Farewell to Big Chief Bo Dollis

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

NNPA
The Black Press of America
Bringing News We Can Use for 75 Years

Black History
The Original N.O. Lady Buckjumpers

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NNPA - The Black Press of America
Bringing News We Can Use for 75 Years

By Edwin Buggage

The Black Press Gives Voice to the Voiceless

The Black Press has a long and storied history. From its earliest days in 1827 when Rev. Samuel Cor- nish and John Russworm started the Freedom Jour- nal, they stated clearly that “Too long have others spoken for us. We wish to plead our own cause.” From then until now the African-American Newspapers have been on the frontlines recording, advocating and archiving the history and struggle of African-Americans.

Over seven decades ago under the urging of John Sengstacke of the Chicago Defender, a meeting of leading Black publishers from across the nation was called in Chicago. Sengstacke said the meeting was designed for “harmonizing our energies in a common purpose for the benefit of Negro journalism.” At least one representative from 22 publications attended the meeting and the group decided to form the National Negro Publishers Association. In 1956, the trade association of the nation’s Black Press was renamed the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

On the cover: NNPA Chairman, Cloves Campbell addresses his fellow members of the Black Press of America at the 2014 Legacy Awards. All photos are courtesy of Mike Norris.
NNPA Shows Strength in Numbers

Today the NNPA is comprised of more than 200 Black newspapers in the U.S. and the Virgin Islands. NNPA newspapers have a combined readership of 15 million and the organization has forged ahead into the digital age with the creation of an electronic news service and the BlackPressUSA.com web site that enables the Black Press to provide real-time news and information to its national constituency.

“NNPA dates back over 70 years when a group of Black Newspaper Publishers got together to get a handle on the press putting their resources together to get a collective and unified voice around issues facing African-Americans,” says Cloves Campbell Jr., Chairman of the Board of NNPA and Publisher of the Arizona Informant.

He is a second generation publisher whose father Cloves Campbell Sr. while he was a member of the Arizona State Legislature felt the need to create a vehicle to get the message of bills being debated on the house floor that affected African-Americans to the people. “Our paper the Arizona Informant started 44 years ago. My dad started our publication when he was in the state legislature and he was having a hard time getting his bills covered by the White media, so he started his own newspaper. Since then we’ve grown into a weekly publication that covers the whole State of Arizona.”

Terrance Jones is the Publisher of the New Orleans Data News Weekly and is also a second generation publisher. His father Joseph “Scoop” Jones began the publication in 1966 and it has grown since then to become an award winning paper that is well-known on a local, state and national level. Jones has held many posts inside the NNPA and says they have been involved with the organization since the paper began.

“My father was part of the organization when he first started the paper,” says Jones. “I have held several positions since being part of the NNPA, I was on the Board of Directors; I was Second Vice-President and now I am Convention Chairman where I handle conventions and workshops.” Continuing he says the NNPA was pivotal in helping him and his publication during Hurricane Katrina getting the untold stories about what was going on in New Orleans. “They helped a lot during Hurricane Katrina and did a lot of fundraisers and worked with other papers to put focus on our City in its time of need.”

Soldiers Fighting with the Pen: The Black Press and a History of Advocacy

The African-American Media has been on the frontlines of many issues throughout its history. From fighting against slavery, to advocating for Civil Rights gains, to the integration of baseball, to issues of national, state and local concerns the Black Press continues to give voice to the struggles of African-Americans.

“There are many issues we still face today. One is the killing of unarmed Black citizens across the country. We are 28 times more likely to get shot by the police than Whites. It is troubling when some of those who are charged with and are supposed to serve and protect us are in the process of inaccurating and eliminating us. So we need to be cognizant about how to deal with the police not just our young people but adults as well. Also we have not become post racial, we still need to protect our voting rights, because across the country there are people particularly those in the Republican Party who are working to suppress our voting rights,” says Cloves Campbell.

Continuing, he says, “We must also look at Education. The President is trying to do everything he can, and Republicans in Congress are trying to stop him. In fact, there seems to be an effort to move African-Americans to service and vocational education. I feel we should not go completely in that direction. We should have that for those who want to do that, but we must continue to make higher education our top priority.”

Unlike the general news organizations, the African-American Press serves a larger purpose than simply reporting news. It is something that...
“(One-Hundred and) Thirty-Years of Buckjumping”

If you’ve attended one of the Original New Orleans Lady Buckjumpers’ legendary second lines, then you might have seen their president, Linda Porter, who is the longtime girlfriend of Rebirth Brass Band’s Founder Phil Frazier and mother of the late Hip-Hop Legend Soulja Slim. When the Lady Buckjumpers hit the street you can see her showing off her signature dance move: the shake. “I got this move I’ll do, where I stop and I just shake. Even a boy will stop and say, ‘Linda! Look at this!’ and mock me” by imitating that shake. Many people know about Porter’s shake, “because I was doing it for so long.”

Porter co-founded the women’s division of the Original Men Buckjumpers in 1984, but in the past thirty years, the Ladies have made a name for themselves quite independent from the Men. Along the way, they have influenced an increase in women’s participation in the second line culture. Porter recalls, “It used to be a lot of men who controlled women and lady’s clubs. But we never had that in our club. We have truly been two different clubs,” even though they parade together.

The Lady Buckjumpers recently celebrated thirty-years, but second lines like theirs have rolled through back-of-town neighborhoods for nearly one-hundred and thirty years. “It’s a culture that started, from what I heard, in the 1800s,” Porter said. “They say that people started out doing it to help people, and as the years went on, generations started picking it up and [they] practice, but these Ladies know better. They also staged clever ways to get these routines synchronized, they hold weekly practices a month before their parade. This surprises many, who assume that second lining requires no practice, but these Ladies know better. They also staged clever ways of coming out the door. In 2013, they surprised everyone when an 18-wheeler’s roll-up door flew open, and the Buckjumpers danced out of the truck.

Beyond synchronized routines and flashy entrances, the Ladies also display serious footwork. If you think that women second liners don’t dance as hard as the men, then you haven’t seen the Buckjumpers. “Ask anybody,” Porter says, “We getting it on, we bring it. They had them on top of trucks, on top of houses, I mean they just didn’t care what they do.” The club has maintained their tradition of parading with Rebirth every year since.

The Lady Buckjumpers have become a serious force in the second line community, not only because of their thirty-year residence on the streets, but also because of their reputation as serious dancers. They perform choreographed routines, such as the “Inside” and the “Criss-Cross,” as the parade captain calls them out. To get these routines synchronized, they hold weekly practices a month before their parade. This surprises many, who assume that second lining requires no practice, but these Ladies know better. They also staged clever ways of coming out the door. In 2013, they surprised everyone when an 18-wheeler’s roll-up door flew open, and the Buckjumpers danced out of the truck.

By Rachel Carrico

Linda Porter
Xavier University Black History Month Special Events

Xavier University has announced its Black History Month Programs. Many of these events are open to the public. Contact the University offices listed for more information.

February 03
An Evening Salon:
Celebrating the Harlem Renaissance
Music Recital Hall, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
African American and Diaspora Studies
Contact: Dr. Sarah A. Clunis
(504) 520-5020

February 04
African Dance Class
University Center, 6:00 p.m.
Office of Campus Activities
Contact: Amber Davis Prince
(504) 520-5758

February 05
Lunch Lecture:
Dr. Brian Turner, Asst. Professor of Psychology (XU)
Black DNA and Intellectualism
University Center, 12:15 p.m. (Location TBA)
Office of Campus Activities
Contact: Amber Davis Prince
(504) 520-5758
Alumni Panel Discussion
“Conversations Celebrating Xavier in Honor of Dr. Norman C. Francis”
University Center, 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Dr. Pamela Franco
(504) 520-7462

February 06
Yard Event
(Location Time TBA)
Office of Campus Activities
Contact: Amber Davis Prince
(504) 520-5758

February 09
Beauty Fair
University Center Ballroom, 6:00 p.m.
XAB event - Office of Campus Activities
Contact: Amber Davis Prince
(504) 520-5758

February 10
Screening:
Dear White People
(continuous loop all day)
University Center, Room 219
Office of Campus Activities
Contact: Amber Davis Prince
(504) 520-5758

February 11
Lunch Lecture:
Dr. Conchita Frigillana Ndege,
Prof. of History (NC A&T)
African Influence on the Art of the Harlem Renaissance
University Center Room 205, 1:15 pm
African American and Diaspora Studies
Contact: Dr. Sarah Clunis (504) 520-5020
Samba Dance Class
University Center, 6:00 p.m.
Office of Campus Activities
Contact: Amber Davis Prince
(504) 520-5758

February 12
Lunch Lecture:
Dr. Oliver Hennessey, Asst. Professor of English (XU)
“Black Shakespeare”
University Center Room 205C, 1:00 p.m.
African American and Diaspora Studies
Contact: Dr. Sarah Clunis (504) 520-5020

February 22
Annual Black History Concert:
New Orleans Black Chorale
Administration Auditorium, 5:00 p.m.
Free Admission

February 23
Lindy Hop Class with New Orleans Swing Dancer Kevin Gaudin
University Center, 6:00 p.m.
African American and Diaspora Studies
Contact: Dr. Sarah Clunis (504) 520-5020

First NBC Bank recognizes that a community based financial institution grows when it has professional and caring employees. We strive every day to supply the best banking services to each of our customers.

Majority local ownership allows us to cut through red tape and make decisions quickly when responding to our customers’ financial needs. The Bank’s flexible organizational structure affords our clients access to highly skilled and empowered bankers who are valued as trusted financial partners. And because we believe in open communication with customers, we will always encourage you to discuss your financial objectives and look for ways to implement them. First NBC Bank never stopped lending even during days of market instability. We’re recognized as one of the top lending and service related banks throughout the Crescent City and the Metropolitan Area. So, if you want to work with a bank that makes client services its primary concern, you know who you can turn to-First NBC Bank.

504-566-8000
www.firstnbcbank.com
Charmaine Neville Live

Photos by Terry B. Jones

Charmaine performs at Snug Harbor every Monday night. Here are highlights from Charmaine’s performance at Snug Harbor on Monday, January 19th and Data was there!!
New Orleans gathered to bid farewell to Big Chief Theodore “Bo” Dollis on Friday, January 30, 2015 and on Saturday, January 31, at a second Visitation in the Xavier University Convocation Center. A full funeral procession with a hundred Mardi Gras Indians in full dress paid tribute to Big Chief Bo Dollis at the close of services, leaving the Xavier Convocation Center with interment at Providence Park Cemetery. It was a fitting event for such a beloved member of our community. We will remember Big Chief “Bo” Dollis.
The Legacy of Carter G. Woodson

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.  NNPA Columnist

The best way to celebrate Black History Month is to make more Black history. Black History Month is now celebrated around the world. We are grateful for the visionary leadership of noted historian and scholar Carter G. Woodson for being the founder of what was known as Negro History Week in 1926 that 44 years later evolved into Black History Month.

It is also important to note that this year marks the centennial celebration of Woodson’s founding of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The mission of ASALH is to “promote, research, preserve, interpret and disseminate information about Black life, history and culture to the global community.” Established in 1915, the association has no peer in the preservation of our rich history.

ASALH continues to extend the legacy of Carter G. Woodson by “speaking a fundamental truth to the world – that Africans and peoples of African descent are makers of history and co-workers in what E. B. Du Bois called, The Kingdom of Culture.” Yes, it is clearly of the greatest necessity for all of us to support and spread knowledge about the accomplishments of Woodson, which included his landmark, The Mis-Education of the Negro. Written in 1933, the book is as timely today as it was 82 years ago.

We must not allow anyone or anything to diminish or to dismiss the uninterupted relevance and importance of Black American history, culture and intellectual genius. The “fundamental truth” about the glorious and triumphant history of peoples of African descent needs to be retold and appreciated by all people throughout the world.

We are a proud people. We are an African people. We are the Black family, community, nation and global community. We are a people of the long centuries-long struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Our history did not begin or end with the tragedy and holocaust of transatlantic slavery. The history of African people begins with God’s creation of humanity. We are the original people. Human civilization had its birth and evolution in the cradle of the heart of Africa.

When I hear people today say that Black Americans have a challenge with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) academic courses and disciplines, I ask: Why? We are the originators of math and science. One of the reasons Black History Month is so important is because it forces us to remind ourselves that high achieve- ment and excellent academic per- formance are a vital component of our historical evolution. Being skilled in science and math is not tantamount to “acting White,” what- ever that is. Rather, it’s thinking Black in the finest of traditions.

In a real sense Black History Month is Black Achievement Month. We must do a better job in defining and controlling the narrative about Black Americas in the past, currently and the future. The so-called “mainstream” media is still full of negative stereotypes and debilitating caricatures when it comes to reporting news, sports or about the cultural arts of people of African descent.

Here are my five recommenda- tions for properly celebrating this 2015 Black History Month:

• #Black Lives Matter: We en- dorse the national social media campaign to assert the value of all Black American lives and to con- front and stop racially-motivated police brutality;
• Let’s strengthen Black-owned businesses this month not only by buying Black, but by encouraging the mentorship and development of a new generation of young entre- preneurs;
• Financially support the His- torically Black Colleges and Uni- versities (HBCUs), whether to an individual college, or through the National Association For Equality Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the United Negro Col- lege Fund (UNCF) or the Thur- good Marshall Scholarship Fund.

Make a contribution to support HBC- UCs this month;
• Subscribe to a Black-owned newspaper this month for yourself and for a relative. OurVoice75 Sup- port the National Newspaper Pub- lishers Association (NNPA) 75th Anniversary throughout this year.
• Let’s prepare to reassert our demand for the protection of the voting rights of all people and in particular for Black Americans as we approach in the next few weeks the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March.
• Let’s make more history togeth- er. Our future will be determined by what we do today. Let’s make this Black History Month a time of both reflection and action to advance the interests of Black America and all African people everywhere.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the Presi- dent and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: db@brochanlvwpa.org and for lec- tures and other professional con- sultations at: http://dbenjamin- chavisvw.com/about
By LMG Calla Victoria

As an avid gardener I think what is most gratifying to me is enjoying the passion of other gardeners. I love watching gardening programs and attending lectures, seminars, and workshops because every now and then you encounter a gardener whose passion is a divine gift. Now there is passion and then there is Pearl Fryar…Pearl, Pearl, Pearl!

I first saw Pearl’s awesome topiary work on a gardening show called A Gardener’s Diary. I just sat there in awe of his jaw-dropping unique take on the art of topiary which he calls living sculptures. A year later he was one of the guest speakers at the Fall Gardening Show at the New Orleans Botanical Garden and I was front row center. Among his “pearls” of wisdom he said, “When you purchase a shrub to design buy an expensive shrub and that way you will follow through and come out with a lovely finished product. If you buy an inexpensive shrub you will not be concerned with the finished product as it did not cost you very much. Once you have purchased your specimen and are ready to commence with your design, examine the shrub from all sides and find an imperfection and that is where you make your first cut.” When Pearl Fryar picks up his Stihl hedge trimmer magic happens.

Pearl Fryar is a resident of Bishopville, South Carolina. When he purchased the property which was then a corn field, his predominately White neighbors were not very63333em as they felt that he (as a Black person) would not keep up the property. While his neighbors were thinking negative thoughts Pearl promised his wife that he would win “Garden of the Month.” Back in 1980 after getting a 3-minute lesson on creating topiaries at a local nursery he began trying his hand at topiary art and the rest is history. Pearl calls his design style “abstract free-flowing skeletal.” Pearl has transformed that corn field into an amazing three-acre topiary garden with over 400 species of plants, over 150 topiaries, and to compliment his whimsical topiaries he also does unique metal yard art which he calls “junque art.” His garden has received international acclaim as well as curious visitors from state-side and around the world.

Pearl Fryar’s Topiary Garden has literally put the small town of Bishopville on the map and is ranked #1 on Tripavisor for the City of Bishopville. There is a sign from the interstate directing you to Pearl’s garden. Pearl’s botanical masterpiece has had a major impact on the community of Bishopville as over 25,000 visitors make pilgrimages to Pearl’s garden annually. Main Street in the small town is lined with Pearl’s topiaries.

The Bible says that your gift will make room for you, which is most definitely the case with Mr. Pearl Fryar. This self-taught horticulturist, Pearl Fryar broke all of the “horticultural rules” pruning what was supposedly not supposed to be pruned. Now he is a most sought-after speaker who has appeared at many prestigious institutions including Harvard University, and has been featured in numerous articles including National Geographic and The Wall Street Journal. A documentary on his amazing living art called “A Man Named Pearl” was featured on the OWN Network and The Martha Stewart Show, and he has also appeared in commercials for John Deere.

As mindboggling as Pearl’s Topiary Garden is the staffing to maintain this botanical wonder. A mega staff of one, Pearl Fryar, maintains the garden. In 2005 the South Carolina State Museum Garden Conservatory helped to establish the Friends of Pearl Fryar’s Garden Foundation to raise funds so that Pearl’s garden will flourish even when Pearl can no longer do the work.

Pearl Fryar considers his garden his ministry with congregations of 300-500 visitors weekly. Pearl says his mission is to create a place of transformation so that you don’t leave his garden the way you came, as at every turn there is a symbol of love, joy, and peace displayed.

To view Pearl’s amazing work and to purchase his 2015 calendar, go to http://bit.ly/1o0qfY1

Check out “My Gardening Tip of the week at www.thegardeningdiva.com Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!”

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By Robert J. Spears

As a general dentist it is very gratifying to me to provide the best dental care to patients. Our practice has been in business for over 30 years and I have been here for the past 25 years. We have a team of highly skilled and experienced dental professionals who work together to provide quality care. Our philosophy is to provide dental care that is both effective and comfortable for our patients. We believe in building long-term relationships with our patients, and we strive to make each visit a positive experience.

Our practice offers a wide range of services, including general dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, and orthodontics. We use the latest technology and techniques to ensure the best possible outcomes for our patients. Our goal is to help our patients maintain good oral health and to ensure that they have beautiful smiles.

If you are looking for a trusted and experienced dentist in your area, please feel free to schedule a consultation. We are always happy to discuss your options and answer any questions you may have.

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Community Development Institute Head Start

Job Advertisement

CDI HS Serving Orleans Parish, Louisiana is currently seeking applicants for the following positions.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Manages the day-to-day operations of an Early Head Start program including personnel administration, supervision and oversight. Works to develop an early childhood education curriculum for infants and toddlers; provides educational resources for staff and parents; ensures compliance with state and federal regulations; supervises the Head Start Program; provides direct services, maintains a working knowledge of Head Start performance standards, and is responsible for monitoring program expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT—Human Resources/Fiscal: Responsible for the human resources activities of an Early Head Start program including personnel administration, supervision and oversight. Works to develop an early childhood education curriculum for infants and toddlers; provides educational resources for staff and parents; ensures compliance with state and federal regulations; supervises the Head Start Program; provides direct services, maintains a working knowledge of Head Start performance standards, and is responsible for monitoring program expenses. Applications must be submitted to P.O. Box 8249 New Orleans, LA 70182 by the closing date of February 9, 2015 or until position is filled. Applications may be picked up in person at the Orleans Parish EHS Administration Office, 2714 Canal Street, Ste. 407, New Orleans, LA, 70119. Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of applications. Applications must be received in time to be considered for the position.

FAMILY SERVICE WORKER: Supports and assists families as they identify and meet their own goals through a family-centered case management model. Responsible for child file, enrollment/applications, etc. and assists with the completion of the child health requirements and other required screenings and assessments. Applications must be submitted to P.O. Box 8249 New Orleans, LA 70182 by the closing date of February 9, 2015 or until position is filled.
Is There More to See in Your Family Tree? Find Out if Glaucoma Runs in Your Family

It may be easy to see that beauty is deeply rooted in your family tree. But some things that are passed down from generation to generation are not as easily seen—like glaucoma, an eye disease that runs in families and often has no warning signs.

Glaucoma is a group of diseases that damages the eye’s optic nerve, which carries visual signals to the brain. It can lead to vision loss or blindness if left untreated. Primary open-angle glaucoma is the most common form of this disease. Quite often, by the time people are diagnosed with glaucoma, they have already begun to notice changes in their side, or peripheral, vision. It’s important not to wait until you notice vision problems to see your eye care professional.

"Studies show that at least half of all persons with glaucoma don’t know they have this potentially blinding eye disease," said National Eye Institute (NEI) director Dr. Paul Sieving. "The good news is that glaucoma can be detected in its early stages through a comprehensive dilated eye exam."

People with a family history of glaucoma, African Americans age 40 and older, and everyone age 60 and older are at higher risk and should get a comprehensive dilated eye exam every 1 to 2 years.

A comprehensive dilated eye exam is a procedure in which an eye care professional places drops in your eyes to dilate (or widen) the pupil to examine the back of your eyes and your optic nerve for signs of disease. This exam may help save your sight because when glaucoma is detected early, it can be controlled through medications or surgery.

Keep the vision of your beautiful family in your future. To learn more about glaucoma, visit www.nei.nih.gov/glaucoma or call NEI at 301–496–5248. A low-cost exam may be available to you through Medicare. For more information, call 1–800–MEDICARE or visit www.medicare.gov.

Black History Month Comes Alive With “The Case for Loving”

By The Bookworm Sez

Your best friend’s Mom never minds if you make too much noise.
She takes you places and gives you snacks, too. She’s a really nice lady.
Your best friend’s Dad shows you how to do things, and he makes you laugh. You like spending time at their house.

But what if there was a rule somewhere that said they couldn’t be a family? In “The Case for Loving” by Selina Alko, illustrated by Sean Qualls and Selina Alko, there was once such a law, and the reason was black and white.

Falling in love was very easy. Richard Loving and Mildred Jeter did that right after they met, and it didn’t take long for them to decide that they wanted to get married and raise a family.

But there was one problem: Richard was white. Mildred was “colored.” They didn’t think that was any big deal but in Virginia in 1958, it was illegal for them to get married. Yes, a simple wedding could land them in jail!

So Mildred and Richard went to Washington, D.C. and tied the knot there. Family and friends went to the wedding, and everybody was happy. The Lovings “couldn’t wait” to start their new lives back home.

Not long after they were back in Virginia, though, the police came in the middle of the night and said that the Lovings’ marriage certificate was no good. They put Richard and Mildred behind bars because their marriage was unlawful – and that “was just awful!”

In order to stay out of jail for good, Richard and Mildred had to leave their families and move to another state.

In Washington, D.C. again, the Lovings tried to settle in. Richard got a job. Mildred had three children in “three different shades of milk-chocolate brown.” But the city wasn’t a good place for the Lovings. They missed their families. They weren’t happy so, nine years after that late-night visit by the police, because times had changed, they hired lawyers to fight for the right to live in their beloved Virginia…

For any adult who’s too young to remember Loving v. Virginia (or any child who wasn’t born then), “The Case for Loving” is a very informative, eye-opening book.

Author Selina Alko says in her notes that, as a Jewish white woman, she finds it “difficult to imagine” that her marriage (to illustrator Sean Qualls, an African American) might’ve been illegal, fifty years ago. Kids might find that notion to be almost “unbelievable,” too, given that they’ve never known a world like one described here.

What parents will want to understand, however, is this: for its 4-to-8-year-old target age group – particularly for those on the younger end – this book could be scary, especially the “taken away and locked up in jail” part. For toddlers, that’s the stuff of nightmares, so be warned.

Still, if you’re prepared to explain and you keep the youngest audience members in mind, this could be a great read-aloud book. “The Case for Loving” may become one your kids will make noise for.
helps shape the agenda for what is important in the African-American community. “We are not only reporters but advocates for justice for the African-American community,” says Terry Jones of the multiple roles of the African-American Press and the continued work they do at the NNPA, that’s tied to a legacy of the struggle for equality and having African-Americans tell their own story and shaping their own history.

The Continuing Significance of the Black Press in the 21st Century

While the African-American Press has a rich history, some feel that the United States has evolved where race is no longer an issue. In turn questioning the viability and purpose of the African-American Press, the NNPA Chairman, Cloves Campbell feels that is not true even though there have been many gains he feels the country has a long way to go before the scales of justice for African-Americans are balanced; creating the necessity for the African-American Press.

“African-American newspapers do things that general newspapers do not. There are people that are not recognized by the White media who are on the pages of our publications. We have so many stories that are not told, but that is a relevant reflection of who we are and I feel we will continue to be relevant. I also believe that we should be the gatekeepers of our history and what goes on in our community,” remarks Data News Weekly’s Publisher, Terry Jones about the continued need for an independent African-American voice to address the issues that affect and impact the community.

In the 21st Century media is changing and is having an impact on newspapers across the country. Many daily newspapers in major cities including New Orleans have laid off reporters with a long history cut back printing their papers on a daily basis. The industry with its changes is making companies have to rethink their businesses to stay afloat and relevant in a changing climate for print media.

Curry, Continued from page 8.

restaurant and this White waitress came up to me and said, “We don’t serve colored people here.” I said, “That’s all right. I don’t eat colored people. Bring me a whole fried chicken.”

And there was this one: “Segregation is not over. Have you ever heard of a collision where the people in the back of the bus got hurt?”

There was simply no one else like Dick Gregory. And callers into Joe Madison’s radio show shared their special memories.

Madison remembers the calls: “One guy, who’s a doctor in New Orleans, said, ‘Dick Gregory spoke at Xavier University. I was a student and I still have the notes from that speech.’ He was in school in the 70s.

‘An executive from Caterpillar in Peoria, III. said, ‘I am the only Black sitting up here on the 7th floor and I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for Dick Gregory. I know you asked for $30, but I am sending $1,500.’

Most of the contributors were everyday people who donated $30.

‘It had to be done,’ Madison said of the campaign to honor Gregory.

‘People say, ‘Who cares about a star on the Walk of Fame? It’s about marking your territory.’”

Business…Branding and the future of Black Newspapers

For Curry, he feels this is a golden age for the African-American Press and believes the NNPA with its collective strength is in a great position and is optimistic about the future of African-American Newspapers. “We are in a renaissance, we have some great branded publications. Data News Weekly, Arizona Informant, New York Amsterdam News, Pittsburgh Courier, Los Angeles Sentinel and many others.”

Continuing he says, “We have to rebrand and take our legacy in new products that does not mean just printing, but utilizing social media events, promotional ideas and branding opportunities. Our photo archives alone are something that is worth millions of dollars. Also there are enough stories that the general daily news do not cover, and with us bring technology and rebranding what we have we will remain viable for the 21st Century and beyond.”

From Samuel Cornish and John Russworm to the meeting that formed the NNPA over seven decades ago, the Black Press today is as important as it was then. It is still important to have a voice that tells the stories of a people in their own words. So today the Black Press and the NNPA marches on lighting the torch, lighting the way that leads to the future of African-Americans, Terry Jones feels that the future lies in strengthening the relationships inside the community and giving them news they can use.

The motto of his paper is, “The People’s Paper” he believes that the African-American Newspapers and the community is a partnership that is a marriage of the aspirations of a community with a vehicle that gives it a voice. “We are only as strong as the community makes us, when they support us, and we give them a voice to chronicle the history of our people. I feel that is very important and I feel that we will continue to be around and an important voice in telling our story.”

Odds of a child becoming a professional athlete: 1 in 16,000

Odds of a child being diagnosed with autism: 1 in 88

Some signs to look for:

- No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.
- No babbling by 12 months.
- No words by 16 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org