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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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Data Zone

Saints Score Big with BUSH

May 6, 2006 39th Year Volume 35 www.ladatanews.com

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COVER STORY

New Orleans Holds Historic Elections

By: Edwin Buggage
Photo's By: Larry V. Panna Jr.



Councilperson Cynthia Willard-Lewis on the campaign trail.



Mayor Ray Nagin on the campaign trail on election day. Nagin finished as the front-runner in the primary.

To say it has truly been an unusual past eight months for the city of New Orleans is an understatement, as the city is attempting to recover from the disaster of Hurricane Katrina and the breaching of the levees which left eighty percent of the city underwater displacing over half of the city's residents and sucking the life, vibrancy and vitality out of this vivacious historic metropolis. Presently, there are uncertainties about the city's catastrophe preparedness as June 1st the day that marks the beginning of hurricane season is right around the corner. And the question for many is who are the person's best suited to captain the city of New Orleans in its renaissance.

Spring thus far has been unseasonably warm, but on April 22, 2006 the mercury nearly burst through the thermometer, as the heated primary campaign season came to a close. Campaign signs filled the medians as candidates vied for the opportunity to lead New Orleans in its rebuilding. Several posts

were up for grabs including, Criminal Sheriff, Assessor, seats on the City Council, Clerk of Court, and several others, but the most watched was the race for Mayor of New Orleans.

This race is one of historic proportions and has garnered national and international attention with several of the debates being broadcast on MSNBC and C-Span. In these races the candidates have found themselves embroiled in a local election with implications that far supercede the crescent city, and are a true test of democracy at work. In this election we have witnessed candidates finding themselves in unfamiliar territory, campaigning as if these were races for national offices as they've had to travel to several states in their quest to reach the voters.

During this election season issues of the fairness, the timing of the election, and the disenfranchisement of displaced voters were



Mayoral Candidate Mitch Landrieu greets well wishers.

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COVER STORY

Continued from previous page.

questioned. Citing the potential problems of an election held under such extenuating circumstances on April 1, 2006 a historic march took place led by the Rev. Jesse Jackson and was co-sponsored by several national and local civil rights organizations. With several thousand people heeding their call, they came out to participate in this protest for the right to return, and the right to vote.

The culmination of these issues and concerns finally came to the forefront as the citizens went to the polls to have their voices heard. Before the day of the election a record number twenty-thousand citizens took advantage of early voting while other residents trekked across the country, some traveling from as far as Atlanta Georgia, Houston Texas and other cities to participate in this election. Along Chef Menteur Highway in New Orleans East several candidates including Mayor Ray Nagin lined the streets in a last minute effort canvassing for support. The event along the street resembled a family reunion with friends re-uniting for many had not seen each other since Hurricane Katrina, and the fervor and excitement of the election left the streets with the feel of a Mardi Gras Parade. The excitement of this election drew media organizations from across the globe and film crews including renown filmmaker Spike Lee who was on hand speaking to voters as well as interviewing Mayor Ray Nagin for his upcoming documentary about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

As voters entered and exited the polls their opinions varied, some voiced concerns about the present administration and said they were looking for change, Heather Jackson is one such person, a thirty- something New Orleans resident said, "I don't like the direction the city is going in, and I think it's time for us to bring in

new leadership." While others feel it is important to keep our present mayor in place, Joel Williams, 40, a life long resident of the Crescent City stated, "This is an important time for the city, and we need somebody with experience who can get the job done, and I think that person is our present Mayor, Ray Nagin."

After a long day of voting the hoopla around the city subsided and the sun set coincided with the polls closing at 8 p.m. And when the votes were finally counted, Incumbent Mayor Ray Nagin was the frontrunner receiving thirty-eight percent of the vote with his closest challenger Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu who many pollsters predicted would win the primary received twenty-nine percent of the vote. Nagin was visibly shocked by his wide margin of victory expressing these words in his primary victory speech saying to the voters, "Today you stepped up and shocked the world." In an act of defiance he disposed of his scripted words and spoke from his heart addressing those who counted him out saying, "There have been people who said we were dead," but on this Election Day he rose like Lazarus; continuing he boldly boasted, "But there are people that like the direction the city is going in and we have run number one today."

Many supporters and well wishers voices harmoniously resonated filling the ballroom at Nagin's campaign celebration as chants of four more years filled the air as he gave his heartfelt speech. As the first phase of the election process is completed the stage is set for the run-off which is scheduled for May 20, 2006 between the incumbent, Mayor Ray Nagin and his formidable opponent Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu in what should amount to a hard fought battle for who will lead New Orleans into the future.

Saints Hit the Bush, select Reggie in NFL Draft

Make no mistake, when Houston decided to go in another direction on the first pick of the 2006 NFL draft, the Saints were well prepared to make their selection at #2, choosing Southern California running back Reggie Bush. Bush, the 2005 Heisman Trophy winner, rushed for 1,740 yards last season in leading the Trojans to the College Championship. He scored 25 tds, caught 37 passes for 478 yards, while returning 18 punts for 179 yards and a score. The versatile back also led the nation with an average of 222 all-purpose yards per game.

Bush was expected to be taken #1 by the Texans, instead Houston made defensive end Mario Williams their first choice. Not being the overall first pick appeared not to bother Bush, who said he knew it was a business decision. "I wasn't disappointed at all, Bush said. "Obviously I would have liked to have been the No.1 pick, but I'm the #2 pick and going to New Orleans. I just came in with an open mind. It's up to the teams to pick and choose who

will fit their programe, we had no control over this thing."

The Saints found themselves in full control at #2, contemplating whether to keep their prize grab or wait for the best offer from teams who were eager to snatch Reggie, then acquire additional draft picks in exchange. But team general manager Mickey Loomis and new Saints head coach Sean Payton had made their decision the night before to take the top player on the draft board once Bush became available. "We are excited about our draft pick, Payton said, we got our guy." He brings a ton of versatility to our offense, has character, plus he was the highest rated guy on the board."

By selecting Bush, the Saints add a running back to a backfield that includes ace back Deuce McAllister, who is coming off a season ending injury. Having both in the backfield at the same time creates havoc for opponent defenses, but a dream for offensive coordinators. It will be the best one-two punch since the team had the combo of Lighting and

Thunder in the backfield, Tony Galbreath and Chuck Muncie.

"He's that good, said McAllister on drafting the nation's top back." You've got to take him regardless of your situation." I know it takes away a couple of touches from me, but in the long run it will help the team and my career."

Bush becomes the third Heisman Trophy winner selected by the Saints, who previously took running back George Rogers (1981) qb Danny Wuerffel (1997) and running back Ricky Williams (1999).

One would think Bush would have something to prove to Houston and the entire league, the Texans made a mistake in bypassing him. However, the former Trojan plans to use it as motivation because he's already fired up just to be in the NFL. "I'm not going to take anything personal from the Houston Texans and go out and try to run for 5,000 yards or whatever in a game." That's the way it is, that's the nature of the beast and its part of the game."



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New Orleans
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NEWSMAKER

Municipal Election Results

Here is a complete look at the official returns for the 2006 City of New Orleans Municipal Elections. Several incumbents were re-elected to their positions. Most notably in city wide races winners included Oliver Thomas, City Council at large, Paul Valteau, Civil Sheriff, Marlin Gusman, Criminal Sheriff Dale Atkins, Civil Court Clerk. Of note, are the many races which were closely contested, and resulted in a runoff, which is scheduled for May 20, 2006.

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage of Votes
MAYOR OF NEW ORLEANS		443 Precincts Reporting
Johnny Andriani	114	0%
James Arey	99	0%
Nick Bacque	52	0%
Virginia Boulet	2,367	2%
Elvin Brown	51	0%
Manny Chevrolet Bruno	100	0%
Kimberly Williamson Butler	793	1%
Rob Coughig	10,287	10%
Roderick Dean	16	0%
Sonja DeDais	62	0%
Ron Forman	18,734	17%
Marie Galatas	74	0%
Gretta Gladney	99	0%
MITCH LANDRIEU - RUNOFF	31,499	29%
Jimmy Lemann	60	0%
C. RAY NAGIN	41,489	38%
Mac Rahman	50	0%
Norbert Rome	42	0%
Leo Watermeier	65	0%
Tom Watson	1,264	1%
Shedrick White	64	0%
Peggy Wilson	772	1%
COUNCIL AT LARGE		443 Pecincts Reporting
JACQUELYN BRECHTEL CLARKSON RUNOFF	36,759	22%
Les Everichick	680	0%
ARNIE FIELKOW - RUNOFF	31,037	18%
William "Poppa" Grant	1917	1%
Michael Gray	7,204	4%
Alden Hagardom	2,575	2%
Carlos Hornbrook	1,698	1%
David Lapin	9,231	5%
Leonard Lucas	8,725	5%
OLIVER THOMAS - WINNER	66,274	39%
Roger Wilson	2982	2%
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT A		107 Precincts Reporting
JAY BATT - RUNOFF	10,805	40%
Sonia Gupta	1,228	5%
Ray Landeche	405	1%
SHELLEY STEPHENSON MIDURA- RUNOFF	7,703	28%
David Nowak	272	1%
Sal Palmissano	3,272	12%
Stephen Saussy	1,024	4%
Tom Wagner	2,445	9%

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage of Votes
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT B		92 Precincts Reporting
Quentin Brown	654	4%
Michael Duplantier	1,933	11%
STACY HEAD - RUNOFF	6,691	38%
Shane Landry	680	4%
RENEE GILL PRATT - RUNOFF	7,042	40%
Marshall Truehill	626	4%
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT C		80 Precincts Reporting
Jane Ettinger Booth	3,875	18%
JAMES CARTER - RUNOFF	7,112	33%
Julian Doerr	1,090	5%
Charles Duffy	310	1%
Mike Early	4,174	19%
Gregg Huber	283	1%
KRISTIN GISLESON PALMER - RUNOFF	4,655	22%
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT D		98 Precincts Reporting
Louella Givens	4,174	22%
Darrell Gray	1,928	10%
CYNTHIA HEDGE-MORRELL - WINNER	10,867	56%
Abron Morgan	217	1%
Van Robichaux	2,160	11%
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT E		70 Precincts Reporting
Cederick Favaroth	426	3%
Wayne Johnson	181	1%
Willie Jones	278	2%
Shawn Lockett	363	2%
Nolan Marshall	2,507	15%
Myron Mitchell	444	3%
CYNTHIA WILLARD LEWIS - WINNER	11,593	71%
William James Willis	165	1%
John Zimmer	324	2%
ASSESSOR, 1st DISTRICT		25 Precincts Reporting
David Baird	418	12%
MARIA ELLIOT - RUNOFF	1,484	41%
DARREN MIRE - RUNOFF	1,729	48%
ASSESSOR, 2nd DISTRICT		53 Precincts Reporting
CLAUDE MAUBERRET - WINNER	6,166	54%
Jackie Shreves	5,222	46%
ASSESSOR, 3rd DISTRICT		201 Precincts Reporting
Errol George	7,789	20%
ERROLL WILLIAMS - WINNER	31,916	80%

Candidate	Number of Votes	Percentage of Votes
ASSESSOR, 4th DISTRICT		26 Precincts Reporting
Gerard Archer	1,009	22%
BETTY JEFFERSON - RUNOFF	2,312	49%
CHASE JONES - RUNOFF	1,366	29%
ASSESSOR, 5th District		40 Precincts Reporting
TOM ARNOLD - WINNER	9,048	66%
Kenneth Garrett	0	0%
Ron Mazier	3,779	27%
Benita Scott	974	7%
ASSESSOR, 6th DISTRICT		62 Precincts Reporting
Albert Coman	4,675	31%
Andrew Gressett	960	6%
NANCY MARSHALL - WINNER	8,167	55%
Edwin Stoutz	1,166	8%
ASSESSOR, 7th DISTRICT		35 Precincts Reporting
Charlie Bosworth	2,603	31%
HENRY HEATON - WINNER	5,145	61%
Joe Jones	243	3%
Braden Robinson	466	6%
CIVIL SHERIFF		443 Precincts Reporting
Kevin Gremillion	11,111	11%
PAUL VALTEAU - WINNER	77,872	80%
Justin Zitler	8,122	8%
CRIMINAL SHERIFF		443 Precincts Reporting
Gerald DeSalvo	31,479	31%
MARLIN GUSMAN - WINNER	71,315	69%
CLERK, CIVIL COURT		443 Precincts Reporting
DALE ATKINS - WINNER	76,518	82%
Douglas Castro	16,713	18%
CLERK, CRIMINAL COURT		443 Precincts Reporting
Sanjay Biswas	7,281	8%
Millard Collins	10,760	12%
David Kent	8,228	9%
Juana Marine Lombard	12,091	13%
Paul Mirarchi Massa	1,858	2%
ARTHUR MORRELL - RUNOFF	18,440	20%
Robert Murray	2,212	2%
Morris Reed	10,114	11%
Patricia Boyd Robertson	4,766	5%
Autumn Town	1,459	2%
NICK VARRECCHIO - RUNOFF	14,805	16%

STATE & LOCAL NEWS

Bush pledges new assistance during NO visit



President Bush lends a hand to Habitat for Humanity during his recent trip to New Orleans on April 27. On this, his 11th visit since Katrina, Bush pledged more assistance to the still devastated Gulf Region, but his help is tied to a massive emergency supplemental spending plan, which must be approved by the Senate.

With parts of this hurricane devastated city still piled with debris and lacking basic services, President Bush promised on his April 27 visit to the Crescent City, marking his 11th such visit, to make the federal response to any new hurricanes "as effective as possible."

"All of us in positions of responsibility appreciate those who are helping us to understand how to do our jobs better," said Bush, whose administration has been faulted for its flawed response to Hurricane Katrina.

Bush stopped at a modest bungalow restored by volunteers, situated on a Ninth Ward street still lettered with debris. White government trailers that serve as the main housing for the displaced sat in many front yards, as Bush stopped to greet victims who stood by to meet him. His motorcade then traveled to a nearby large vacant lot where Habitat for Humanity is building 81 new homes for New Orleans musicians. The President donned work gloves and a tool pouch as he wandered around the construction site chatting with workers and was joined by Gov Kathleen Blanco and Mayor C. Ray Nagin.

Against a backdrop of continued misery nearly eight months after Katrina came ashore, the White House has tried to highlight a massive infusion of federal spending, more than \$100 billion once an emergency supplemental spending measure before the Senate is approved, toward the region's reconstruction, with \$27.1 billion slated for the Gulf Coast, and 2.1 billion for levees and flood control projects specifically. Bush has asked the Senate to add another \$2.2 billion to repair and strengthen levees in and around New Orleans, a request will not add to the overall cost of the bill since it was accompanied by a decrease in FEMA disaster funds.

Bush's visit came as a bipartisan Senate panel investigating the government's flawed Katrina response said that FEMA is crippled beyond repair and suggested it should be dismantled in favor of a new agency.

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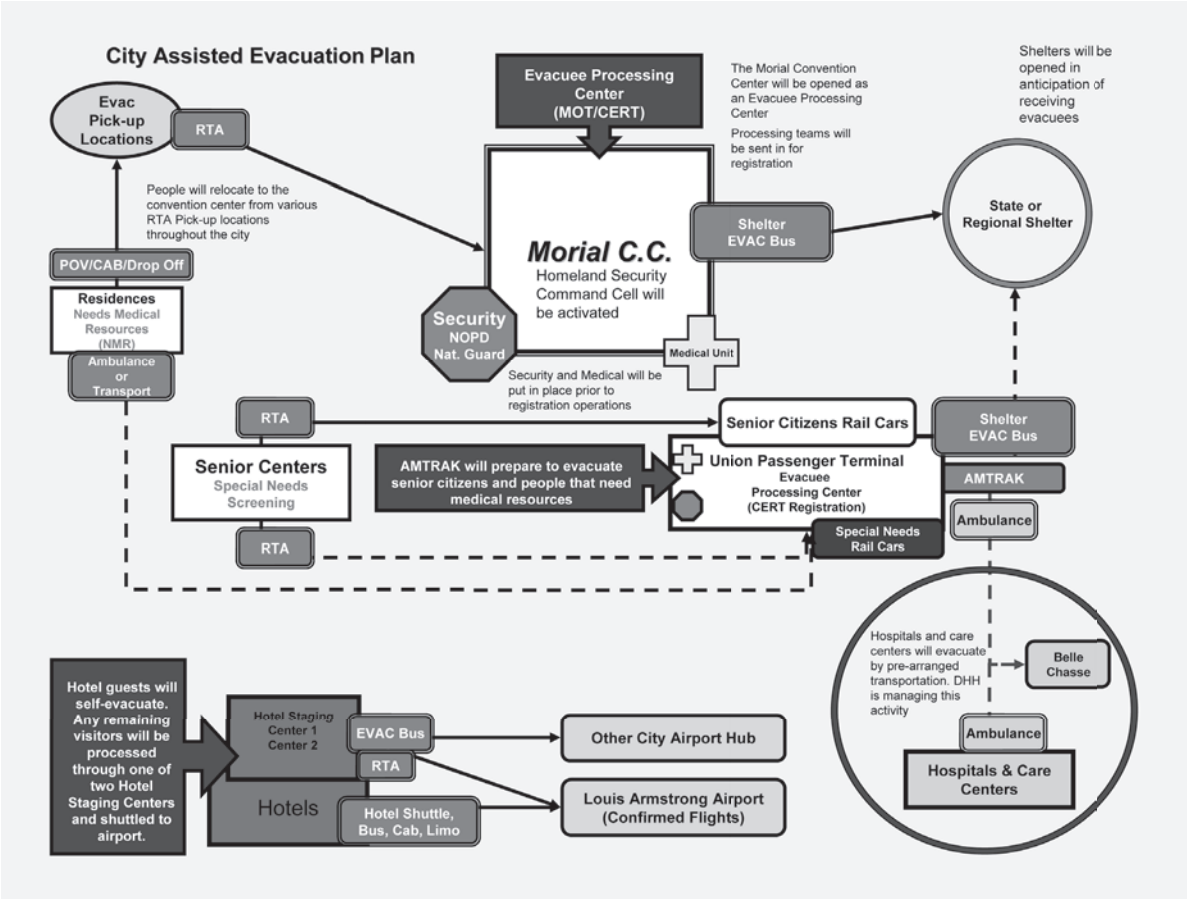
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Mayor Nagin Presents City of New Orleans 2006
Emergency Preparedness Plan



In preparation for the 2006 Atlantic Storm Season, Mayor C. Ray Nagin's Office of Emergency Preparedness has developed a strategic plan for the management and evacuation of the citizens of New Orleans. Through detailed evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of responses to past events across the nation, and the integration of the on the ground experiences of the mayor and his emergency team during the response and recovery to last years Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the city's new emergency plan focuses on the logistical how-to of moving citizens out of harm's way.

City Communication infrastructure is being upgraded and an emphasis is being placed on interoperability with government agencies and law enforcement across the region.

Mayor Nagin has named May hurricane preparedness month and urges residents to sit down with their families before the June 1 beginning of hurricane season to make their own emergency plan. A completed plan should include when and where family members should meet, where they should evacuate, and what they should bring, including money, food and health-related supplies. The city's technology office is working with Homeland Security and the Office of Emergency Preparedness on a new website to assist citizens with this critical task.

"There will be no shelter of last resort," Nagin declared. "In the future, the Convention Center will be a staging point for evacuations, not a shelter, and Amtrak trains will also be used for evacuation purposes."

A critical component of any Emergency Preparedness Plan is how the evacuation of assisted needs citizens, such as the elderly and infirm, will be managed. To this end, the city presents a new **City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP)**. The purpose of the CAEP is to help citizens who want to evacuate during an emergency, but lack the capability to self-evacuate. The CAEP is not intended to replace the individual's personal responsibility in preparing their own evacuation. It is meant to be an evacuation method of last resort and only for those citizens who have no other means or, have physical limitations that prohibit self evacuation.

Below is a flow-chart indicating the City Assisted Evacuation Plan. For more information, you can log onto the City's website at www.cityofno.com

New Orleans
Elections Costs Soar



LA Secretary of State Al Ater attributes the 100% increase in election costs to many factors including advertising and staff overtime.

Baton Rouge – Secretary of State Al Ater reported that the Municipal Elections which include the ongoing Mayoral race and other city wide posts will cost about \$1 million dollars. This is up from the normal Pre-Katrina elections average of approximately \$500,000.

Ater attributes the spike in costs to several causes, which have included sending notices to over 700,000 displaced citizens, radio, television and newspaper advertisements and staff overtime costs due to the large number of staffers who worked 24-hour days leading up to the April 22 primary race.

PAUL R. VALTEAU

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Voters at the polls.



State Representative Cheryl Gray and Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage at Mitch Landrieu Campaign Celebration.



People at the polls

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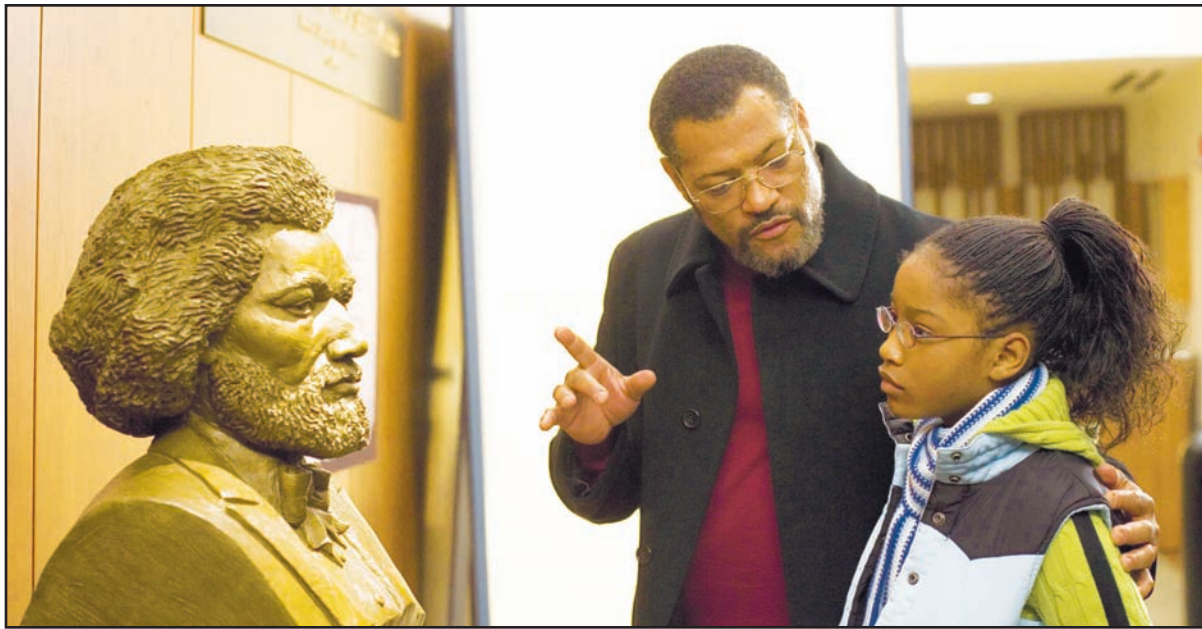
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DATA ZONE

Akeelah and the Bee



Words of Wisdom

By **Dwight Brown**
NNPA Film Critic

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." This astute aside comes from the shaman-like figure in this inspiring family film. Laurence Fishburne plays word-whiz, Dr. Larabee, an angst-filled Ph.D. who has lost his way in life. He becomes the godfather of spelling to an 11-year-old, South Los Angeles girl named Akeelah (Keke Palmer), who is struggling to find her path. Words of wisdom flow in and out of this slightly formulaic yet ultimately elating film.

Akeelah lives in the economically-challenged Crenshaw district of L.A. As depicted in this movie, Crenshaw is a low-income neighborhood, and this brainiac little girl is living an underprivileged, urban life: Single, widowed mom (Angela Bassett). Older unwed, teenage sister (Erica Hubbard) who is a baby's momma. Older brother who is a wannabe thug. Akeelah is the odd duck whose love of words was passed on to her by her late father who was killed in a drive-by. She has skills, talent and no outlet until one of her teachers suggests that she compete in a school spelling bee that could lead to a district, state and national competition. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.

Akeelah's biggest obstacles are peer pressure, a distracted mom and her own inertia. It's not cool to be smart in the ghetto or the 'burbs. She's a nerd. She doesn't have a real peer until she meets a young Latin boy, Javier (JR Villarreal), at a spelling bee and their friendship starts her on an upward spiral.

One day, writer/director Doug Atchison stumbled across the Scripps Spelling Bee while watching ESPN. He was startled that most of the young contestants came from affluent backgrounds. What if one of them didn't? Hence his poignant script which won a prestigious Nicholl Fellowship in Screenwriting competition, sponsored by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, in 2000.

Young Black girl against the odds – you couldn't ask for a more sympathetic character. The odds – a doubting mother, a poor neighborhood, and a spelling competition that would scare seasoned English teachers. Connect the dots, add three acts and presto this story sells itself; all the screenwriter need do is lay out the plot in 90 succinct minutes. Somewhere along the line, Atchison's script gets sidetracked with plotline baggage. Dr. Larabee has lost a daughter and a wife. Akeelah's mom is a widow. These somebody-died-closed-to-me cliché devices don't ring true. In fact, they are cumbersome. They make this two-hour film drag at points. That said, even with these contrivances, the movie overall is emotionally fulfilling and not nearly as manipulative as a Steven Spielberg film. Bring a hanky.

Atchison's direction is sufficient, but he fails to establish a style. *Akeelah and the Bee*, feels more like an extended after-school-movie than a feature film. He's better with actors and does a wonderful job guiding Palmer, a young actress who shows great emotional range and has a very expressive face. You don't wonder what Akeelah thinks, you see it.

Within the confines of an over-weight, emotional tugging screenplay, and uneven direction the multicultural cast shines. Villarreal as the nurturing friend, Sean Michael Affable as the cold-hearted competitor, Hubbard as the protective sis, Sahara Garey as the best friend, along with Fishburne, and Bassett form a community of believable people who help a young girl fulfill her dreams. Achievement is the film's first lesson. The second lesson is that "It takes a village;" this subplot will warm your heart as much as Akeelah striving for success.

The cinematography (M. David Mullen) is not as attractive as the rest of the movie, and gives the film a very low-budget look. The musical soundtrack fares a bit better. Set design, art direction and costumes neither help nor hinder.

Though the imperfections have been duly noted, don't be put off. This film will warm your heart and make your eyes water. Any tears of joy are justifiably earned by a unique story, a charming young actress and a spirit that will elevate anyone's mood. This is a wonderful movie. Take your kids. Take your friends. Take your parents. It's emotionally gratifying and inspirational. It teaches viewers that winning and succeeding is for those who strive and those who help them on their journey.

Angela Bassett sums it up best, "Can anything good come out of South Central? Yes, of course. Something good can come out of anywhere. A flower can come out of a crack on the sidewalk."



Saints Get a Trophy Pick

The New Orleans Saints used their number two position to score a major pick in the NFL Draft last week in New York, nabbing Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush, the man whom analysts have said is dangerous anytime he touches the ball.

Bush, a running back for USC, won the coveted prize last year in a season where he mounted stats of 1,740 rushing with 16 scores on the ground, and brought in 43 passes for a total of 509 yards, with seven touchdowns. The 5'11 Junior, who was the PAC 10 leader in punt returns had a total of 376 yards on returns, and averaged 25.6 yards on kickoff returns. During his 2005 season he gained the NCAA career-record with 7.3 yards per carry, finishing the season with 6,617 all-purpose yards and running away with the AP Player of the Year as well as the Walter Camp and Doak Walker Awards.

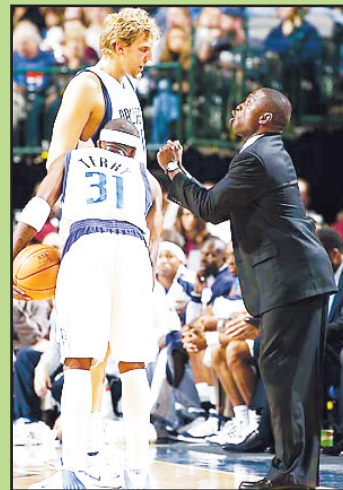
Local Standout Named NBA Coach of the Year

Dallas Mavericks coach Avery Johnson has been named the winner of the Red Auerbach Trophy as the NBA Coach of the Year for the 2005-2006 season.

In his first full season as the Mavericks head coach, Johnson received 419 points, including 63 first-place votes from a panel of 124 sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the US and Canada, finishing ahead of Phoenix Suns' coach Mike D'Antoni, and Detroit Pistons' coach Flip Saunders.

Johnson, the first coach in Mavericks history to receive the honor, joins former greats Don Chaney, Lenny Wilkins and Doc Rivers as the fourth African American man to be named Coach of the Year, in a sport which is dominated by Black players, but still largely run and coached professionally by white men. In his first NBA coaching season, Johnson led his Mavericks to a 60-22 record, the third-best mark in the league and tied for the best season in franchise history. Johnson, named head coach on March 19, 2005, was the fastest coach to 50 wins (50-12) and recorded the best start by a first-time coach in league history, winning 66 of his first 82 games. Johnson led the Mavericks to a 34-7 mark at home, tied with the San Antonio Spurs for the best home record in the Western Conference.

Johnson was a standout player at Southern University, and though never drafted into the NBA, he played 16 NBA seasons, playing 1,054 games and averaged 8.4 points, 5.5 assists, 1.7 rebounds and 25.3 minutes. He spent the majority of his playing career in San Antonio (1992-2001), where he was part of the 1999 NBA Championship team and remains their all-time leader in assists.



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Lake Terrace Lake Oak Filmore
St. Anthony Milneburg Dillard
Gentilly Terrace Pontchartrain
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Lea Fairgrounds Bayou St. John
Seventh Ward Mid-City Tremé/
Little Tulane/Gravier Gent Town
Iberville B.W. Cooper Apts.
French Quarter Central Business
District Desire Area Desire
Dev Florida Dev Florida Area
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Holy Cross Dixon Hollygrove
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OPINION

To Be or Not to Be . . . Surprised



Eddie Francis
Data Columnist

SURPRISE! Mayor Nagin's "chocolate city" comments didn't work against him.

SURPRISE! The brash young attorney who had proof that Marlin Gusman let prisoners and some of his own men die in the wake of Katrina, got manhandled.

SURPRISE! The "IQ" plan for the assessor's office didn't quite work . . . or is it offices? Wait, it would have been "office" instead of "offices" had all of the IQ folks won . . . right? Anyway . . . surprise.

SURPRISE! Only one incumbent, Albert Coman in the assessor's 6th district, lost a seat, outright.

Right now the rest of the country thinks that we New Orleanians have lost our ever-lovin' minds. In a recent trip to Sacramento one of my cousins asked, "Do you think Nagin has a chance to win this run-off?" I answered, "Did you think he would even make the run-off?" My cousins' sentiments echoed the sentiments of many around the nation who thought that New Orleanians would clean house during the April 22nd elections. In fact, many said that they would see to it that they would help clean house.

This has nothing to do with my political preference so much as it has to do with simple observation. For months I have been hearing family and friends say every crass

thing about New Orleans leadership under the sun as we all continue to put our lives back together. I would safely say that 90% of the folks I have spoken to and e-mailed expressed understandable frustration with life as Katrina victims by vowing that they would cast votes to change the landscape of our beloved city's leadership.

That does not seem to have happened. Amid all of the complaining about his devil-may-care attitude and his pandering to whichever audience he is speaking, Mayor Nagin stormed into the run-off. Amid all of the fears that Ron "The Zookeeper" Forman would pose a formidable challenge, he only gathered 17% of the vote. After his bulldog performance on the nationally televised debates, Rob Couhig went down with only 9% of the vote. So much for black folks' fear that Republicans and whites would take the city over with their power of the ballot.

Please excuse my cynicism but what I find most amusing is that for all of the talk that there needs to be a changing of the guard in New Orleans, the guard is still basically there. No one lost his or her city council seat. The only fresh face will appear in district C where James Carter and Kristin Palmer will face off. But that's only because Jackie Clarkson is going for an at-large seat, where she will duke it out with Arnie Fielkow in their run-off.

So what kinds of votes did you cast, New Orleans? Did you cast votes of confidence that our leaders are wiser than they were on August 29, 2005? Or did you cast votes because the challengers just didn't move you? Did you cast your ballots for "the brotha" or "the sista"? Did you cast votes because you're "sick and tired of black folk"? Heck, did you even make a choice at all?

May 20th is a more important date than April 22nd was. As citizens it will be important that we figure out how to keep our voices loud and clear no matter who gets in office. Without the people, the politicians cannot win praise.

Nagin's on Third in New Orleans Election



Ron Walters
NNPA Columnist

Ray Nagin is poised to score in the run-off election May 20, by polling 38 percent of the vote and finishing first in the recent New Orleans mayoral primary election. But there is, for me – and many others – a basic question: Will he score and does it matter?

By winning the Black vote in the recent election, it seems like Blacks are willing to let Nagin, initially supported by the business community, "come on home" which he has been trying to do, albeit clumsily, for some time now. The signal he sent that New Orleans should return to being a "Chocolate City" and his rejection of some recommendations of his re-building commission are evidence of this attitude.

The primary election, however, was not about the candidates per se, it was really about two things they symbolized: racial politics and what kind of change each contestant is offering. None of the leading candidates, however, offered a compelling vision of change and because voters could not see clear programs to vote for they resorted to the tradition of racial politics.

Whites voted largely for Mitch Landrieu (29 percent), Ron Forman (17 percent) and Rob Couhig (10 percent) and at the moment, the animus of White voters against Nagin for offering a vision of a continued Black control makes his program incompatible with their interests.

Thus, Whites will probably give Landrieu most of their vote in the runoff. With 62 percent of the voters going against Nagin in the primary, and White turnout at about 50 percent to 30 percent for Blacks, Landrieu appears to be in a good position. The question is how much of that 62 percent will Nagin take away.

The low voter turnout of Blacks is one manifestation of all the things critics of the election were voicing about the formidable barriers to voting. In some ways, the higher turnout of Whites was preordained, since by my calculations, most of the precinct voting stations that were changed were in the Black community, which meant that disproportionately, Whites could vote in relatively familiar voting stations.

Nevertheless, thousands of ballots were invalidated in this election system, approved

by the Justice Department, because of either voter ID problems or the late receipt of absentee ballots. This system must now be corrected for the runoff.

Most important, the right to vote must be expanded. Louisiana Secretary of State Al Ater says that he cannot order other states to set up satellites voting stations for displaced New Orleans voters and the federal government has taken no action.

But since he has made no public formal request for satellite stations to be established in other states and the Bush administration has taken, this conspiracy of non-action may be intended to affect a change in the racial politics of the city. Without some responsibility taken by the state and federal government to expand the right of displaced citizens to vote, the 30 percent turnout of Blacks may look like a minor miracle in hindsight. In fact, Black turnout will have to affect a real miracle if Nagin is to stand a chance.

Working against Nagin, the low turnout could also mean that those who have been displaced, especially outside the State of Louisiana, have not seen the kind of program that is attractive enough for them to take the trouble to vote, in short, a program by which they could envision resuming their lives in the City.

That leads to the question of what each candidate means in the debate over "change." Change has become a code word among Whites in New Orleans for the death of the Black political regime. As one White member of the state legislature said on the floor, with most Blacks gone, "the Reconstruction is finally over."

But the Reconstruction made New Orleans what it was, a unique city with a cultural presentation like no other, a jewel in the American crown to be admired and a legacy to be preserved. What will Nagin and Landrieu offer: to restore the jewel or to cast it aside and place the future under the management of those who made the Reconstruction necessary in the first place?

Look closely at the programs that will be offered. The rebuilding process will place a Black mayor in a position to influence more economic resources than any other Black politician in America. Has America ever trusted that role to a Black man?

Since the answer to this question may ultimately determine the outcome of the election, the Black citizens of New Orleans have to know the answer to that question and determine whether the fight to reverse that history and increase their power is worth it.

Ron Walters is the Distinguished Leadership Scholar, Director of the African American Leadership Institute, Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland College Park. His latest books are: *White Nationalism*, *Black Interests* (Wayne State University Press) and *Freedom is Not Enough*, (Rowman and Littlefield).

New Orleans
DATA
News Weekly

NATIONAL NEWS

'Profit Motive' Taints Katrina Recovery Efforts

By George E. Curry
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (NNPA) – When federal officials contacted Mayor George L. Grace of St. Gabriel, La. for help in setting up a morgue for those killed in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he did not hesitate.

"At the time, we did not know how many victims of the hurricane there would actually be," he recalls. "So we had to make a decision as to whether we would cooperate with accepting that gruesome responsibility. Of course, people are afraid of the unknown and there were a lot of people who did not want a morgue in St. Gabriel. But I thought that was the least that we could do."

St. Gabriel, 13 miles south of Baton Rouge and 71 miles west of New Orleans, is a predominantly Black community that was incorporated as a town in 1994 and designated a city five years ago. It has a population of 6,052. After

Hurricane Katrina, the tiny city became the focus of international attention.

"We got a lot of attention from the media worldwide," Grace recounts. "They camped out at City Hall and the morgue complex 24 hours a day. It looked like we were invaded. But we did persevere, we did try to establish a dignified repository for those bodies."

Grace told about his ordeal as part of a panel discussion at the annual convention of the National Conference of Black Mayors. The panel was on lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina.

"The first lesson I learned from Katrina was the fact that this tragedy still had people interested in the profit motive," Grace observed. "A contract was let to Halliburton to build a morgue, irrespective of the fact that most of the bodies at that time had been processed."

The no-bid contract was let after the city had made available

a 125,000-square foot building that it was leasing. Because most of the work had been completed and the death toll was lower than expected, Mayor Grace said there was no need to construct a new building. But that did not deter the Corps of Engineering.

"That morgue was built and \$30 million was spent in another section of town," Grace said. "By the time they finished with everything, it was just about over with. They occupied it for one month and now they are saying, 'What are we going to do with a 200-square foot building with dormitories, kitchens, gymnasiums' – all kinds of things in that empty building."

And that wasn't the only mistake.

"Secondly, they built it before they got a lease on the land," Grace said. So the man who owned the land said, 'It's mine. You didn't get a lease or anything like that.' The federal government

is coming in and saying, 'We want to send our appraiser and appraise the land at the pre-Katrina value.' And he said, 'Oh, no.' That's a big dilemma."

Grace was incredulous at a request made by the federal government.

"The next lesson I learned is the total arrogance of those who are in authority," Mayor Grace said. "While they were spending \$30 million on that new morgue, they came back to me and asked if I would rebate whatever money they had paid me in rent. In other words, that was \$1.2 million for the whole facility and they wanted me to give that back while they were spending \$30 million on a new one."

The mayor drew laughter when he said, "I learned from the National Conference of Black Mayors and other training that I got and I documented and formalized the arrangements that I made with the federal government. Consequently, I got

my money."

But Grace said it wasn't all about money.

"I also learned about the insensitivity of the local governments surrounding New Orleans," Grace said. "Those people were not refugees. They were not people from a Third World. But in various cities and parishes (counties) around New Orleans, these people were not welcome. They were welcome for a day or two, but when it came to any kind of long-term accommodations, they were not welcome."

When Black mayors wanted to step in, they were rebuffed, Grace said.

"There are those of us who are mayors – Donaldsonville, St. Gabriel, White Castle – who said, 'Yes, we're willing to take them.' But our governor whom we elected – without the Black vote, she would not have had a chance – gave the parish presidents the authority, under the Disaster Act,

continued on page 14.

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Grandparents Against Drunk Driving

The Times-Picayune

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#71

COMMENTARY

NATIONAL NEWS

Liar, Liar, Beware of the Fire



James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

Blackonomics.

Someone said, "Get all the fools on your side and you can be elected to anything."

More and more, as I watch and listen to the "Resident," I am convinced that there must be a lot of fools who vote. Don't miss understand; a fool is not necessarily someone who is uninformed or uneducated. Remember our grandparents calling people, "Educated fools?"

The evidence abounds that this country has an abundance of fools, many of whom are well educated, wealthy, and refined, that continue to support the Resident and the ridiculous things he says and does.

First of all, let's call it like it is.

The Resident is a liar; Rumsfeld is a liar; Cheney is a liar; and Condoleezza Rice is a liar. No need to recount all the lies they have told; if you have paid just a little attention to them you know they are all liars. And let's not use euphemisms like "misspoken words," "misinterpretations," "taken out of context."

No, they are plain and simple lies, and the folks running this country are plain and simple liars.

It would require reams of paper to cite all of the problems caused by these liars and the lies they have told – and continue to tell. Remarkably, most of us know they are lying, but we refuse to call them on it.

Consequently, we find ourselves in a quagmire in Iraq, preparing for an unprecedented long-term presence in that country by building a \$1 billion Embassy, the largest in the world. Osama Bin Laden?

The Resident says, "I don't know where he is; I really don't

spend a lot of time on [looking for him]. Say what?

Our secretaries of Defense and State fly around the world, at our expense, arrogantly threatening other countries, and lying through their teeth about how well things are going in Iraq. Our "Vice" Resident is one who knows where, doing who knows what, raking in money (What was it? A \$1.8 million tax refund?) from a company with which he said he has no financial interests: Halliburton.

We have a new press secretary, one who now has to defend the policies of a guy he has trashed in the past. Talk about waffling; it is amazing what some people will do for politics. We have a lackluster, do nothing, unaccountable Congress that hardly ever works and sits idly by while the Resident lies, defies, and plays them like a bunch of idiots.

Anyone who votes for a Congressperson, a senator, or a governor who supports the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue should be given at least 30 days in jail. But like I said, get all the fools, and I would add, all the liars, on your side and you can be elected to any office.

Iraq is draining our treasury and running up our debt, and the Resident wants even more money thrown into this bottomless pit, despite the suffering that continues in New Orleans where he rolls up his sleeves, dons a tool apron, drives a nail or two, and expects us to be impressed by his "compassion."

Nearly a half-trillion dollars spent in Iraq, record oil prices, gas pump shock and awe, indictments of high-level officials and CEO's, record profits by oil thieves, and the Resident's answers: It's hard work. "We are addicted to oil." "We're fighting a war on terror." To put us in a state of euphoria, the resident wants to save a few barrels of oil by not adding to the reserves, and his crew wants to give us a measly \$100.00 to "ease the burden" of high gas prices; while the head of Exxon gets \$400 million. What compassion!

Some 2394 young people have been killed in Iraq, and The Resident has the nerve to say

they did not die in vain. How can that be true when they died for a lie? And to justify those deaths, our Resident says we must stay in Iraq and allow more soldiers to be killed. The Resident and his crew must be planning to have vacation homes in Iraq, and that's why they are spending so much money there. Oh yes, and they don't like their future neighbor, Iran; so let the gentrification begin.

Using the same argument that got us into Iraq, they are now making every effort to justify going into Iran. The Resident doesn't want Iranians to have "nuculer" capability nor even "nucule" know-how. It's all right for India, Pakistan, North Korea, and Israel to have them, however. Maybe this country should be the ones banned from having these weapons. We are the only one to have ever used them, and are now threatening to use them on Iran.

Liars, Liars, all of them. They have taken this world to a new low and have presided over five and a half years of chaos, confusion, charades, and political comedy, that is, if you have the stomach to laugh at the Great Decider's ignorant and childlike attempts at explaining himself to the American people. We have been bushwhacked for five years, and now we will be subjected to a "Snow job" each time there is a White House press conference.

What lies (pardon the pun) ahead for us? God only knows, but in the meantime let's do something. Gas prices? Select two or three local companies and do not support them, especially Exxon. Iraq? Do not vote for anyone in May or November who has even a hint of a connection with the Resident. New Orleans? Help. Iran? Pray. The Resident? Evict him, and send him copies of Revelation 21:8, and highlight the part about liars.

James E. Clingman, an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati's African American Studies department, is former editor of the Cincinnati Herald newspaper and founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce. He hosts the radio program, "Blackonomics," and has written several books, including Black-o-Knowledge-Stuff. To book Clingman for a speech or purchase his books, go to his Web site, www.blackonomics.com or call him at 513/489-4132.

Jackie Robinson Recognized



By. Earl Heath
NNPA

LOS ANGELES - "Baseball has done more to improve the social landscape in our country than any other sport."

Those were the words of Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Morgan on the 59th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's breaking baseball's color barrier. On hand at Dodger Stadium was Jackie's daughter Sharon Robinson.

She stood at home plate with Dodger great Don Newcombe. They both watched the Dodger video board. The video not only featured Robinson in his rookie year, but also showed the Mariner's Japan born Ichiro Suzuki waving to the crowd and the Boston Red Sox Dominican born Manny Ramirez running on to the field holding the American flag.

"It never gets old," said Sharon. "Every time that video goes up on the board, I have to hold back tears."

This is in part to the statement the Morgan made as in recent years there has been an influx of foreign players to the Major Leagues from the far east. There's also a heavier contingent of Latin players now than there was before Robinson's feat was accomplished. Dodger's centerfielder Kenny Lofton was off the disabled list just in time.

"At this point, anything to do with Jackie Robinson is very important to African-Americans," said Lofton. "It's important just understanding what he went through, understanding how the game was, the trials and tribulations he went through. I'm just honored to be a part of the game right now and it's all because of him."

Newcombe was a former teammate of Jackie's and was the

second African-American to join that Brooklyn team.

The Jackie Robinson Foundation was established in 1973 by Rachel Robinson and some close friends. San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds was on hand and shared a few words with some of the scholars. He even gave a photo op to them. "This is your Kodak moment," said Bonds to one of the scholars. "So take it."

"They're (JRF Scholars) throwing out first pitches in ballparks all across the country," said Sharon.

"We don't just dispense money to kids going to college; they become part of the Jackie Robinson family. We see them once a year and work on leadership development," she added.

Some scholars from the JRF include Jonas Cleveland of Carnegie Mellon University, Landon Dickey a freshman at Harvard was at Fenway in Boston and Tracy Hadnott, a senior at Stanford was at the A's in Oakland.

JRF scholars have a 97 percent graduation rate.

Raymond Pounds is a JRF scholarship recipient. The Cleveland High School (Los Angeles) graduate threw out the first pitch at Dodger Stadium to Lofton. "It (the scholarship) means a lot. I am grateful for it and it's an honor just representing his name," said Pounds. "It is putting me through college." Pounds is a Political

Science major at UCLA.

Robinson was very proud of our young people. He thought they were very important to society. "Jackie always said, 'Get the kids to listen, not hear, listen, then they'll learn,'" said Newcombe.

NATIONAL NEWS

Smoking Gap Between Blacks and Whites Still Too Large

By: Hazel Trice Edney

NNPA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Cigarette smoking and lung cancer mortality rates overall are declining in the U. S., but lung cancer death disparities between the races - Blacks and Whites - remain alarming, leading health care and anti-smoking experts say.

"We haven't closed the gap. While everybody's improving, the gap is not closing. The five-year survival difference is still in the range of 10 to 15 percent for Blacks and Whites. So while it's an improvement for all groups, the difference or the disparity remains," says Dr. Harold Freeman, a respected surgical oncologist and director and founder of Harlem's Ralph Lauren Cancer Center for Cancer Care and Prevention. He explains, "It's like you have the front wheels and back wheels of a car, but no matter how fast you go, the back wheels are never going to catch up."

The association of state attorneys general reported in March that data derived from federal government tax collections shows a 4.2 percent decline in cigarette sales last year and a drop of 20 percent since the attorneys general reached a legal settlement with tobacco companies in 1998.

Anti-tobacco activist Sherry Watson-Hyde, executive director of the National African American Tobacco Prevention Network, is happy that the rates have declined for African-American smoking, though not deeply enough.

"Black male lung cancer rates have been over the top," Watson-Hyde says. Even with the state tobacco settlements, she said the tobacco industry still finds new ways to ensnare smokers with flavored cigarettes special promotions.

The NAATPRN and other anti-tobacco organizations, such as the American Legacy Foundation, which has awarded a three-year grant of \$4.5 million to a coalition of six national Black organizations, including

the National Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation, for tobacco prevention and cessation programs, focus largely on reverse marketing by educating African-Americans on the dangers of tobacco smoke.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reports that while the annual White lung cancer death rate is approximately 58 percent per 100,000 diagnoses, the rate for Blacks is 64 percent per 100,000. Cancer experts say the rates have remained consistently disparate - within the 15 percentile over the past two decades - even when fluctuating. Black and White women are about the same at 40 percent for Black women and 42 for White.

Tobacco use is the major cause of lung cancer in the United States.

About 90 percent of lung cancer deaths in men and nearly 80 percent of lung cancer deaths in women in the U. S. are due to smoking. Why are Black men dying of lung cancer at such higher rates? And what is being done about it?

Freeman believes race play a role.

"Race is a determinant in how people get treated for cancer even when they're at the same economic status; not just lung cancer, but in general," he says. "The biggest challenge in America for disparities is to get standard treatment for everybody, to make it available somehow."

He says that unless a system is created that targets people's ability to get early medical intervention regardless of their ability to pay, the disparities will remain. A publicly funded "patient navigation" program that he started 16 years ago for breast cancer patients should be a model for the nation for all types of cancer, he says. The public program pays for breast cancer screening for women regardless of their socio-economic status.

"I improved the five-year survival rate at Harlem Hospital from 39 percent to 70 percent for breast cancer in poor Black women," he says. "They remained poor.

They remained Black. We didn't change that. But I changed what we did for them."

Some say that the belief by some African-Americans' that surgery contributes to the death of cancer patients may be contributing to high cancer death rates. Doctors say surgery for lung cancer is the most effective curative procedure.

But a report by the American Lung Association states: "One possible reason African-Americans are less likely to have surgery is a belief that air exposure during lung cancer surgery might cause the tumor to spread."

A 2003 report published in the Annals of Internal Medicine - "Racial Differences Pertaining to a Belief about Lung Cancer Surgery: Results of a Multi-Center Survey" - that supports this view.

"A recent study found that 19 percent of African-American lung cancer patients at the Philadelphia VA Medical Center stated that this belief was a reason for opposing surgery, and 14 percent would not accept their physician's assurance that lung cancer surgery does not have this effect. Several of these African-American patients asserted that this belief was common in the African-American community."

Another debate is over why Blacks are not participating in clinical trials that often prolong the lives of lung cancer patients.

A wide-held perception has been that Blacks are skeptical of clinical trials and decline to participate in them because of the 1932 Tuskegee syphilis study in which the U. S. government intentionally left 200 African-American men untreated for the crippling disease.

But a study by the National Institute of Health released early this year, said a survey of 17,000 Americans, 14,000 of which were Blacks and Hispanics, concluded that - despite some known distrusts of the health care system - Blacks with lung and other types of cancer are just as likely as Whites to participate in curative research trials. It concluded that they just don't because they're not asked.

Julia Rowland, director of the office of Cancer Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute agrees that Blacks are invited to participate in studies, but may have other variables that block their following through.

"It's not because they're not invited. It's because there may not be studies [medically] appropriate for them," she says.



"When we think about clinical trial participation, you have to think about the nature of someone's disease and whether there's actually a trial available for them and then whether or not they have the eligibility criteria. For example, if you have a rare disease or have a serious heart condition, you may not be eligible, or you may not live near a center that's delivering that interview."

Freeman says regardless of the reason that they don't, it would be more helpful if more Blacks were to participate in clinical trials. He says he has seen as much as a 12 percent difference in favor of White people who had early stages of lung cancer getting curative treatment, which is surgery, compared to Blacks.

"At a minimal, people who participate in clinical trials get better treatment," he says. "We need to find a way to ask them in that is acceptable to them because people are different culturally."

Because more than half of cancers are caused by lifestyles, African-Americans, can cut their own death rate by simply taking better care of themselves, Freeman stresses.

Regular check ups and a prudent diet, high in fiber, vegetables and fruits and low in animal fat are among the most important lifesavers, he says. And because a third of cancer deaths are due to smoking and tobacco used has been cited as a contributor to at least 15 types of cancer, he says one word could make the difference between life and death: "Quit."




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Natl News, continued from page 11.

to say whether or not you could bring in trailers into any part of that parish, which meant this: I can say yes, I want to help these people, but the parish president said no and I could not let them come in.

“We had to go to court and when they saw that we were going to win, they acquiesced and started letting us bring in people. That let us know that the insensitivity was political socio-economic and racially-motivated.”

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, who is facing Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu in a May 20 run-off, knows what it was like to have the support of corporate leaders four years ago, only to have those leaders donate more money to his two major challengers, both of whom are White, in the non-partisan general election leading up to the runoff.

“It took me four years go raise \$1.3 million in my war chest,” he told the audience. “Within 90 days after this event, two candidates raised \$4.5 million (combined). That’s the deal.”

He, too, noted the green lining created by Katrina.

“There is big money in disasters,” he stated. “Huge money. The president talks about spending \$100 million. That’s true, but a lot of that was ungodly profits to some companies. Right after the storm. The Corps of Engineer and FEMA issued four, \$400 million, no-bid contracts. Fluor; a subsidiary of Halliburton [Kellogg, Brown and Root] got one; Shaw got one, CH2Mhill.”

Nagin said even debris cleanup is big business, with contracts being let for \$43 per cubic yard and contracted several levels below, with the actual workers earning only \$7 per cubic yard.

The mayor of New Orleans learned of another priority population that he had ignored in the past.

“Another lesson learned is pets,” he said. “You need to pay attention to this issue. Pets were a huge deal in the disaster. Lots of people would not leave the city of New Orleans because of their pets – they are like their babies, they are their children. We have to incorporate a pet evaluation plan going forward.”

Nagin was roundly criticized for saying during a Martin Luther King Day speech this year that New Orleans should continue to be a “Chocolate City.” The mayor later softened his language, though it is clear that he has not changed his opinion.

“After the Chocolate City speech, I learned that when you make a statement – even though you feel the statement was accurate – you deal with it quickly,” he said. Nagin called in reporters the next day individually to clarify his comments.

“If I wouldn’t have done that, it would have been worse, if you can imagine that,” he said. “So, if you make a mistake or you offend some people, it’s very, very important in a crisis that you get on it quickly and you deal with it quickly.”

Nagin said he was caught off guard by how the national media operates.

“When national press shows up and the international press shows up, try to get a little team together quickly that can help you understand how to communicate, what are the key themes and to kind of keep you out of trouble,” he advised.

“I was mayor of New Orleans and I was accustomed to being very direct with the local press. Things that I got away with prior to Katrina, you can’t do it after Katrina. The audience changed and it changed so quickly that I didn’t fully appreciate the new arena I was involved in. Everything I say now is a national and international event.”

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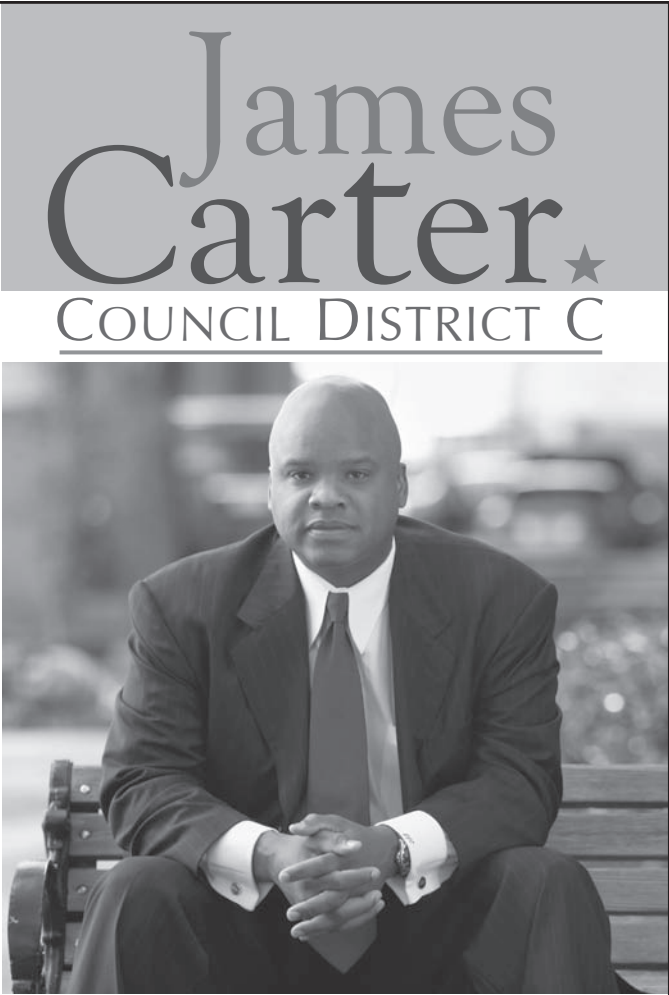
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James Carter★

COUNCIL DISTRICT C

ORLEANS ELECTIONS INFORMATION

ORLEANS PARISH ELECTION

May 20, 2006 General Election

- The deadline to register to vote:
April 19, 2006
- Anyone who received a mail ballot for the primary election will receive a mail ballot for the general election.
- If you need to request a mail ballot, the period to do so is March 21, 2006 through May 16, 2006. **However**, if you are a displaced voter who qualifies to file a "displaced voter affidavit", the deadline to request a mail ballot is extended through May 19, 2006. (To qualify you must have previously voted or registered by mail between 10/5/04 - 9/24/05. Please call 1-800-883-2805 for more information.)
- The deadline for a voted mail ballot to be received at registrar's office is May 19, 2006, unless you qualify to file a "displaced voter affidavit" and the deadline is Election Day, May 20, 2006.
- **Mailing address for requesting mail ballot:**
P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9125
- **Fax numbers for requesting mail ballot:**
225-922-0945 or 225-922-1167
- All registered voters can vote during the early voting period in **New Orleans:**
May 8 - 12, 2006, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
May 13, 2006, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters

Physical addresses for early voting:

1300 Perdido St., Room 1W23
(City Hall)

New Orleans, LA 70112-2127

-OR-

225 Morgan St. (Algiers)
New Orleans, LA

Telephone: 504-658-8300

Fax: 504-658-8315

Email: orleansrova@elections.state.la.us

- All registered voters who registered **on or before 9/24/05** can vote during the early voting period at a Satellite Early Voting Location as follows:

Satellite Early Voting Locations:

Must be registered on or before 9/24/05 to vote at a satellite location

Early voting: May 8 - 12, 2006, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
May 13, 2006, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Caddo Parish Registrar of Voters

525 Marshall St., Suite 103

Shreveport, LA 71101

Phone: 318-226-6891

Calcasieu Parish Registrar of Voters

1000 Ryan St., Room 7

Lake Charles, LA 70601-5250

Phone: 337-437-3572

East Baton Rouge Registrar of Voters

222 St. Louis St., Room 201

Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5860

Phone: 225-389-3940

Satellite ROV Offices:

#1 10500 Coursey Blvd., Room 203
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

#2 2250 Main St.

Baker, LA 70714

Jefferson Parish Registrar of Voters

1221 Elmwood Park Blvd. (lobby)

Harahan, LA 70123

Phone: 504-736-6191

-OR- 5001 West Bank Expressway,
Suite C2

Marrero, LA 70072

Lafayette Parish Registrar of Voters

1010 Lafayette St., Suite 313

Lafayette, LA 70501-6885

Phone: 337-291-7140

Ouachita Parish Registrar of Voters

400 St. John St., Room 106

Monroe, LA 71201-7342

Phone: 318-327-1436

Rapides Parish Registrar of Voters

701 Murray St.

Alexandria, LA 71301-8099

Phone: 318-473-6770

St. Tammany Parish Registrar of Voters

701 N. Columbia St.

Covington, LA 70433

Phone: 985-809-5500

Tangipahoa Parish Registrar of Voters

Courthouse

Amite, LA 70422

Phone: 985-748-3215

Terrebonne Parish Registrar of Voters

7856 Main St., Suite 110

Houma, LA 70360

Phone: 985-873-6533

RE-ELECT OUR MAYOR RAY NAGIN

“Now is not the time to change leadership.

I ask the citizens of New Orleans to let me continue this important job of rebuilding our city. We have the plan and the means to do it. I believe that my first term in office shows I have the credibility and experience to get the job done right.”

Mayor Ray Nagin

INTEGRITY

For the last four years, our mayor, Ray Nagin has achieved many accomplishments. But, perhaps, the most important and long-lasting change is that he has restored integrity to City Hall. He promised to put an end to patronage politics which benefitted only a handful of favorites and allowed corruption to flourish. Instead, our mayor created a modern and efficient city government in which all our citizens have a chance to participate and achieve economic success.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

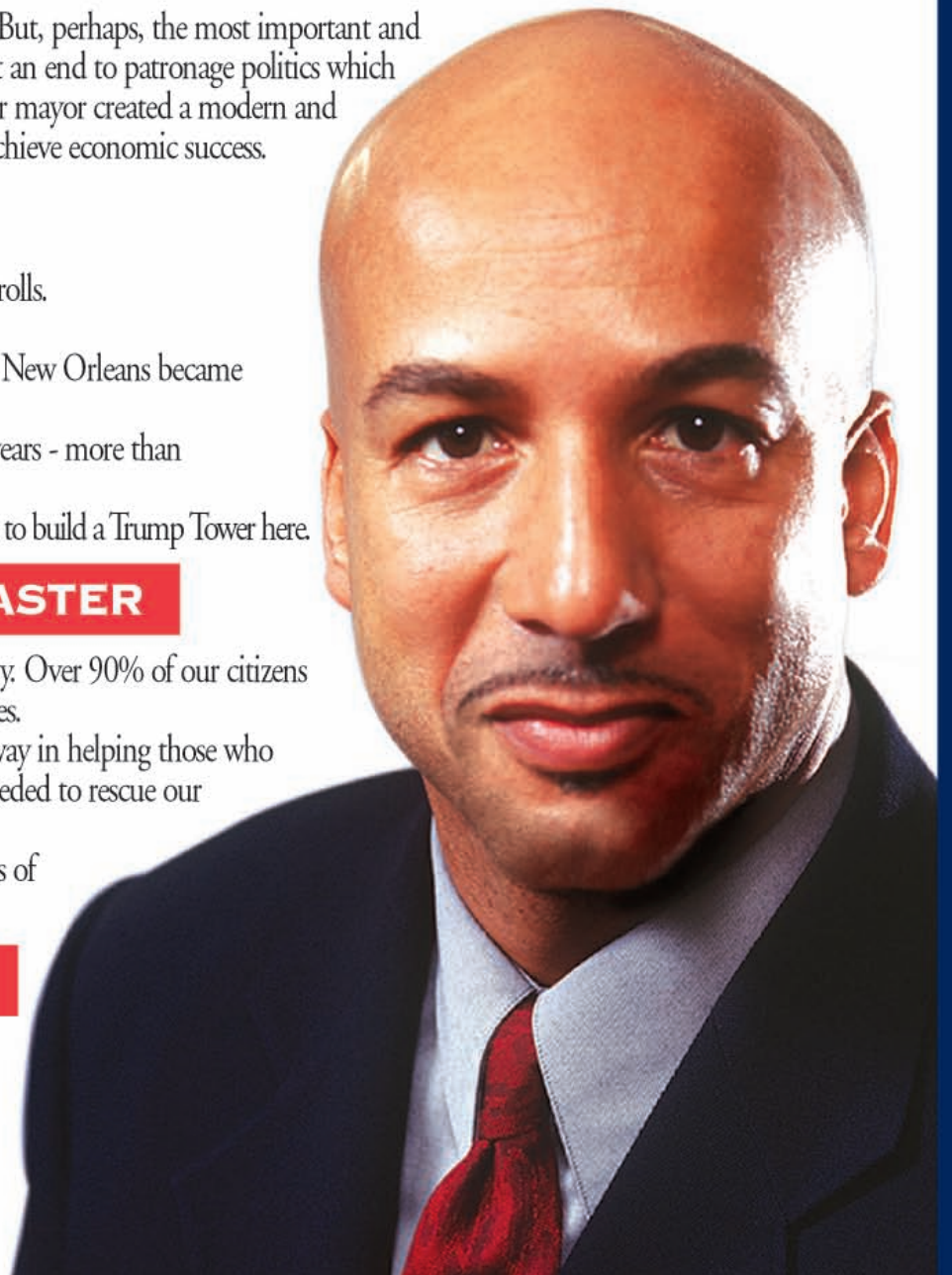
- ▼ Under Mayor Nagin's leadership, 37,000 people were able to get off the poverty rolls.
- ▼ Construction soared with \$3.2 billion in projects underway.
- ▼ Hollywood was recruited to make movies here and it did so, in record numbers. New Orleans became known as Hollywood South.
- ▼ The cruise industry prospered and the tourist industry had record back to back years - more than 10 million visitors came to the city.
- ▼ Real estate values reached record highs. Just before Hurricane Katrina, a deal was made to build a Trump Tower here.

KATRINA IS SINGLE LARGEST U.S. DISASTER

- ▼ Our mayor led the most successful evacuation of a major American city in history. Over 90% of our citizens left New Orleans due to the Mayor's urging and found safety for their families.
- ▼ Ray Nagin stayed in the city throughout the catastrophe of Katrina leading the way in helping those who stayed behind. He did everything possible to get New Orleans the help it needed to rescue our remaining citizens.
- ▼ He overcame Washington's reluctance to help New Orleans and has won billions of dollars to rebuild our city.

BRINGING NEW ORLEANS BACK PLAN

Within 30 days after the hurricane, our mayor created the Bring New Orleans Back Commission, utilizing some of the best and brightest people available to create the plan to restore New Orleans. The plan is currently underway. Much of the city's infrastructure is working again. We are bringing our citizens home. We have guarantees of federal funding for rebuilding homes that were destroyed. Our levee system is being rebuilt to protect our city in time for this hurricane season.



1-888-VOTE RAY www.reelectmayornagin.com

Paid for by the Nagin Campaign Committee.