

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

FREE
COPY

Data Zone

Page 6

**Wicked Fun At
Voodoo Fest**

November 5 - November 11, 2011 46th Year Volume 22 www.ladatanews.com

Honoring the Freedom Riders 50th Anniversary

Page 2



Newsmaker
New President
at Dillard U

Page 4

State & Local
First Lady
Visits NOLA

Page 10



The New Orleans Freedom Riders

The Untold Story of America's Freedom Fighters

PART 1



Members of the Freedom Riders and other New Orleans Civil Rights Activists, gather at the Black Men of Labor Tribute held in their honor, which featured the unveiling of a new Mural dedicated to their heroic fight for equality for African Americans.

By Edwin Buggage

The Journey to Freedom

The story of African-Americans since setting foot on the shores of what today is called America has been one of resilience and perseverance. From the Underground Railroad to today it is a story of

fighting for what's right in spite of the odds being stacked against you. It is a Freedom Song that continues where the chorus sang is one of struggle, overcoming and eventually triumphing over obstacles to live the American Dream. And to move the nation closer to its motto of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and of justice and fairness for all its citizens; this has been the road

many have trekked down from 1619 until today.

While we celebrate the leaders of social movements it is the foot soldiers that walk in lock-step with them that helped bring about change in a society. And at no time in our history was this as evident as the period that stands out as the turbulent 1960's during the modern Civil Rights Movement, something that changed

the shape of the country and how it dealt with race relations forever. It was a time where a man and a people stood tall at a monument dedicated to a U.S. President who set the slaves free, but a century later it was still a dream unrealized as below the Mason Dixon Line; segregation was the law of the land, and in the North economic opportunities were scant and racism still prevailed as Blacks were locked out of the mainstream, politically, socially, economically and educationally.

Today many things have changed; there is a Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday and Monument, honoring the man and what he stood for, but during that time many courageous people who remain out of the pages of history books put their lives on the line in the fight for justice. A recent documentary focused on the "Freedom Riders," a group of young people both Black and White that were committed to the fight for justice. PBS recently aired a program that was both captivating and compelling, but a chapter was missing from this story. Absent was the significant contribution of the young people of The New Orleans Chapter of the Congress For Racial Equality (CORE). In the next two issues inside the pages of The New Orleans Data News Weekly

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Data Zone	6
Newsmaker	4	Commentary.	8
State & Local.	5	Sports.	11

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones
CEO/Publisher
Glenn Jones
VP Advertising
& Marketing
Cheryl Mainor
Managing Editor
Edwin Buggage
Editor
Lynesia Carson
Executive Assistant
June Hazeur
Accounting

Contributors
Edwin Buggage
George E. Curry
Elise Schenck
Charlene Crowell
Glenn Summers
Kingfish
Kichea S. Burt
Ray Bonnee

Art Direction & Production
MainorMedia.com
Editorial Submissions
datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Advertising Inquiries
datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

we will tell you the story of the New Orleans Freedom Riders; and highlighting the heroes and sheroes that fought to build a better tomorrow.

her the story behind them. She speaks of her time as a young girl and the watershed moment when she decided to become a fighter for freedom following in the footsteps of her sister who was one of

Where the social norms and customs of the times a young Black boy just looking at a White woman or getting "out of line" or other social breaches could get you killed. One such instance made national

ful organization nationally during this time, the New Orleans Chapter was significant in helping the organization in planning and training. Smith-Simmons says, "We worked closely with the national organization, I remember there was a rally at New Zion Baptist Church on Third and LaSalle where A.L. Davis presided as Minister, also Dooky Chase hosted a banquet for the Freedom Riders and when the bus was bombed those who were injured came here and we found them medical help, housing and so forth."

While they were known as the Freedom Riders they were involved in other projects aimed at uplifting Blacks, "Jerome Smith set up training for Freedom Riders in New Orleans, forty percent of the people who went to Jail in Jackson were members and were trained by New Orleans CORE, I was training people in non-violent techniques," says Doratha "Dodie" Smith-Simmons of their multi-pronged approach to progress. She says the issues they faced had to be all inclusive because the tentacles of segregation were so pervasive in society.

Sick and Tired of Being Sick and Tired

As history is written men are pushed into the front and placed in many visible leadership roles in the movement, but there were a lot of women who worked in the movement and also helped organized as well as marched. An example of this is Fannie Lou Hamer nationally and locally Oretta Castle Haley, "I would say that if you look at the movement women were the backbone of the movement, but there were men who were brave as well and we all worked together to knock down the walls and end segregation." As Women in the movement they believed that they were less likely to be attacked than the men by the White segregationist, but it proved not to be the case when we went to McComb." As a historical piece, the New Orleans Freedom Riders challenged the laws in the areas of transportation in the same way another New Orleanian Homer Plessy challenged injustice his case Plessy v. Ferguson made it all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court where separate but equal became the law of the land. Recounting the lunacy of this doctrine during the Jim Crow era she says, "It was more like separate and unequal during those

times, when I went to elementary school we got the old books from Whites, it was not a good experience, when you went to the movies you had to sit upstairs and you begin to ask yourself why can't I go here or can't do this?"

As we get close to the date where five young people from New Orleans boarded a bus in search of exercising their rights as citizens. "We were in McComb Mississippi, Jerome Smith, Thomas Valentine, Alice Thompson, George Raymond and I were beaten," Continuing she recalls this grisly episode, "We were in the terminal, and we were kicked and beaten by segregationist, but that did not stop our drive to continue our fight it only made us stronger; it made me feel like I wanted to fight even more because you can't give up."

Reflections and Change: The Struggle Continues

And although times were tough for African-Americans during the time of this peculiar institution they found a way to have joy in their life and to live with dignity, Doratha "Dodie" Smith-Simmons says her parents were instrumental in her navigating through those turbulent times, "I think it depends on how you were raised, my parents taught me I was just as good as Whites and I knew there were things they could do and I couldn't do but I never thought they were better than me." Continuing she says it is because of this she got involved in fighting for the rights she felt her people deserved, "I think that's why when I joined the movement I was in it for the long-haul and when I was in McComb when we were beaten I was eighteen not thinking I would see nineteen but thank God 50 years later I am still here. And on November 29th I will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the McComb incident and our people who continue to struggle and fight for what's right."

There are so many unsung heroes and sheroes of our movement. Ordinary people who had the courage to do extraordinary things, in part two of our series we will highlight several of the New Orleans Freedom Riders and give them their just due, to acknowledge their struggle and to educate future generations that the hardest step in any journey is the first step and that these are the forerunners of a struggle that still continues.



New Orleans Freedom Rider Doratha "Dodie" Smith-Simmons with fellow Freedom Riders and other Historical Civil Rights Leaders



Local Ministers and Civil Rights Activists who were instrumental in CORE were honored at the ceremony.

Doratha "Dodie" Smith-Simmons: A New Orleans Freedom Rider Speaks

Doratha "Dodie" Smith-Simmons is a veteran of the Civil Rights Movement and was a member of CORE during the 1960's. And she is one of the go to persons on the history of the modern Civil Rights Movement in New Orleans. She is a rich fountain of information to gain understanding of this time in history, recounting her days as a Freedom Rider she says, "In 1961 segregation was outlawed on interstate travel and we started doing test rides; first one we did was in New Orleans at Trailways, we went throughout the State of Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi."

Ms. Smith-Simmons recalls these stories without a hint of bitterness, but retelling these stories like a mother giving her daughter a string of pearls and telling

the first students to desegregate LSU-UNO, that today is the University of New Orleans (UNO) "My sister was one of the first Blacks to desegregate LSU-UNO and was a member of the NAACP Youth Council." Continuing she says of how she came to dedicate her life to community and racial uplift, "I thought about what was going on and simply got tired of sitting in the back of the bus, or having to take the bus out of my neighborhood when there was a school in my neighborhood because but I could not attend because it was for Whites only."

Today people enjoy access as they never have before, today while not still ideal someone's talent and tenacity can be the road to success, but during those times for Blacks it was like a dirt road, unpaved, covered with debris and was in some instances a dead end.

and international news when Emmitt Till, a young boy from Chicago was visiting Mississippi and reportedly, "wolf whistled" and said something that was deemed inappropriate by the Whites. So much so that the woman's husband and others came to get him out the house in the middle of the night and subsequently killed him throwing his body in the Tallahatchie River.

While this made the news there was many of these stories that were never told as countless bodies were in the bottom of rivers and seas, and as the great Billie Holiday sang of lynching, that Strange Fruit hang from trees. Smith-Simmons says of these times the community was at a breaking point and something needed to be done to change and all hands were on deck and it was truly a community effort. That there were links, linked to a chain of fighting repression and fighting for freedom, "We were tired of being second-class citizens and Jerome Smith and Rudy Lombard came to one of our meetings, at the time they were doing sit-ins at Woolworth, and we as young people wanted to do something more direct that would challenge the laws of the day and we began picketing and doing sit-ins," says Smith-Simmons.

Unity is at the "CORE" of the Struggle

While CORE became a power-

Dillard University Trustees Appoint Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough President

Innovative student advocate chosen as Dillard's seventh president

Dillard University's Board of Trustees has chosen Walter M. Kimbrough, Ph.D., to lead the university as its seventh president. Dr. Kimbrough will assume the post on July 1, 2012.

"We are thrilled to bring such an energetic, visionary leader to Dillard," says Board Chair Joyce M. Roché. "Dr. Kimbrough is uniquely well-suited to help the university build on its strengths and chart a strategic course for the future."

Kimbrough joins Dillard after serving for seven years as President of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Ark., where he orchestrated a remarkable revitalization effort. Under his leadership, the college dramatically increased student recruitment and graduation rate. The university also adopted a new mission and greatly



Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough, Ph.D.

raised its stature by focusing on its core values and history as an HBCU and a charter member of the United Negro College Fund.

Kimbrough, who is among the

youngest college presidents in the nation, is known for his active use of social media to engage and stay connected with students. "The depth of Dr. Kimbrough's dedication to students is inspiring," says Dr. Roché. "He is successful because he puts students' success above all else."

Prior to beginning his tenure at Philander Smith, Kimbrough served for four years as the Vice President for Student Affairs at Albany State University in Albany, GA. He also served as Director of Student Activities and Leadership at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, and held administrative posts at Georgia State University and Emory University.

Kimbrough received a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture with a major in Biology from the University of Georgia. He earned

a Master of Science in College Student Personnel Services from Miami University and a Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education from Georgia State University.

Kimbrough has written widely on the role of fraternities and sororities in Education, particularly in the educational experiences of students of color. His book, *Black Greek 101: The Culture, Customs, and Challenges of Black Fraternities and Sororities*, has won popular acclaim and is now in its tenth printing. He has also been recognized for his extensive research and writing on African-American men in college. "The Black Male Initiative" he created at Philander Smith College has become a model for similar programs nationwide.

Kimbrough has received numerous honors and awards. He

was selected as a 2001 Nissan-ETS HBCU Fellow and a 2002 participant in the Millennium Leadership Initiative sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. In 2009, he was named by *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* as one of "25 To Watch." And in 2010, he made the coveted *Ebony* Magazine Power list of the 100 doers and influencers in the African-American community, joining the likes of President and Mrs. Obama, Jay-Z, Richard Parsons, Tyler Perry, Debra Lee, Michael Jordan, and Tom Joyner.

Dr. Kimbrough and his wife Adria Nobles Kimbrough, Associate General Counsel with the University of Arkansas System, are the proud parents of two children: Lydia Nicole, 5, and Benjamin Barack, 2.



An Important Message from Medicare

Open Enrollment is Earlier This Year. October 15th to December 7th

Even if you are happy with your Medicare Plan, Open Enrollment is the time to compare what you have to all the choices available next year. If you're happy with your current plan, stick with it. Or you might find a new one with better coverage, lower costs, or both. Be sure to check out all the benefits provided by the healthcare law. Most people with Medicare will get free cancer screenings, yearly wellness visits, preventive care and 50% off brand name prescription drugs when you're in the donut hole. This law also provides better fraud protection, making Medicare stronger.

Visit us online to review your plan at medicare.gov.

Call to get help from a trained Medicare representative or learn where you can get help locally at 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

Check your mail for the 2012 Medicare & You handbook to review available Medicare plans.

"I spend more than 100 nights on stage, performing from coast to coast. But each fall, I take a break from my busy schedule to review my Medicare. I might be able to save money, get better coverage or both."

Now that's something to sing about."

— Shirley Caesar



Scan to learn more.



Roland Martin and the Voice of Black America

By Edwin Buggage

The Evolution of Roland Martin

He is a man who has been on the frontlines in media, unapologetic and telling it like it is, Roland Martin has over the last few years become one of the premier media voices and advocates of African-Americans. He is an omnipresent presence in the media landscape, first as contributor to CNN, also his commentaries can be heard on the popular Tom Joyner Morning Show, and most recently he has been hosting his own show "Washington Watch" on TV-ONE. Saying of his show on TV-ONE, "This season we are not only going to cover politics, but also other social issues that affects our community." Continuing he says, "We will have people from the world of entertainment, book authors; we will also explore issues that talk about Black women and also things that impact popular culture such as reality shows like Basketball Wives, Housewives of Atlanta etc. Also we will explore the state of Black marriage and education," says Martin of this season's lineup of show topics and guests.

Informing the public and giving the people of his community, news they could use is a passion for Martin who from an early age was always one to seek out truth. Although it has been in the last few years the mainstream has come to know Martin for his smart, riveting and uncompromising positions, he has been a journalist in the Black media for many years. And although he has found some level of success in the mainstream media he says African-American media is important in giving a voice and perspective that is not always heard in the mainstream media, "I have been doing this since I was 15 years old when I worked at my high school newspaper, I have always wanted to be a journalist and I have never veered away from that. I worked for daily Newspapers, Black Newspapers, such as the Houston Defender, Dallas Weekly and the Chicago Defender." He continues saying

of is years in African-American media, "I have spent more time in the Black press than I have in the mainstream. I feel it is important that we have our own voice and be able to have self-determination and be self reflective to set our own agenda and I feel the Black press and other media outlets are still important."

Does Race Still Matter?

The issue of racial relations and some even positing that America has reached a post-racial state is a utopian ideal that has not yet come to pass in Martin's view. "Obviously we as a nation have greatly improved, but we still have a long way to go." As his voice rises, as if he were making a call to arms he says, "We have to forever be vigilant in fighting these things, we must continue to fight for fairness and equality and yes there are those who want to believe that all these things are gone, but Jim Crow children, a have had children and grandchildren and we as a nation must continue the work to eradicate the issue of racism and confront our own deep seated feeling and get passed them."

More than simply a reporter he is an advocate of people empowering themselves, and he has been a critic of both Republicans and Democrats alike. For Martin it is less an issue of Black versus White but wrong versus right and seeking out truth. A case that illustrates this is when some in the African-American community began to call the Tea Party movement racist. Martin has a very unique perspective on this issue, "I do not have an issue with Americans coming together and organizing behind a cause, they have the freedom to assemble, but I feel that as opposed to spending time talking about the tea party, organize yourself and your community and ask yourself what your role is in having your positions heard."

Black America: One Group Many Voices

A historical challenge in the Black community is how does it speak with one voice but repre-



Roland Martin

sent the many voices that exist within it? A recent controversy has stirred inside the Black Community surrounding Talk show host Tavis Smiley and Scholar Cornel West and their criticism of Barack Obama. There are some who liken their actions to heresy, but Martin feels there must be a balance when dealing with criticism of President Obama, placing this idea in a larger context and frame he says, "When we criticize Obama it is constructive and not destructive, it is important to note that we applaud the accomplishment of a nation with the election of the first African-American President, but simply because he is Black we cannot ignore or give him a pass on addressing the specific needs of the African-American community." Continuing he says, "There are other

constituencies that have specific needs and an agenda, Latino's, women, poor Whites, seniors all these people have varied interest and we do as well." Assessing the President's job performance he says, "President Obama has done great things with healthcare, student loans and in the area of foreign policy, but I think he has had some people around him that has inhibited him in truly reforming Wall Street."

As we enter into the 2012 election cycle there is much cynicism and polarization surrounding politics and the political process in general. Where both parties have low approval ratings and all kinds of polls have come out about the possible result of the 2012 Presidential Election. While Martin feels that people's dissatisfaction surrounding politics is very real,

he thinks those who forecast the result of an election that is a year away cannot with any accuracy or certainty predict what will happen in November of 2012. "These polls are irrelevant, in 2003 the same thing was said that a hypothetical presidential candidate could unseat George W. Bush and look what happened, in 2007 Senator Obama was down by 31 percent points to Senator Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama went on to win the nomination and eventually presidency."

New Orleans...the Ancestors...and the Search for Truth

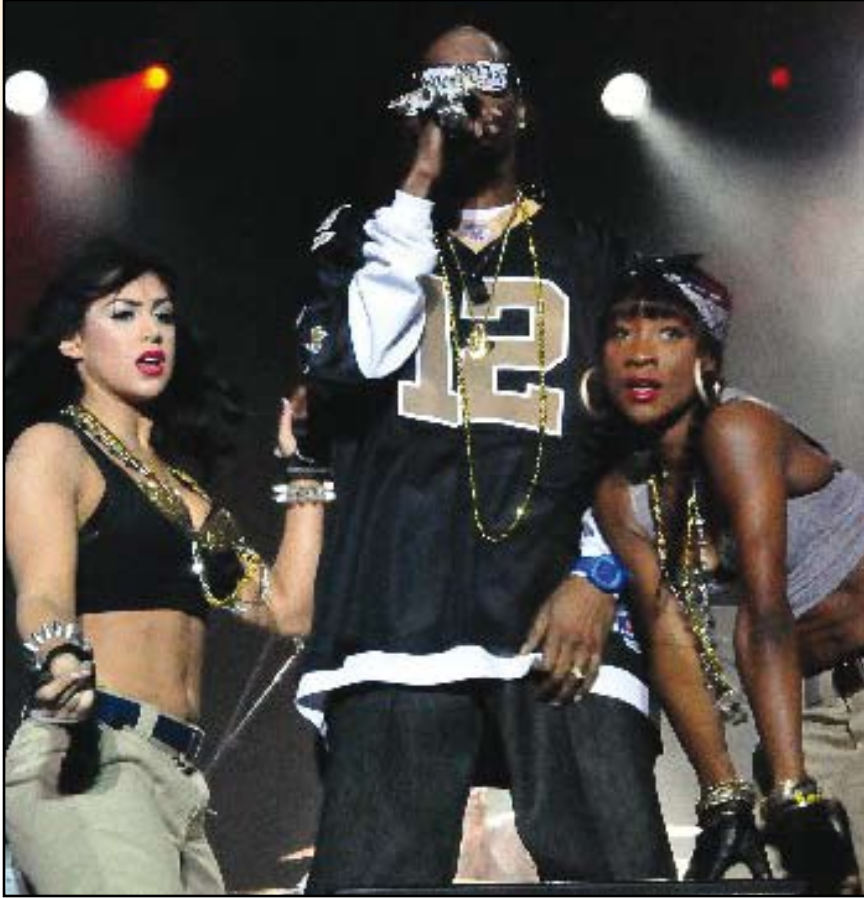
Roland Martin has been to New Orleans many times during the Essence Music Festival and also covering Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. He says he loves the City, its culture and its people. On the City and the recovery he says, "New Orleans is a great place with a lot of wonderful things about it, and this recovery has been fueled by the will of the people of the City and them wanting to come back and rebuild and not government." Continuing he says, "I feel the recovery has not gone as fast as it should be and the resources have not been there, but I also I believe it is about a City organizing and I believe this can be an opportunity to create a New Orleans the people want."

As New Orleans and the nation faces many issues and many are pessimistic. Roland Martin is an eternal optimist who feels while today is not perfect it is better than yesterday. And what keeps him moving forward Martin says he channels the spirit of those great individuals who came before him; and saying to people who look at life as a glass half empty he says, "Look at our ancestors, and what they had to deal with, not looking White people in the eyes, fighting to live with dignity, even when the chips were down they continued to fight and if we can survive, slavery, Jim Crow we can survive today."

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Must Be the Dogg in Him!

The 2011 Voodoo Music Experience placed New Orleans under a weekend-long spell of music, food, crafts and culture. Below, Snoop Dogg performs in front of a spellbound crowd at City Park.





Lighting The Road To The Future
New Orleans
Data
News Weekly
"The People's Paper"

Join Us on Facebook!

facebook.com/datanewsweekly



facebook®

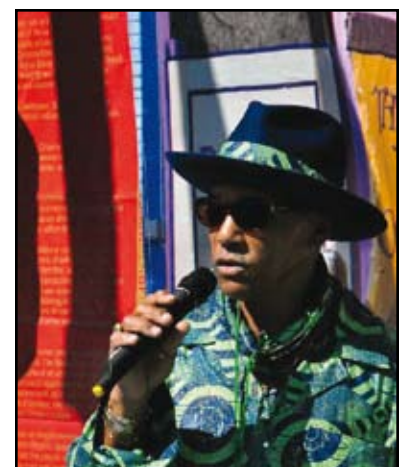
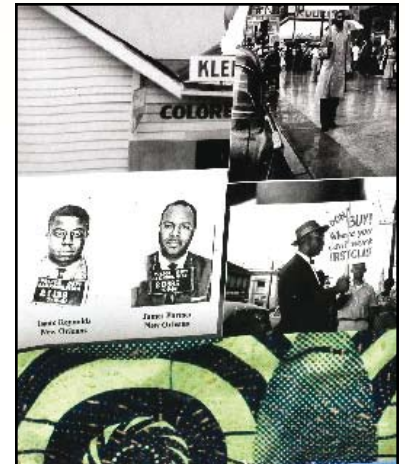
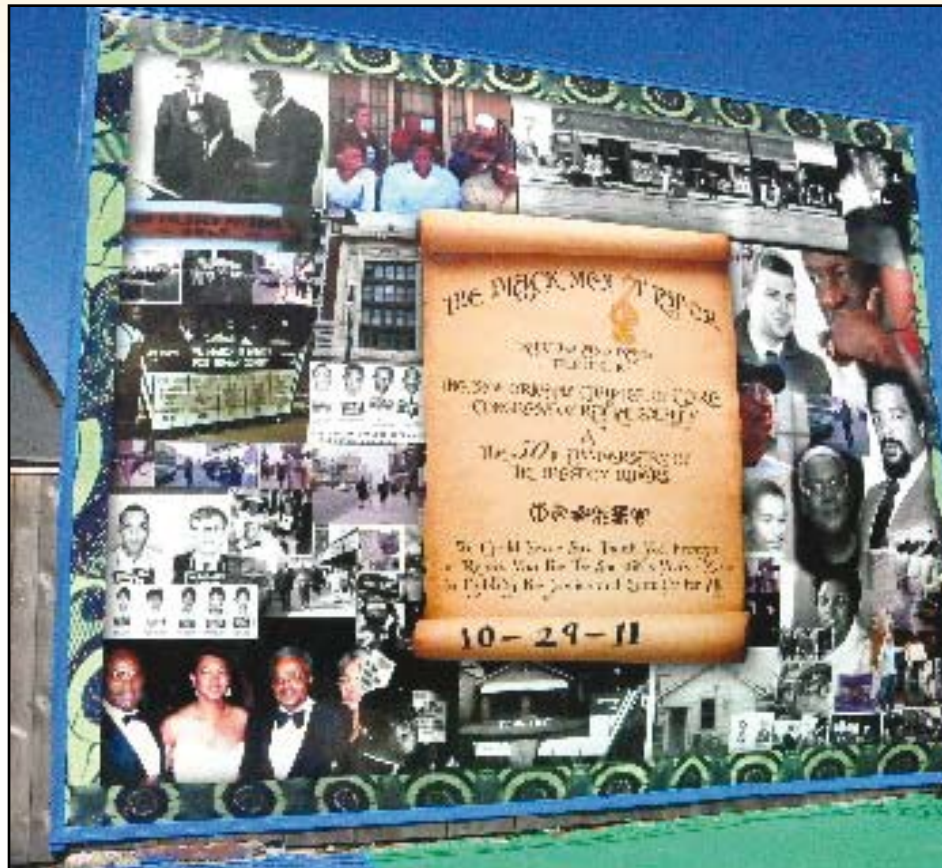
View Pics from Events Around Town
Sound Off on Stories Covered in Data
Download the Latest Edition & Archives
www.ladatanews.com



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Black Men of Labor 18th Annual Parade

Cultural Ambassadors the Black Men of Labor, Inc. paid tribute to the Congress of Racial Equality (New Orleans CORE Chapter, and the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Riders) at their Annual Labor Day Parade on Saturday. One of the highlights of the day, was the unveiling of the a mural which Salutes and Pays Tribute to local Civil Rights Pioneers of New Orleans. The Mural shown below is located at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club, 1931 St. Claude Ave. The turn out and support from the community was spectacular, and of course, Data was There! Photos by Kichea S. Burt



Pat Buchanan

An Unrepentant Racist



George C. Curry
NNPA

By George E. Curry
NNPA Columnist

Pat Buchanan's latest book, *Suicide of a Superpower*, is a continuation of his long-running racist, sexist, anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic rants that should have disqualified him long ago from masquerading as a respectable paid political pundit on MSNBC.

ColorOfChange.org, a group dedicated to Black political and social change, is circulating a petition asking MSNBC to immediately fire Buchanan. In a memo to its members, dated Oct. 31, it said: "If Buchanan didn't have a powerful media platform, he'd be just another person with outdated, extremist ideas. But it's irresponsible and dangerous for MSNBC to promote his hateful views to an audience of millions."

In his latest book, Buchanan writes in a chapter titled, *The End of White America*: "Those who believe the rise to power of an Obama rainbow coalition of peoples of color means the Whites who helped engineer it will steer it are deluding themselves. The Whites may discover what it is like in the back of the bus."

He also defends New York taxi drivers who refuse to pick up African-American males.

"If [conservative political commentator Heather] MacDonald's statistics are accurate, 49 of every 50 muggings and murders in New York are the work of minorities. That might explain why

Black folks have trouble getting a cab. Every New York cabby must know the odds should he picks up a man of color at night."

Unfortunately, that kind of talk – based on non-existent "facts" – is nothing new for Buchanan, a former editorial writer for the right-wing St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* who later served in the Nixon White House and ran unsuccessfully for president.

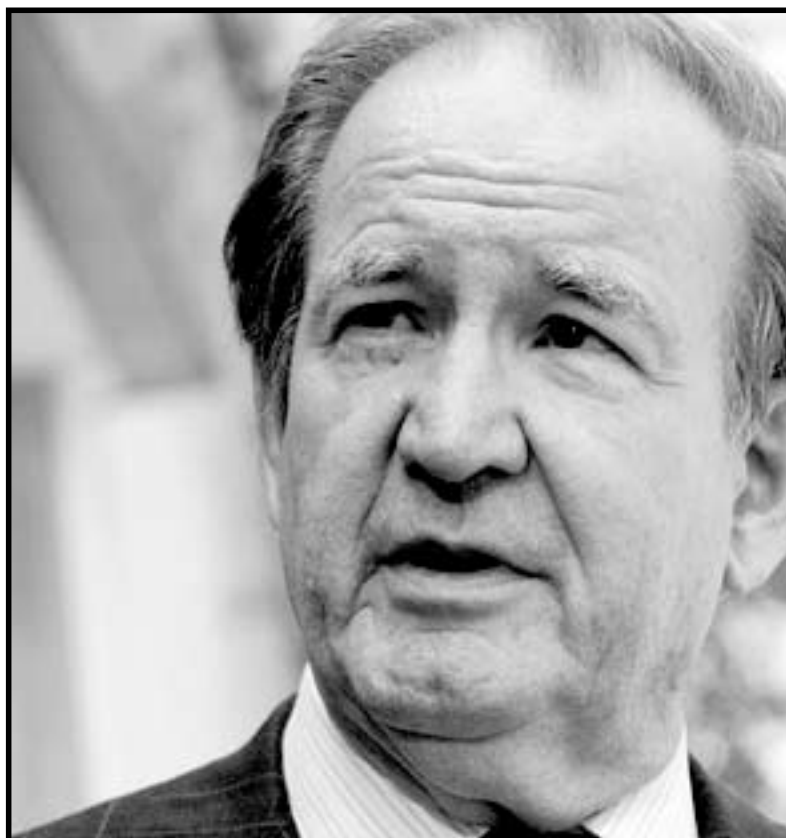
Buchanan's extremist views have been the subject of reports published by media watchdog groups Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) and Media Matters as well as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Below are Buchanan's own words:

- "First, America has been the best country on earth for Black folks. It was here that 600,000 Black people, brought from Africa in slave ships, grew into a community of 40 million, were introduced to Christian salvation, and reached the greatest levels of freedom and prosperity Blacks have ever known...Second, no people anywhere has done more to lift up Blacks than White Americans...Where is the gratitude?" [Syndicated column, "A Brief for Whitey," March 21, 2008]

- "This has been a country built, basically, by White folks in this country who were 90 percent of the entire nation in 1960 when I was growing up, Rachel, and the other 10 percent of the entire nation were African-Americans who had been discriminated against." [The Rachel Maddow Show, MSNBC, July 16, 2009]

- "In the late 1940's and 1950's...race was never a preoccupation with us, we rarely thought about it...There were no politics to polarize us then, to magnify every slight. The 'Negroes' of Washington had their public schools, restaurants, movie houses, play-



Pat Buchanan

grounds and churches; and we had ours." [Buchanan's autobiography, *Right From the Beginning*, 1990]

- "Even Richard Nixon found the views of his former speech writer, Buchanan, too extreme on the segregation issue. According to a John Ehrlichman memo referenced in Nicholas Lemann's *The Promised Land*, Nixon characterized Buchanan's views as 'segregation forever.' After Nixon was reelected, Buchanan warned his boss not to 'fritter away his present high support in the nation for an ill-advised governmental effort to forcibly integrate races.'" [Salon, Sept. 4, 1999]

- "Near the end, Buchanan added angrily: 'Conservatives are the niggers of the Nixon administration.' The political right, Buchanan thought, was getting

nothing but rhetoric." [Richard Reeves, *President Nixon: Alone in the White House*, Page 295.]

- "Buchanan's memo, written April 1, 1969, said Nixon should observe the first anniversary of the civil rights leader's death by doing no more than issuing a statement. 'There is no long-run gains, and considerable long-run risks in making a public visit to Widow King,' Buchanan wrote. He characterized King as 'one of the most divisive men in contemporary history' and: 'initially, the visit would get an excellent press but...it would outrage many people who believe Dr. King was a fraud and a demagogue, and perhaps worse,' the memo said. 'It does not seem to be in their interests of national unity for the president to lend his national prestige to the argument that this divisive figure is a mod-

ern saint.'" [Associated Press, December 12, 1986]

- "...Both the GOP establishment and conservatives should study how and why White voters, who delivered Louisiana to Reagan and Bush three times, moved in such numbers to [White supremacist David] Duke – and devise a strategic plan to win them back." [Syndicated column, December 23, 1991]

- "George Bush should have told the [NAACP convention] that Black America has grown up; that the NAACP should close up shop, that its members should go home and reflect on JFK's admonition: 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.'" [Syndicated column, July 26, 1988]

Buchanan, appearing on Al Sharpton's "PoliticsNation" program in August on MSNBC, referred to President Obama as "your boy." More recently he agreed with Herman Cain's assertion that Blacks have been brainwashed into supporting Democrats over Republicans. In an interview on CNN, Buchanan said, "I think what he's saying is they bought a lot of liberal propaganda on the liberal plantation and I think he's right."

Color of Change is right for seeking Buchanan's dismissal. In 2008, the National Association of Black Journalists gave Buchanan its "Thumbs Down Award" that goes to an individual or news organization for especially insensitive, racist or stereotypical reporting or commentary. It is time for MSNBC to give Buchanan the boot.

George E. Curry, former Editor-in-Chief of *Emerge Magazine* and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com. You can also follow him at www.twitter.com/currygeorge.

ladatanews.com

Chris Brown Excites Crowd in New Orleans

By Elise Schenck

Chris Brown in his short career has taken the entertainment world by storm. He is a chart topping singer, dancer extraordinaire, actor and sex symbol. His recent show in New Orleans was a scream fest with young ladies from ages young as five to young adult women yelling his name at the top of their lungs coming out to experience the man whose swagger and style has come to captivate a generation. In his show he sang many hits from his vast catalog where his sound is a unique

blend of old and new. He is one who borrows from the greats of music with a sound reminiscent of a young Michael Jackson, but with a twenty-first century twist, marrying sensitive, sensual lyrics with the rawness of hip-hop. In his climb to the top he continues to be a star on the rise blazing stages and filling venues across the globe and with his stop in New Orleans Chris Brown brought down the house proving without a doubt why he is one the best live acts in the music business.



R&B Entertainer, Chris Brown Photo credit: Glenn Summers

A large, dark, overflowing dumpster filled with various pieces of debris, including furniture, electronics, and household items. The scene is set outdoors under a cloudy sky. The text "WITHOUT AN EMERGENCY PLAN YOUR BUSINESS CAN END UP HERE." is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters. Below this, the website "Ready.gov/business" is displayed in a smaller font. At the bottom, a paragraph of text provides information about disaster recovery and the availability of a free online tool.

**WITHOUT AN EMERGENCY PLAN
YOUR BUSINESS CAN END UP HERE.**

Ready.gov/business

Up to 40% of businesses never recover after experiencing a major disaster. Do you have a plan to keep your business running if disaster strikes? For a free online tool that helps you develop an emergency plan, visit Ready.gov/business.

First Lady Visits New Orleans



The First Lady Michelle Obama visits NOLA. Pictures Courtesy of Ray Bonnee for Bonnefied Images, LLC.

On Tuesday, First Lady Michelle Obama visited New Orleans stopping at the Royal Castle Child Development Center, where she spent time with

children discussing ways to eat healthy and get essential exercise.

Beforehand, Ms. Obama swung by uptown New Orleans

to visit with campaign supporters and to deliver the President's message about getting America back to work and passing the American Jobs Act.

Call for Nominations for 5th Annual Women of Excellence Awards

Baton Rouge, Louisiana – The Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation is now accepting nominations for the 2012 Women of Excellence Awards. The awards recognize and honor the exemplary achievements and contributions of extraordinary Louisiana women who personify excellence in their leadership, profession, academics, community service, character and integrity. The deadline to receive nomination forms in the Women's Caucus Office is Wednesday, January 25, 2012. Forms can be downloaded from the Women's Caucus website at llwc.louisiana.gov.

The categories for the awards are:

- Business
- College Woman of Excellence

(ages 18 to 25)

- Education & Research
- Government & Law (new this year)
- High School Woman of Excellence (for graduating seniors)
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) (new this year)
- Volunteerism

The High School Woman of Excellence Award and the College Woman of Excellence Award winners will each receive the Louisiana Legislative Women's Caucus Foundation Scholarship for \$1,000.

The awards will be given at the 5th Annual Women of Excellence Awards & Scholarship Gala on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Payday Loan Collection Scams

Know your rights and responsibilities

By Charlene Crowell

NNPA Newswire - Almost every consumer is concerned with today's tough financial times. But for those looking to make a fast buck, tough times can also make for easy prey – especially when a payday loan borrower can be tracked down.

Across the country state attorneys general, the Better Business Bureau, law enforcement officials and others are alerting consumers to overly-aggressive phone callers who threaten arrest if a payday loan is not immediately repaid.

Claiming to be representatives of a law firm or collection agency these fake collectors demand personal financial information such as bank account or credit card numbers. Others request that monies be wired immediately or direct consumers to purchase a pre-paid credit card. Regardless of the specific request, their aim is to either get your money directly or gain access to it through information provided.

In truth, however, many of these callers have no affiliation with a credible business, the names are fictitious and calls are made from untraceable numbers. The heavy-handed collection tactics are intended to get cash quickly and move on to the next victim.

According to North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, "Don't fall for these calls from crooks demanding that you pay phony debts. Never agree to share your personal information with someone you don't know who calls you, no matter how convincing they sound."

Rather than reacting to harsh language and pressures to pay immediately, consumers would be wise to assert their own interests. A legitimate debt collector should respond to requests for written and additional information. That kind of inquiry should identify the original creditor, amount owed, date of the alleged transaction, etc. Any pushback from this line of questioning should signal that the caller is suspect.

For bona fide collection businesses, the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) sets standards for debt collectors and covers personal, family and household debts. Abusive, deceptive or unfair practices are specifically prohibited. This law covers personal, family and household debts – including payday loans, credit cards, auto loans and more.

Phoning consumers before 8:00 am in the morning or after 9:00pm at night is illegal. Any collection attempt at a consumer's workplace is also banned. In either of these circumstances, the

consumer is protected so long as they advise the collector of their unwillingness to take such calls.

Each year, the Federal Trade Commission prepares a report on FDCPA. For 2010, the agency received more complaints on debt collection than on any other industry. The three top categories of complaints were:

- § Calling repeatedly or continuously;
- § Misrepresenting the character, amount, or status of the debt (including demanding a larger payment than is permitted by law); and
- § Failing to send consumers a statutorily required written notice about the debt and their rights.

America's lingering and widespread unemployment imposes financial challenges. But just because you may have fallen into debt, now is not the time to fall victim to a consumer scam. If debts are owed, speak directly with your creditors to arrange a manageable repayment plan, and develop a paper trail as evidence of your good faith efforts to repay.

Most importantly - let the scammers find someone else to flinch.

Charlene Crowell is a Communications Manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at: Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.

City Houses Homeless Individuals from Under Pontchartrain Expressway

Permanent Housing Solutions Sought for Over 100 Individuals

In keeping with Mayor Landrieu's efforts to prevent, reduce and end homelessness in New Orleans, the City announced that it has housed homeless individuals formerly living under Pontchartrain Expressway near Caliope and Baronne Street.

This week, approximately 85 homeless individuals were moved into respite housing to await admission to permanent supportive housing, 20 were placed in shelters, and 10 were placed on buses to be reunited with family or friends in other cities.

"This is a positive first step in what we hope is a permanent housing solution for many of these individuals," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "Ultimately our goal is to make sure that all New Orleanians have a place they can call home, and that our City is clean and safe."

The City's Office of Neighborhood Services, which oversees homeless policy, has been diligently communicating with all homeless individuals throughout this process. To ensure the safety and health of all citizens, as of Friday, October 28, 2011, the area under the Pontchartrain Expressway will be closed and individuals will not be allowed to sleep or camp there. Routinely, the City's Department of Sanitation will monitor and remove any mattresses, chairs or other items, as well as pressure wash the area. The New Orleans Police Department and its Homeless Assistance Unit will regularly patrol the area.

The City coordinated relocations and respite housing in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, Volunteers of America, Travelers Aid, Metropolitan Health Services District, Grace Outreach, and UNITY of Greater New Orleans.

Earlier this year, Mayor Landrieu signed an executive order establishing the Homeless Services Working Group-an official Mayoral Advisory Committee-tasked with developing systemic solutions to ending homelessness in New Orleans. The Group is expected to deliver a report to Mayor Landrieu in the coming weeks.

The Group, comprised of a cross-section of the community representing the business, criminal justice, health care, higher education, faith-based, government, non-profit, neighborhood, and philanthropic sectors, works cooperatively with federal and state partners in order to create outcome-driven approaches based on national best practices in order to best serve the needs of the homeless and the City.

The Ugly Truth!!!!

By Kingfish

Data Sports Columnist

This is the hardest article I've ever had to write; so much so that, I missed my editorial deadline, much to the dismay of my editor. I really considered not writing an article this week. I know as a writer I'm not supposed to be bias or write in a manner that shows too much personal opinion. With that said I echo what has been written by local writers already this week which is, this is the worst loss in the Sean Payton and Drew Brees tenure here with the New Orleans Saints.

Where do I start? The shout out of the first quarter, Drew Brees' interceptions, Charles Brown and his replacement's inability to block Chris Long, the entire offensive line, the defensive line, the six sacks, the defense's inability to get off the field, the non-running game, play calling or the fact that the Saints as a whole laying an egg and not stepping up to the challenge, and playing down to the competition. Anyone of these I could have focused on and wrote a complete article on. I'm going to go at it as a whole; this is not a championship team showing by any measure. The entire team laid an egg! against a winless team this is inexcusable if your goal is the Super Bowl as I stated in the loss to Tampa Bay.



Photo: Sportsunion.com

It does not matter how talented your backfield is if you can't open holes for your backs. It doesn't matter how talented your quarterback is if he doesn't have time to find receivers. It doesn't matter how talented your receivers are if your quarterback focuses on two receivers that he has targeted every week, defenses will adapt. This is the NFL. Paid professionals coaching and playing at the highest level, the Rams proved that this Sunday.

The Saints have or had the number one scoring Offense in the league, for the Saints to be scoreless in the first half and be down by 17 to a team that has a backup quarterback and a new receiver (that made two clutch

catches) and a Defensive secondary that was missing three of its starters; you have to label this as a team loss in every sense of the term.

The future of this team looks bleak at best. The base of all NFL teams is their infrastructure, which is its Offensive line and Defensive line. Unfortunately, that is where the Saints are the weakest. The Defense consistently says they believe that Drew Brees and the Offense will always keep them in the game. Maybe that's the fault. If your Defense doesn't believe it should be dominant and can be a game changer this is the absolute wrong approach. That's like hoping you're going to get another extension on your

mortgage after you've already received three.

Because of the miscues in the three losses, before this loss the Saints had a half of game lead in the division. Tampa had a bye week coming into this week's game with plenty of time to plan for the Saints who they beat once this year already. Not to get ahead of the schedule but these next two weeks will decide the Saints future with the Falcons coming in after Tampa.

Last but not least, the most damaging aspect of their loss was formerly their strength. The very thing they used to lead the league in, the Third-Down Offense, in this game, they went 8 for 17, which unfortunately led to their demise.

Next week Tampa:

Tampa has a great D line which doesn't need to blitz to get QB pressure. Having the savvy Ronde Barber in the secondary, which by the way almost single handedly killed the Saints in their loss, will be the challenge for the Saints this week.

As usual Geaux Saints! I still believe!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Kingfish, if you have any comments on this article we would love to hear them. Send them to datanewseditor@bellsouth.net subject line Kingfish.

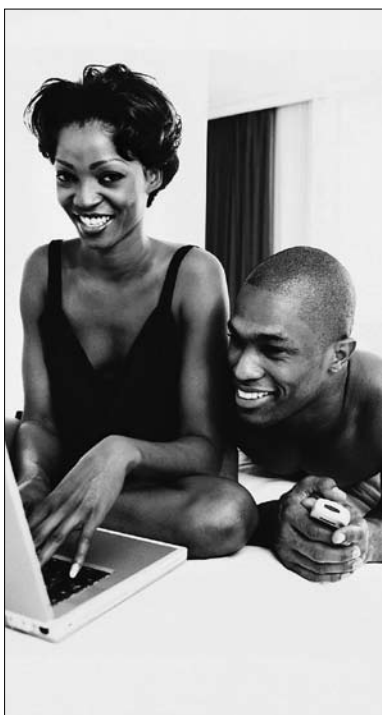
Artest Auctioning First Ring for Mental Health

NNPA Newswire

For as hard as Ron Artest worked to earn his stripes last season with the Lakers, he is planning to auction off his first championship ring.

The auction will raise money for mental health counseling schools. If you remember, the Laker mentioned at the end of the series championship game that his psychiatrist helped him relax during the playoffs. But, he has a history with mental health issues and would like to give back.

"I'm still searching for that first ring. I'm not going to have a ring, and I really do want a ring," Artest said recently. "This one was on the house. The next one, I guess, you could say, is on me."



ladatanews.com

FA*KE

Take steroids. Get caught. Become one.



DontBeAnAsterisk.com



DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

Mailboxes by Mark



You pay for the bricks or maybe you have bricks already. You provide the mailbox.

I will provide the cement, wood, mortar, nails etc. You choose or create the design. Prices vary according to the design.

Contact: Mark (504) 723-7318

AVON

The company for women

\$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$
Do you need money?

Can you use some extra

cash? Try Avon!!! Avon is easy to sell, no experience necessary. It cost only \$10.00 to start. You can become your own boss or just earn extra money. Whether you are interested in purchasing Avon products or becoming an Avon Representative yourself, I can assist you.

Call June - 504-606-1362

I will explain everything and help you to get started.

This space can be yours for only \$80

Call Now!

504-821-7421

Red Hot Deals!

Data News Weekly special offer for Non-Profits and Small Businesses

Call Now!

(504) 821-7421



stronger connections

We've made important moves to strengthen your network.

You may have heard. AT&T and T-Mobile are planning to come together.

What will that mean to you?

More cell sites and spectrum means better service sooner.

And it means your Internet is about to take a big leap forward with LTE — a super-fast mobile broadband technology.

We are going to deploy it to more than 97 percent of all Americans, giving you access to a cutting-edge wireless network and all the opportunities it brings.

So keep your bonds strong by reaching out to those you care about the moment they need you.



MobilizeEverything.com