taking the “12 Days of Christmas” theme because this game was a gift by the, wait for it, wait for it the Defense. I cannot go without saying the refs were horrible in the entire game. I'm never the one to blame the refs for a loss. There have been many games over this season where refs have made calls I thought were questionable, but I have never spoke on them because at the end of the day a great team overcome them. True, some of them were definitely the Saints fault but more of them were a bunch of well, you know what I mean. Three in particular got my blood boiling. One, the holding call on Darren Sproles touchdown run back. Two, the obvious touchdown by Jimmy Graham, and the third was the sack fumble by Tracy Porter. None of these calls were good calls. Some would argue the sack fumble but please, Porter hit him as he was drawing his arm back.

The Defense held the explosive Chris Johnson to under 30 yards. I don't care what they are saying in their post-game interviews they were in the game until the two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. The Titans had no reason to abandon the run with such a prolific runner other than the Saints were shutting it down. The Saints' run Defense was at its best this year. The run Defense gives me hope for next week's game against the Vikings' Adrian Peterson. Don't get it twisted, regardless of what the Vikings may say during the week Peterson will play.

The Saints' prevent Defense is suspect to say the least. You witnessed it in the Falcons game and now this game. Other than that the Defense did well today and has improved, as they have gotten healthy over the year, I ask you to watch nose tackle Tom Johnson who has been hurt most of the year from the Canadian League. He is a beast. We also had a sit-out from Shaun Rodgers in this game. Maybe he'll get better as the year goes on. He came into the Saints with high expectations but has not lived up to them.

If the Saints' interior defensive line steps up they can truly make a push in the post-season.

It is no surprise to our readers I have been begging for the Saints to run more. Yes, they are ranked 7th in the NFL in running averaging 120 yards per game by committee. On Sunday they gained a little over 100 yards by committee of course. Chris Ivory racked up the most yards with 53 out of three active backs Ivory, Thomas and Sproles. When it comes to beating the 49ers and the Packers they are going to have to be able to run the ball when it counts. That's being successful in your four-minute offense at the end of the game when you're protecting a lead. Sunday we saw the Saints fail in that effort. The Saints needed a first down with 5 minutes left in the game and on first and second down got two yards and tried to throw the ball on third down and Brees almost threw an interception; turning the ball over with one-minute and fifty-three left. The Titans went 75 yards down to the 5-yard line with a chance to win. Doing that against a playoff team will not end with the same result, the offensive running game has to do better. Don't get me wrong the Saints have the talent to do so, but as I have said, they have to be able to do it in game situations to feel comfortable to do it when it matters.

This was a "gut checks win" as Coach Sean Payton said. This was a momentum win for the Defense. Hopefully, they will build on this and continue this next week against the Vikings. Congratulations to the Saints on a five-game winning streak in November and December. I can't end this article without saying great game to Linebacker Dunbar. Dunbar played great sitting in for Vilma as the middle linebacker for the Saints during the Saints winning streak and then moving to outside linebacker for this game.

Next week the Vikings, the Saints last road game of the regular season.

Lets Geaux Saints!!!

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The Saints look to continue their 5 game winning streak as they take to the road this weekend facing the Minnesota Viking.
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