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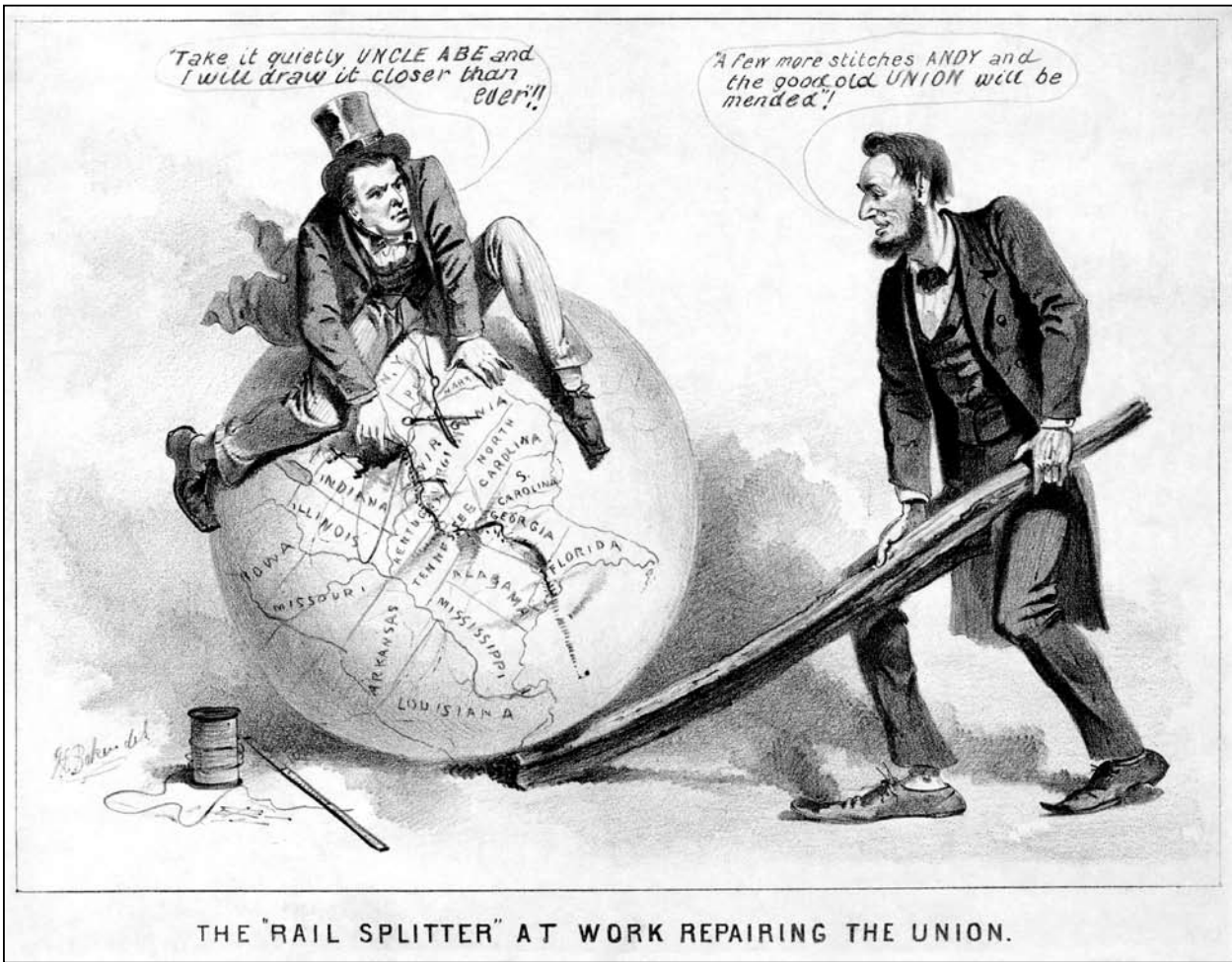
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Redistricting And The New Reconstruction



The goal of Reconstruction was to readmit the South on terms that were acceptable to the North - full political and civil equality for Blacks and a denial of the political rights of whites who were the leaders of the secession movement.

By Edwin Buggage

New Orleans...A City Divided

As the city finds itself embroiled in a conflict where race and class collides threatening the city's future. It is a time of polarization and division pitting Blacks against Whites and rich against poor. The issue at hand is as the 2010 census data has come in and amidst Hurricane Katrina's aftermath the city's footprint has shrunk dramatically with a smaller number of African-Americans. As a result several political districts that previously had Black officeholders have been redrawn. This plan has it critics citing that this will dilute Black political strength in the city.

"Many of the things that are going on in the redrawing of certain districts will have adverse impact on Black political power in the city because the legislation that will be proposed and possibly passed because our decreased presence our interest and concerns may not be a high priority," says Vincent Sylvain, a political consultant. Continuing he says, "On the state level the city has always not had a great relationship with Baton Rouge and because of that much needed resources we continue to need in rebuilding certain communities may not get to us."

The Race Against Race...New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward

This redrawing of districts have created an

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Jeffrey Mays

electoral environment where former political allies are running against one another in several races in both the Louisiana House and Senate. One the senate side the contest pits political up and comer J.P. Morrell against veteran Cynthia Willard-Lewis that will have them vying to gain support from a different constituency than in previous runs at office. In turn changing the political map where new strategies and coalitions are a necessity to victory.

The other race pits Wesley Bishop, a longtime education administrator and recently elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in a special election against Charmaine Marchand-Stiaes. "I am saddened by the loss of people in our districts, but when I am in Baton Rouge I am fighting for our issues and that is my highest priority," states Wesley Bishop who represents District 101 in New Orleans East. He relishes the opportunity to represent the citizens of the district presently held by Marchand-Stiaes, Bishop says, "District 99 that includes the Lower Ninth Ward was hit the hardest by the storm than any district in the state and continues to limp back to recovering and I welcome the challenge of representing the district and give the people what they deserve which is a strong advocate for their community."

Redistricting Reconsidered

Population shifts have also impacted the potential make-up of the New Orleans City Council, with several proposals on the table, one that is getting traction is expanding the council to nine members with seven districts and two at large seats something that will require a changing of the city charter, "With more council districts I feel this brings government closer to the people in smaller districts, it is done this way in

some other cities and it is considered a more effective way to govern and it also gives more independent candidates a chance to be competitive when they do decide to run for office," says Vince Sylvain.

Although Katrina and the levee breach affected the entire city; many African-American neighborhoods still have a jack-o-lantern effect where repair and blight papers the landscape. With the question becoming what lies in the future for these neighborhoods if there is not effective, vigilant leadership committed to their rebuilding? "Before Hurricane Katrina some of these neighborhoods had a large number of blight, and some of these neighborhoods begin to experience the effects of gentrification, and now the issue of affordable housing has been at the forefront post-Katrina, something that is preventing people from returning home and this is something that will contribute to the lessening of the Black presence in the city," says Fair Housing Advocate Jeffrey May.

The "Blackballing" of Black Leadership

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina there was a fight that took place in which Blacks fought to protect their place in the city's power structure and the then controversial words of Mayor Ray Nagin who boldly proclaimed this will always be a "chocolate city". Six years later when you observe the Crescent City yes you see a majority Black population but as far as the make-up of those in elected offices it is everything but that. "I look around and I see that there is another agenda for the city that doesn't include us," says Parnell Herbert, a community organizer and playwright that was a longtime resident of Gentilly, where today his land stands a vacant lot and presently he resides in New Orleans East. Continuing with frustration and disappointment in his voice he says, "I can't believe what is happening in our city, one that is a majority Black city that there is no reason that we have a White mayor, a majority White city council, a majority White school board and White police chief. In my mind it sends a signal that is completely inaccurate that we as African-Americans are not equipped to govern."

And with these state of affairs of a city government with a smaller number of African-Americans representatives there is a growing concern that this will lead to having elected officials that are advocates of conservative positions that aren't inclusive of all the citizens of the city, "What we are in danger of having is

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Cover Story, Continued on next page.

Governor Jindal & Mayor Landrieu: New UMC Business Plan Calls for No State Bond Debt, Lower Construction Costs, Reduced Annual State Expense

Governor Bobby Jindal and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu applauded the new business plan today for the University Medical Center (UMC) in New Orleans, which calls for no state bond debt financing for construction of the UMC, lower construction costs, and reduced annual state expense.

At its Sept. 8, 2011 meeting, University Medical Center Management Corporation (UMCMC) board members will discuss and vote on the plan for the new hospital, which will serve as the primary training ground for Louisiana's physicians and health care professionals. Developed by Verité Healthcare Consulting in close cooperation with Kaufman Hall, the plan envisions the new UMC opening in 2015 with the clinical, education and research activities currently provided at the Interim LSU Hospital, or ILH, and other activities displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, being transferred to the new UMC. The new UMC would also serve as a teaching affiliate for Tulane University and other institutions.

The UMC will include 424 beds in three inpatient towers, an emergency room and trauma center, a physician's tower, a diagnostic and treatment building and support structures.

In the business plan, the total



Governor Bobby Jindal and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu made a joint announcement this week regarding the new business plan for the University Medical Center (UMC) in New Orleans (file photo)

project cost is reduced from the originally estimated \$1.2 billion to \$1.088 billion because UMCMC revenue bonds will not be issued for construction of the project, saving \$82 million in financing costs and lower construction expenses. Revenue bonds will not be issued because the LSU Physicians Foundation will take on responsibility for financing the physicians' tower and parking structure.

For the new business plan, State General Fund support will average \$52.5 million for the first

six years of operation – which is less than the current cost to the state. Compared to a recent analysis by Kaufmann Hall from June 2011, this new business plan will cost the state \$200 million less over the first six years of operation.

Governor Jindal said, "This is a strong business plan that calls for no state bond debt financing, lowers the overall construction costs and a reduced annual expense to the state. The plan lays the groundwork for us to build a

hospital that is a first-class regional center of excellence, a safety net for those who need access to health care services, a world-class teaching facility that will train the next generation of medical professionals, and a catalyst for more research and development, economic development, and good, high-paying jobs."

Mayor Landrieu said, "The University Medical Center will be a world-class research facility and teaching hospital that will anchor a bio-medical corridor in the

heart of our city. We have a unique opportunity to create a new knowledge-based economy and deliver high-quality patient care. The UMC will create thousands of new jobs, additional research dollars and talent and a stronger safety net for our residents. The UMC, with this business plan, has the potential to be the largest, most catalytic economic development project in this city's history and will place our city and state at the forefront of innovation and change in America."

The plan also lays out how the UMC will reach capacity by 2020. In addition to serving as the primary safety-net facility for Medicaid patients and the uninsured, the new UMC will have an expanded inpatient psychiatric capacity of 60 beds (up from 38 beds) and an emergency department twice the size of the one currently operated at ILH. The new UMC will be able to handle 126,300 emergency department visits compared to ILH's 2011 total of 62,203 visits. The UMCMC and LSU will also work together on enhancing and building community-based ambulatory care programs that will contribute to referrals, returning LSU faculty physicians displaced by the storms to UMC and developing destination programs in identified specialties.

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

elected leaders who are less liberal that will bring an ideology that is not about a sharing of power," says Vince Sylvain.

Reconstruction or Deconstruction... A Question Unanswered

Larger questions becomes evident as we are looking at a time similar to Reconstruction in the Post-Civil War Period, where Black leadership is being portrayed as incompetent and corrupt, and not fit to lead. It seems like this period should be called "Deconstruction" in that the gains of Blacks in New Orleans politically are in jeopardy and the city may slide back to a time of repressive laws and customs were the law of the land. "As a community organizer I feel for this to stop we have to become more engaged in the things that are going on

in the city post-Katrina, I am really troubled by what is going on, I feel this city is on a downward spiral as it relates to Black people, and if it continues in this direction and I cannot rebuild my home, I feel I may leave the city because it seems to be moving backwards," says Parnell Herbert.

Today New Orleans stands at a crossroads not knowing which way to go. As the winds blew six years ago displacing people for some to never return, the question becomes for the city what type of place will New Orleans be moving forward? Will it be a place with a majority Black population that have little to no power politically and economically in a system akin to apartheid? Or will it find a way to navigate a place to some middle ground of under-



State Representative Wesley Bishop

standing and peace and sharing of power? Today the face of New Orleans is changing, and whether it's for better or worse only time will tell, as the historic rebuilding of a city is still unfolding.



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Nominations for the 2011 Youth Change Maker Awards Now Being Accepted

Recipients of a Youth Change Maker Award will be honored with a \$500 donation to a non-profit organization or project of his or her choice.

The Gulfsouth Youth Action Fund (GYAF), a youth philanthropy initiative that engages youth as leaders and empowers them with the resources to make strategic investments in their peers and their communities, is seeking nominations for the 2011 Youth Change Maker Awards. These prestigious awards honor outstanding young people, ages 7 through 25, who have shown exemplary leadership in environmental activism, communications and media arts, entrepreneurship and community service initiatives in the Gulf-south region. The GYAF was created in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to support a new generation of youth leadership in the region's recovery.

Nominations are being accepted for six categories:

The Going Green Change Maker Award (ages 7-18) will honor a young person leading the way in environmental activism.

The Creative Arts/Communications Change Maker Award (ages 7-18) will honor an outstanding young person leading the way in the field of media, the arts or communications.

The Service Leader Change Maker Award (ages 7-18) will honor an outstanding young person engaged in advancing social causes through entrepreneurial innovations.

The Rising Change Maker Award will honor a young person in grade 2-5 for outstanding community leadership.

The Collaborative Change Maker Award (ages 7-18) will honor a group or organization comprised entirely of youth 18 years old and under for outstanding work in their community.

The Youth Ally/Advisor Change Maker Award (age 18-25) will honor a college student or young adult leading the way in youth service efforts in his or her community.

If you are or know of a young person who fits this criteria, please fill out and return the nomination form. Self-nominations are accepted. Nomination forms can be downloaded at www.operationreach.org

Finalists will be recognized and winners announced during the Youth Change Maker Awards Dinner on October 15, 2011 at Tulane University. Each Youth Change Maker Award recipient will be honored with a \$500 donation to a non-profit organization or project of his or her choice.

The deadline for nominations is September 16, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

Nomination forms should be typed or printed. Only completed forms will be reviewed. The nomination review process is highly competitive and is undertaken

by a panel of youth and adult judges.

Please send completed nomination forms to:

The Gulfsouth Youth Action Fund 2010 "Change Maker" Awards

1700 Josephine Street
New Orleans, LA 70113

Nominations may also be received electronically at theyyac@operationreach.org.
If you should have any questions or need

assistance completing the nomination form, please feel free to contact Angela Anthony at (504) 529-1922 ext.106 or at aanthony@operationreach.org.

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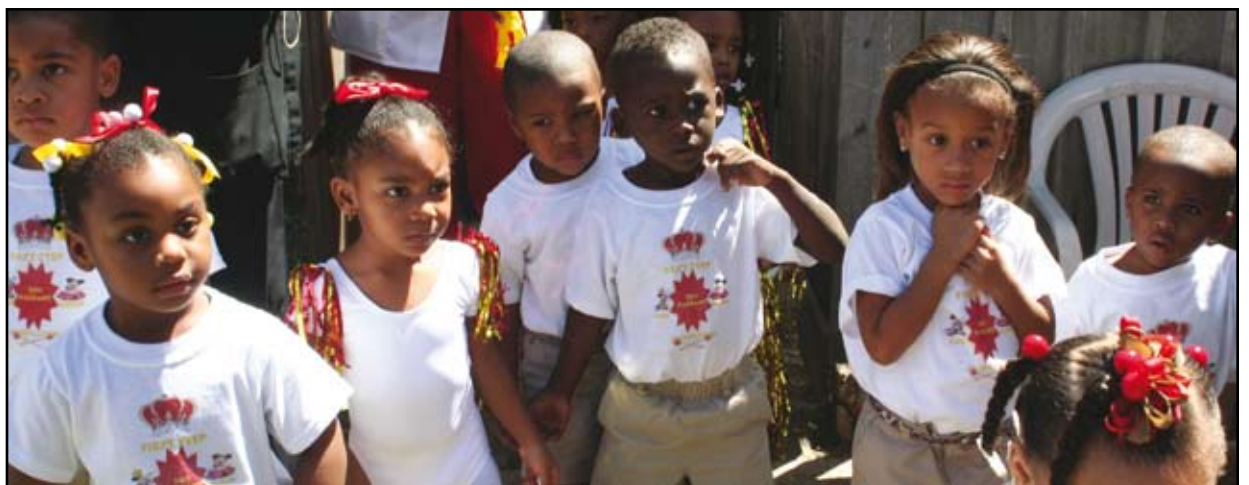
You could call them heroes. But they're more than that. Because no matter how much they have achieved, they find the time to give back to the community. McDonald's® Annual 365Black® Awards celebrate those who, every day, make a difference. Read more about this year's five honorees at 365BLACK.com.



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Welcome to the Royals!

What a Parade! This week, Mary Brown First Steps in Education, crowned King Jaydin Chambers and Queen Janaa Elloie in true New Orleans tradition. Hail King Jaydin and Queen Janaa.



For more pictures check us out on Facebook.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Zulu Mayor's Appreciation Party



King Out of Context – Just Fix It!



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was anything but an “arrogant twit”. Yet Dr. Maya Angelou called it entirely correct when she said that one of the quotes engraved on the side of the new memorial to Dr. King portrays the man as a braggart, not the humble servant leader that he was. “I was a drum major for justice”, the memorial reads. The actual “drum major” speech is a profound speech about the herd instinct that many human beings have, much to their detriment. As part of a herd, we often buy what we can’t afford,

put on airs that serve no purpose, and fail to speak up when it is unpopular with the crowd. Dr. King said, “If you want to say that I was a drum major, say I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. Say I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter.” Maybe that full quote was too long for the slab of stone, but the “if” clause is extremely important to its meaning. Dr. Angleou, a personal friend of Dr. King’s, raises her voice representing so many when she says the out of context quote does not do Dr. King’s message justice.

I am amazed at the glib excuse for editing the quote, because of “space constraints”. Find another quote that fits better into the space, instead of mangling one and taking a civil rights icon’s message out of context, changing the meaning, intent, and spirit of the “drum major” speech. I am also bothered at the response that some of the King memorial leaders had for Dr. Angelou. “She

“If you want to say that I was a drum major, say I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. Say I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter.”
- Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

didn’t come to meetings,” said one, implying that absence is consent. Did she ever get the minutes? Was there a vote? Executive Architect Ed Jackson, Jr., says they ran the change by an oversight group, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and “they didn’t have a problem with it.” I’d like to know whether this group’s major concern is aes-

thetics or historical accuracy. Dr. Maya Angelou’s principled stance is appropriate.

Many of us may know the correct quote and its context, but many do not. A generation from now, when millions of people from all over the world are coming to visit the monument, will the quote show Dr. King and his message

in its full authenticity? This is the only monument on the National Mall that lifts up an African-American. It is a tremendous accomplishment. It ought to be correct. I can already hear someone say “don’t sweat the small stuff”. A quote out of context is no small thing, especially not when it alters the meaning of the message.

My grandmother is not the only elder who made young’uns cringe when she railed, “If you are going to do something, then do it right.” I sure hope the folks who made quote decisions had those kinds of grandmothers. Then they would understand that Dr. Maya Angelou is simply an advocate for historical accuracy, for Dr. King’s dignity, and for a monument that fully reflects the years of dedication, commitment, and effort that have gone into it. Do it right. Fix the quote. Don’t take Dr. King out of context.

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Back to School and Back to Work on Creating Jobs



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

To Be Equal

“A world-class education is the single most important factor in determining not just whether our kids can compete for the best jobs but whether America can out-compete countries around the world.”

–President Barack Obama

Labor Day marks the unofficial end of summer and the start of another school year for more than 60 million public school students.

This year, the Labor Day weekend also coincided with the announcement last week that zero jobs were added in August, and African-American unemployment has soared to 16.7 percent, the highest rate in 27 years.

It is my hope that with the return of Congress this week and the much-anticipated jobs speech by President Obama on Thursday, Washington is finally ready to make job creation its number one priority.

Education has always been the gateway to good jobs and a better life for the American people.

This has never been more true than today.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, people who hold bachelor’s degrees earn on average \$58,000 a year compared with just \$31,000 for high school graduates

and only \$21,000 for those without high school diplomas.

We also know that a growing number of 21st Century high-tech jobs require higher skills and more education than ever before.

That is why for more than 50 years, the National Urban League’s Education & Youth Development division has worked to improve educational opportunities for African-American and underserved students by developing innovative programs to support their academic achievement, encourage their civic involvement, and contribute to their healthy physical and emotional development. We have also made education a cornerstone of our 21st Century empowerment agenda with a challenge to the nation that every American child will be ready for college, work and life by 2025.

The Urban League serves more than 200,000 children and youth each year through Head Start, after-school programs and

charter schools.

As the nation struggles to find the right balance between fiscal austerity and necessary investments in our future, the education of our children must not be sacrificed in the process.

Doing so would not only short-change their futures, it would cripple our ability to grow the American economy and remain competitive in the global economy.

We are encouraged by the Obama Administration’s commitment to education, including signing into law the largest investment in education in history as part of the President’s 2009 stimulus package – some \$115 billion over two years to save education jobs, send young people to college, modernize America’s classrooms, and advance education reforms.

We are also pleased that Education Secretary Arne Duncan has set aside this week for an “Education and the Economy” bus tour

to urban centers, including Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Detroit, and Chicago to highlight the important connection between quality education and quality jobs. “No other issue is more critical to our economy and our way of life than education,” said Duncan.

So, as our children head back to the classroom, we urge students to do their part by studying hard and making the most of what their schools and teachers have to offer.

We ask parents to do their part by getting involved.

And we urge local school districts and Congress to do their part by ensuring that all our students have the resources and support they need to succeed.

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Q&A: C. Virginia Fields

AIDS Movement Leader and Power Broker

By Candace Y.A. Montague
Black AIDS Institute

NNPA Newswire - C. Virginia Fields, CEO of the National Black Leadership Commission on AIDS (NBLCA), is standing tall these days as her organization makes waves in the fight against AIDS. Here, the former Manhattan borough president shares what happened at NBLCA's conclave in Washington, D.C., this spring, how it is working with Southern churches and what is coming soon from the organization.

NBLCA held a conclave with members of the local government in the D.C. area in April. What action steps were decided on at the conclusion of this conference?

One of the steps was to do more organizing locally. In Ward 7, there are very high rates of infection. We want to organize the clergy so that the needs can be better identified. The other thing is to work with the government locally, which has started a test-and-treat initiative to link people to care.

Sex education in the schools around HIV/AIDS and other STDs is also important. School is where students identify that they receive their information about sex. Research has shown that students who receive good information may not necessarily stop having sex, but they have made better decisions about protected sex.

We have complaints from the schools, particularly from parents, that they don't want this information given to the students because parents believe it almost encourages the students to have sex. But the increase in teen pregnancy is not happening by osmosis. So the clergy wants to take the lead by working with school officials. A full plan of action will be written.

Given Mississippi legislators' seeming lack of regard for people living with HIV/AIDS, what will NBLCA do about reaching the Southern churches?

We are partnering with groups in this area that are already engaged. We are also working with some new partners in Southern cities, including Jackson, Mississippi, to establish similar structures. We want to organize communities through this process.

We work with the National Baptist Convention to conduct



training in Southern states that will hopefully be taken back to the community. We hope this process will build more partnerships. We are going to work in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Jackson; Birmingham, Alabama; and somewhere in South Carolina (we have yet to determine the city) over the next six months.

Let me say one other thing about the clergy. They get hit for not being as engaged. Some of

that is true, but a lot of it is not true. A lot of them have been engaged from the beginning. They are speaking from the pulpits more boldly and regularly about HIV, not just around World AIDS Day. They are encouraging testing. They are using their churches as testing sites. They are allowing the health department and other groups to use their churches as testing sites. They are not all disengaged, but we do need to keep

working with those who aren't involved.

What's your take on the crisis in the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs (ADAP)?

We now have more than 7,000 people on the waiting list for ADAP in these United States because of budget cuts. [Editor's note: Since this interview was conducted, the ADAP waiting list has grown to more than 9,000 people in 13 states.] This is unheard of!

We hear about things like this in sub-Saharan Africa, but not in America. Some of these people may die because the budget has been cut in states such as Georgia and Florida.

That's why it's important to keep [HIV] in the forefront for legislators to see. They need to know that just because the media isn't covering it as much doesn't make it any less of a crisis. A lot more work needs to be done.

What's coming next from NBLCA?

We have launched the "30 Years Strong" campaign". The focus will be on how this disease has [impacted] and continues to impact the African American community. We have an online community journal for people who are infected or have been affected to tell their stories. Putting a face on this disease is very powerful. We want to move people away from complacency: "I don't have to worry about that, or if I get that, I can just take a pill." It's still not curable.

Candace Y.A. Montague is a freelance health writer who covers HIV/AIDS news in Washington, D.C., for Examiner.com and The Body.

WE → AIDS
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Will Obama Respond to CBC's Drama?

By Charles D. Ellison
The Philadelphia Tribune

NNPA Newswire — The past couple of weeks were overflowing with headlines of agitated Black Members of Congress throwing tantrums at the tea party, the President and anything that could create distance between them and the wrath of frustrated Black constituents looking for jobs.

It was the Black version of the summer of 2010; an In-Living-Color retrofit of those angry, legendary town hall meetings last year that took down the Democratic majority in the House, slimmed it down in the Senate and made President Obama wear a gray suit and ideologically matching red tie in a white flag waving peace sign the day after.

Thanks to that manufactured debt ceiling crisis, the most ardent tea party admirers are left in befuddled awe, according to a recent Pew survey, showing the conservative fad losing its sizzle in the wake of debt “debacles” (as the President loves to say) and avoidable defaults. The kick-them-while-they’re-down attacks from CBC folks banging away at podiums, lifting arms and raising gospel have been so loud that we catch rattled commentators on FOX News whining, heads snapping in pouty fits of “how dare they.”

“The Tea Party should go straight to hell!” blurted Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA) in finger-waving fury and a chorus of call-and-response. It was a stunning display of raw snap, like the pop of air pressure released in an airplane cabin. “I’m in church. I’m not going to repeat that.”

Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN) one of two Black Muslims in Congress, went a bit cinematic with Jim Crow visuals at a recent CBC event in Miami, charging that the tea party would “... love to see us as second-class citizens” and “some of them in Congress right now, of this tea party movement, would love to see you and me hanging on a tree.”

But, many cameras focused in on a cantankerous string of classic Waters gracing television screens and YouTube visuals with vexing commentary aimed at her Black



President Barack Obama meets with the Congressional Black Caucus in the State Dining Room of the White House, May 12, 2011. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

President. There she was in Detroit: “The Congressional Black Caucus loves the President too. We’re supportive of the President, but we’re getting tired, ya’ll. We’re getting tired.”

“And so, what we want to do is, we want to give the President every opportunity to show what he can do and what he’s prepared to lead on. We want to give him every opportunity, but our people are hurting. The unemployment is unconscionable. We don’t know what the strategy is. We don’t know why on this trip that he’s in the United States now, he’s not in any Black community. We don’t know that.”

Much analysis on Waters’ tirades in past weeks seemed to paint her as “angry Black woman” on emotional punching spree.

But, there is more to it, a political calculation that Waters herself is hoping will pay tremendous dividends heading into fall. While her outbursts and keep-it-realism is the stuff made of legend, Waters has used it skillfully to her advantage since days as a rising star in the California State Legislature.

If anything, keeping it loud and on the offensive keeps the heat of a taxing House Ethics probe off her back. She’s essentially putting her political enemies on notice: Beware.

“We seem to forget who Waters is and where she comes from,” says one Washington insider and former Hill staffer familiar with the inner-workings of the CBC and who asked not to be identified. “Which is a big reason why people continue to underestimate her.”

Putting Waters out front makes for a well-planned attempt by the CBC to show frustration with the President, a deliberate and last ditch effort for access to the White House. Tensions had been mounting between the CBC and the Obama Administration since before their Leader of the Free World alum was elected. Whispers in Washington told a tale of a president soured on the Caucus since pretty much half of it dissed him in favor of initial 2008 primary favorite Hillary Clinton. It’s an ugly secret few will talk on record about.

Some observers partly blame the caucus for the unnecessarily long and caustic primary battle between Clinton and Obama — if Black Members of Congress had, simply, unanimously supported their former member when his tide began rising, it could have ended a bit more gracefully. Instead, there were Democratic super delegates like Waters and current CBC Chair Emmanuel Cleaver (D-MI) who made high profile gambles on Clinton, perhaps unable to sever old ties from the stickiness of political favors. CBC endorsement of Clinton seemed to egg her on to the very end (Clinton: “I must be doing something right if they don’t like him”). After all, the Clintons were at one time seen as honorary Black political royalty.

Obama, in turn, felt slighted. And some say he’s been a bit “prickly” about it ever since.

“They [the CBC and White House] won’t admit it, but a lot of this is all about 2008, for real,” says the insider. “Yeah — some of it is crabs in a barrel, so what can you do. But, the President really

took this personally. His advisers took it personally. And when he won, there was the CBC wanting to jump on the bandwagon, of course. Now, some of the same ones who were big on Hillary in ‘08 now want his full attention in 2011. It is what it is.”

And what it is partly explains why the CBC enjoys very little access to the White House in comparison to their colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. During the course of one year, the CHC held four meetings with the President in contrast to the CBC being invited only once — and they had to beg for the next sit down.

But, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed believes that the perception of White House avoidance of the CBC is merely a matter of the President not alienating White voters. “If the President were to start speaking directly to African-Americans about what he’s doing for them, what he has done for them as the first African-American President, that during a general election campaign ... could have very adverse [effects],” Reed said on MSNBC earlier this week.

“[B]lack people understand that. I think they understand it well. ... And I’d also like to talk to my friends in my own community who are raising these issues to make the point that if you weaken President Obama in the Black community, you seriously hamper his chances of being re-elected. A small depression among the African-American electorate could be devastating to this President. [W]ho is ... going to do such a better job for Black people. Will it be Michele Bachmann? I mean, will it be Mitt Romney? Rick Perry?”

While speculation has bubbled to the surface since Inauguration, no CBC Member wants to admit on record that there are tensions. Or, that they messed up in 2008 and are now suffering for it. One nasty, unsubstantiated conspiracy theory floating about is that the CBC Members embattled by very public and politically devastating House Ethics probes are among those who supported Obama’s primary opponent.

Lake Charles Resident Wins All-Expense Paid Trip to Hoodie Awards

Lake Charles' own Gavin Wilson attended the Ninth Annual Hoodie Awards presented by Steve Harvey at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas. Wilson won an all-expense paid trip sponsored by Nielsen to celebrate everyday men and women who impact and uplift their communities with service and passion. Wilson won one of 10 trips for two by listening to the Steve Harvey Morning Show, completing an online "Nielsen Fun Facts!" poll which entered his name into the sponsored sweepstakes. "Nielsen Fun Facts!" are eye-opening insights about multicultural consumers that vary in topics from online and television viewing trends to cell phone usage.



Nielsen Executives Cheryl Pearson-McNeil (far left), Senior Vice President, Public Affairs and Government Relations and Monica Gil (far right), Senior Vice-President, Public Affairs and Government Relations, greet Gavin Wilson and his wife Michelle at the Ninth Annual Steve Harvey Hoodie Awards held recently in Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino. Wilson was one of Nielsen's 10 all-expense paid trip winners to the Hoodies. Nielsen was also the exclusive title sponsor of the popular Hoodie Awards' Nielsen Interactive Expo.

Statewide Candidates Qualify for Oct. 22 statewide elections

By Cheryl Mainor

This week, incumbents and challengers alike went through the process of qualifying for major statewide and regional offices slowed Wednesday after Tuesday's opening, which saw all statewide incumbents, some members of the state's school board and opponents sign up for the Oct. 22 primary.

The Secretary of State Office reported one candidate qualified in the first three hours it was open.

Challengers for the Seat of the Governor presently consist of: Democrat Tara Hollis, GOP incumbent Gov. Bobby Jindal, and three independent candidates who have qualified for the governor's race, Leonard "Lenny" Bollingham of Baton Rouge; Ron Ceasar of Opelousas, and William Robert "Bob" Lang Jr. of Natchitoches.

All seven GOP statewide office-holders qualified Tuesday and four remained unchallenged early Wednesday: Treasurer John Kennedy, Attorney General Buddy Caldwell, Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon and Agriculture-Forestry Commissioner Mike Strain.

Republican Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne will face Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser, also a Republican, as his opponent, and House Speaker Jim Tucker, R-Algiers, will challenge incumbent Tom Schedler for the Secretary of State's job.

Miller-McCoy Academy's It Take's a Village Blazer Ceremony

Friday, September 16

On Friday, September 16, 2011, Miller-McCoy Academy for Mathematics and Business, New Orleans' only all-boys public charter school will host, It Takes a Village Blazer Ceremony from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at Dillard University's Lawless Memorial Chapel. During the ceremony 150 of our newest young men will be presented with their school blazers.

"The It Takes a Village Blazer Ceremony will serve as a rite of passage for these young men who will recognize the important role proper attire plays in the business setting, and how it helps them stand out in society," said Keith Sanders, Co-Founder and Principal of Miller-McCoy Academy for Mathematics and Business.

For more information visit www.millermccoy.org

The New Orleans League of Women Voters Announces a Public Forum on Redistricting

"The Political Effects of Redistricting on Orleans and Jefferson Parishes"

Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 pm

Chapel of the Holy Comforter

2200 Lake Shore Drive

Panelists: Clancy DuBos, Dr. Silas Lee, Greg Rigamer

Public is Invited

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