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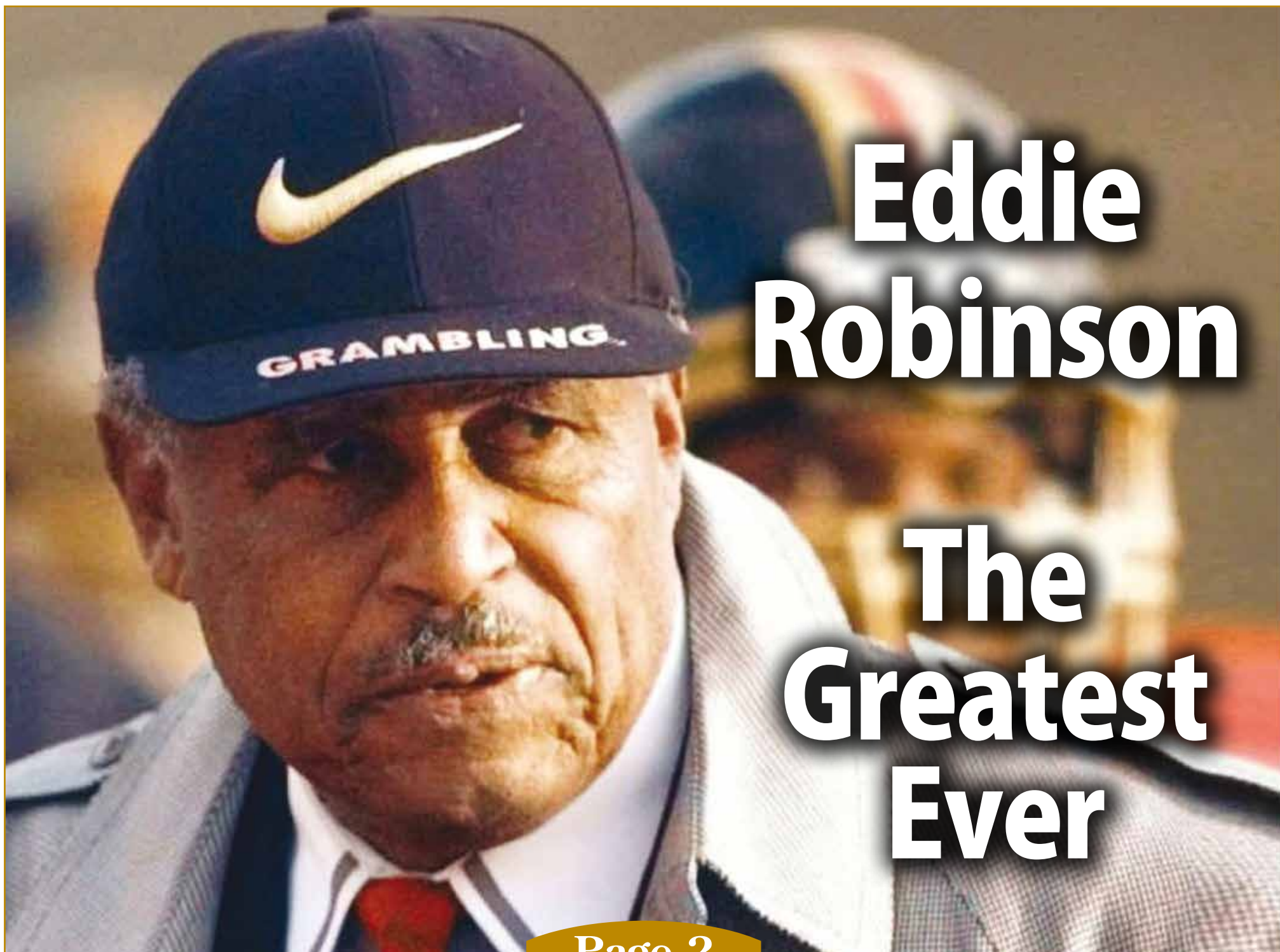
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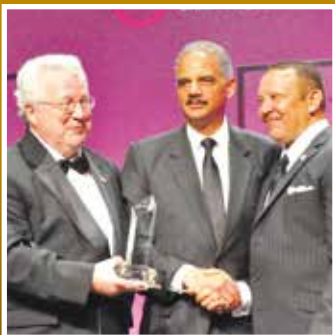
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Grambling's Eddie Robinson

is the Greatest Football Coach Period

Winning is not the most important thing

By Kenneth Miller
Special to the NNPA

Just as the Joe Paterno statue was being removed in the middle of the night from Beaver Stadium in Happy Valley and while the NCAA was leveling the Penn State football program with the most severe penalties in the history of collegiate sports, officials in the small town of Grambling, LA were petitioning to restore the legendary Eddie Robinson as the all time victory leader in college football.

According to a recently published article in USA Today, Cynthia Breedlove, an attorney for the City of Grambling, petitioned to the NCAA to vacate some of Paterno's wins in hopes of getting Robinson restored as the recordholder. She did so with the backing of Grambling Mayor Edward Jones.

Then on Monday, when the NCAA wiped out 111 wins from Paterno, Jones said the City was "elated" that Robinson has the record back. But he said the City's foremost thoughts were with the victims of the abuse, adding, "It's our prayer that everyone involved will heal."

The mayor said the petition was never meant to alter the NCAA process, just to voice the City's position.

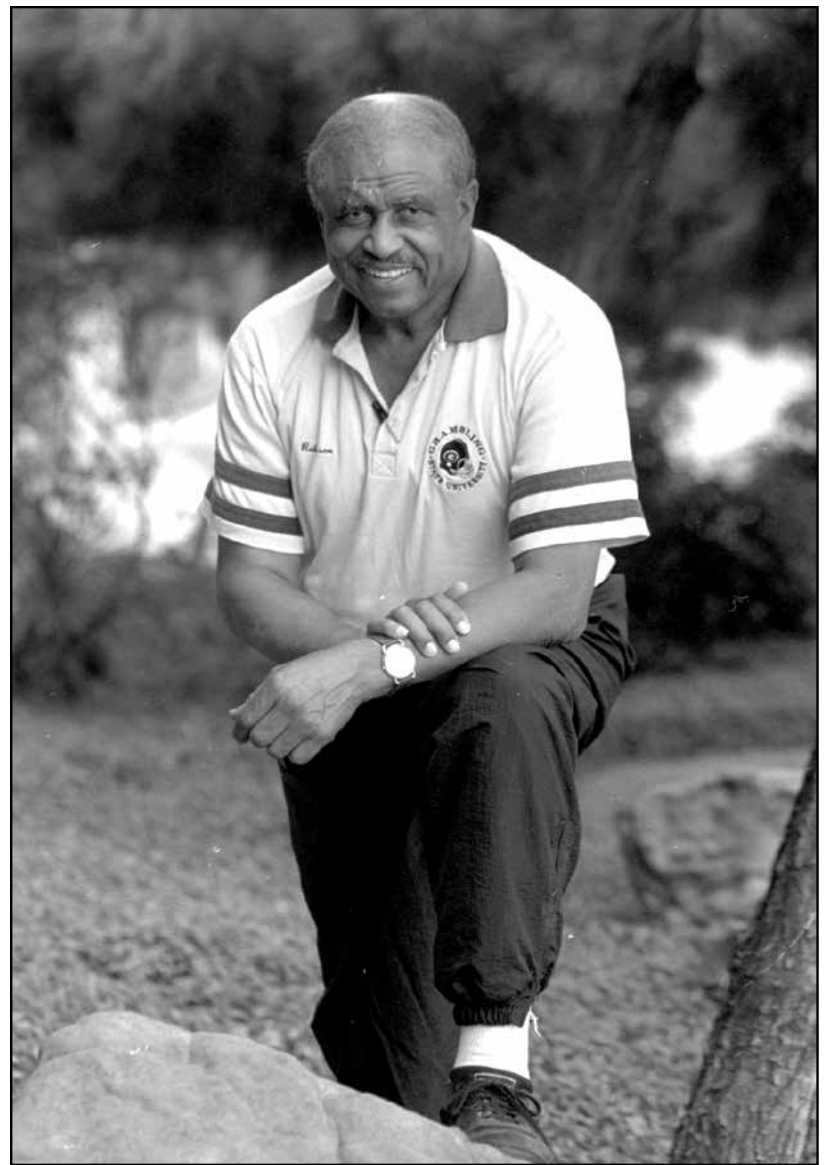
Robinson led Grambling for 57 seasons to 408 victories before his final game in 1997. He died gracefully as he had lived at the age of 88 in 2007.

The coach affectionately called Coach Rob is responsible for 200 players making it to the NFL, but his legacy is not that he just won football games it is how he molded boys to become men and productive citizens of society.

Coach Robinson did not have an unlimited budget, the best equipment and the most sophisticated facilities during his illustrious reign as his White contemporaries such as Paterno and Florida State's Bobby Bowden had.

Paterno was considered as the winningest coach until the NCAA hammered Penn State for the cover-up during the horrific Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal that has since tarnished his legacy.

Even Bowden had victories vacated for NCAA sanctions, but Robinson's sterling legacy has— at a Historically Black College where many of his players were not recruited at major White universities— never been questioned or tarnished.



Picture is the late Coach Eddie Robinson who led Grambling for 57 seasons to 408 victories before his final game in 1997. The coach is responsible for 200 players making it to the NFL.

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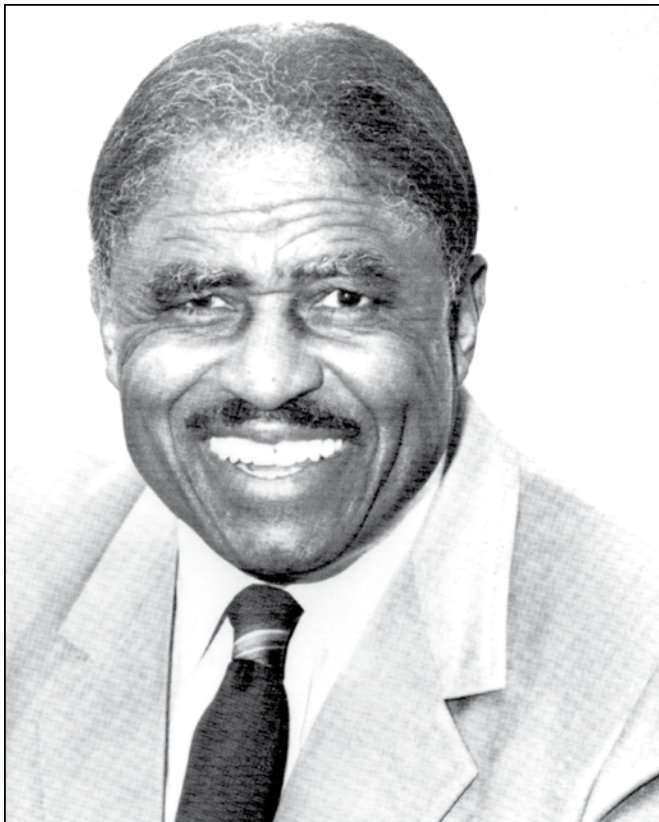
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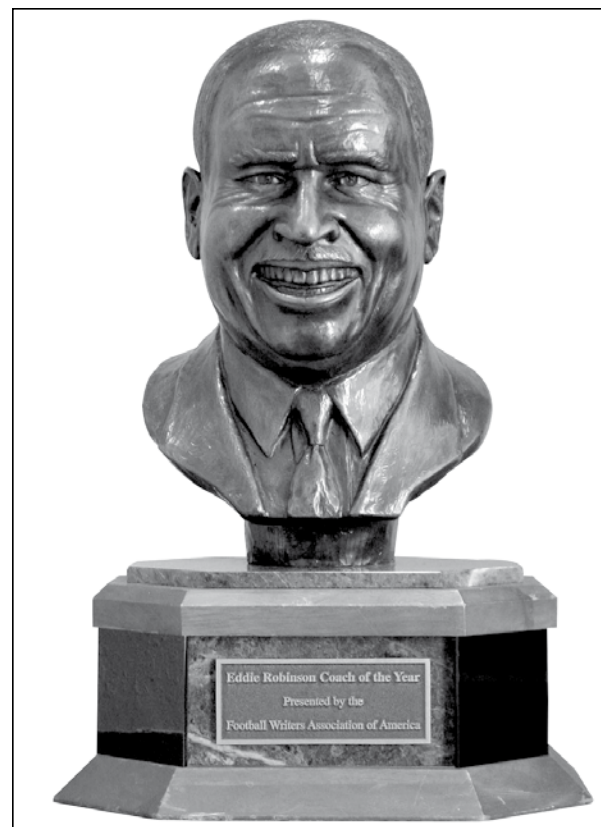
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Coach Eddie Robinson was affectionately known as Coach Rob.



Grambling State University will always feel that Eddie G. Robinson was the smiling face of this university.



Following Robinson's death the Football Writers Association of America named its Coach of the Year Award for Robinson.

He simply did more with less.

Former Grambling star Doug Williams, who became the first Black quarterback to win a Super Bowl with the Washington Redskins and is currently the head coach at his alma mater, did not celebrate in the demise of Paterno.

"Today doesn't change any player's opinion of Coach Rob," Williams said. "Players like Franco Harris that played for (Joe Paterno) held him in high esteem, and players that played for (Robinson) feel the same way."

"I don't think (Robinson) would be happy today."

"Today is mixed emotions for me," Robinson's son, Eddie Robinson Jr. said. "I've talked to a lot of people who've asked me if I was happy. I can't truly say that I am."

"I've known Coach Paterno for years, and the only thing I can say that I knew about him ... is that to me, he was a great coach and a class individual."

"As far as what has happened, I don't have all the investigative facts and I'm not close enough to it to say what it should be and what it shouldn't be."

Grambling President Frank Pogue said he didn't think Robinson would have been celebrating Monday, either.

"Eddie Robinson would have

been the first to express regret at this situation," Pogue said. "We at Grambling State University will always feel that Eddie G. Robinson was the smiling face of this university."

"The reason he will be known as the winningest Division I coach here is larger than football. He took men largely from small towns with virtually no equipment to play with compared to Penn State and most of the larger universities."

"He was able to say to those men that you are somebody and you are attending Grambling and Grambling is the winning spirit of football and athletics."

In 2006, the NCAA during reorganization renamed a separate Football Championship Subdivision to only include colleges that qualified under the Bowl Championship Series format, thus separating the records of both Paterno and Bowden from the record of Robinson.

Therefore, many consider Bowden as the winningest college football coach now because of the grouping, but the record is clear as far as Division I victories and Robinson is the all time leader.

Following Robinson's death the Football Writers Association of America named its Coach of the Year Award for Robinson. The first recipient was Joe Paterno.

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National Urban League Convention Highlights

Photos by Edwin Buggage

Last week The National Urban League held its Annual Conference in New Orleans. For several days the City was abuzz with movers and shakers with people making a difference and an impact in the African-American community and Data News Weekly was there.



WDSU-TV 6 Meteorologist Damon Singleton, St. John the Baptist Parish President Natalie Robottom, Educator and Author Dr. Andre Perry, Terry B. Jones enjoying a night of entertainment featuring Louisiana Music at Mardi Gras World.



Renown performer Kermit Ruffins, Zydeco Music sensation Rockin Dopsie Jr. and Terry B. Jones.



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry B. Jones and NUL President and Former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial.



People of all ages were out having a good time during NUL event.



Celebrating New Orleans Style



WDSU-TV 6 Medical Editor and CEO of Black Health Television Dr. Corey Hebert and New Orleans Data News Weekly Editor Edwin Buggage



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry B. Jones and Businessman and Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Member Terry Williams.

If you have photos of parties or events you would like to run in DATA, please send to datanewsad@bellsouth.net for inclusion.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

National Urban League Honors Highlights

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

United States Attorney General Eric Holder, Stevie Wonder and the Honorable Justice Bernette Johnson were all honored by the National Urban League for their achievements at a lavish celebration which featured a performance by Chaka Kahn.



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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Hosts Event During Urban League Conference

Photos by Glenn Summers

The National Urban League held its Annual Conference in New Orleans. Local and national leaders were on hand for events held throughout the conference. The Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club held an event giving visitors a taste of authentic New Orleans and Data News Weekly was there.



Valuing Some Lives over Others



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

The national support for the victims of the recent Colorado shootings is great. However, if we believe in the equivalency of life, what about the lives of young men in Chicago, where there have been more deaths than in Afghanistan so far this year. While the hospitals in Aurora say they will cover hospital bills for those without insurance (one in three in Colorado), who will cover bills for those who are hospitalized after a drive-by? We mourn some deaths and ignore others, which suggests that some life is valued and

some life is cheap.

Does it have anything to do with media attention? In Tuscaloosa, Ala., a crazed man walked into a bar looking for “a Black man”. He shot a man who did not know him, and with whom he had no beef. He also wounded 17 other people. Why has this story received only limited national attention?

If we spend a minute watching any news, we have heard about Veronica Moser, the 6-year-old who was massacred in Aurora. We’ve seen pictures of her smiling face and of her playing. Certainly we can all mourn the tragedy of her young life being snuffed out by a madman. Still, some young lives are valued, while others are not. One of the young deaths that rocked my soul was the 2004 murder of Chelsea Cromartie, who sat in her grandmother’s window playing with her dolls when she was killed by a stray bullet. She wrote, in a classroom exercise, that she was an “amazing

girl”. We don’t have to go back to 2004 to find a child’s death. Two weeks ago, Heaven Sutter, who had just had her hair styled for a trip to Disney World, was shot. Again the culprit was a stray bullet.

Details of the lives of those who are killed humanizes them and tugs at our heartstrings. In Aurora, we have learned about a man whose wife just gave birth, about another who died saving his girlfriend, of a young woman who missed a Toronto mass murder by a few seconds, aspired to be a sports journalist, and was killed in Aurora. Rarely do we hear about the lives of those who are killed in the inner city, about the lives of Chelsea Cromartie and Heaven Sutter.

The disproportionality of death commentary hits home when one remembers the stories in the New York Times after September 11, 2001. For months, postage stamp sized photos accompanied short but revealing blurbs about those who lost their lives. On one hand,

the blurbs were humanizing. For me, though, they were a reminder of the equivalency of life and the lives we choose to ignore.

There were 12,000 gun-related deaths in the United States in 2008. Eighty percent of the gun deaths in the world’s 23 richest countries happened in the United States, as did 87 percent of the deaths of children. We have more than 270 million privately owned guns in this country. When we add the number of military (police, sheriffs) guns, there is at least one gun for every man, woman, and child in this country. Some hark back to their Second Amendment rights in their gun ownership, but the Second Amendment was passed before assault weapons and Glocks. If people have the right to bear arms, do they have to right to have 6,000 rounds of ammunition, obtained on the Internet? If we can’t limit guns, can we at least regulate the distribution of ammunition?

In the same year that there were 12,000 gun deaths in the

United States, there were a scant 11 gun-related deaths in Japan. Indeed, while the United States has 90 privately held guns per 100 people, the next largest per capita rate of privately held guns is in Yemen. In contrast, China has three guns per 100 people.

The National Rifle Association loves to say, “guns don’t kill, people do.” As usual, they display limited thinking. People with guns are the ones who kill! Why won’t we address that by dealing with issues of gun and ammunition control?

The 12 people who lost their lives represent a fraction of 1 percent of those who die from gun violence annually. As we mourn these lives, let us mourn the lives of the thousands who were also killed because it is easier to buy a weapon than it is to buy marijuana in most parts of our nation.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.

Celebrating Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, His Life, Music and Legacy



Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong



The Stooges

by Edwin Buggage

Louis Armstrong is more than simply a pioneering entertainer; he was a statesman who came to symbolize the best of New Orleans. His story is one that is well-known; growing up as a young man in New Orleans and overcoming many obstacles early in life to later know much fame and acclaim as a trailblazer in the field of Jazz Music. Today, over a century after his birth, he is still relevant and continues to inspire artists across the globe.

Now entering its 12th year, the Satchmo Summerfest will take place at the Louisiana State Museum's Old U.S. Mint from Aug. 3th thru Aug. 5th. There will also be seminars discussing the life and legacy of this great American treasure. And of course, what would a festival in New Orleans be without food and music. Scheduled to perform is Kermit Ruffins, who will lead a trumpet tribute to Louis Armstrong. Also on tap is the Tremé Brass Band led by the great Bennie Jones, the Mardi Gras Indians will be on display with a performance by Big Chief Bo Dollis, Jr. and the Wild Magnolias, and the first family of Jazz will be represented with a performance by Delfeayo Marsalis & The Uptown Jazz Orchestra as well as many others will be appearing for a week-end of food and fun.

New Orleans is a City filled with a rich heritage and a plethora of cultural traditions. Unlike many cities, the sound of music is a ubiquitous part of this City's landscape. The Sixth Ward of New Orleans encompasses the historic area of Tremé, where at any given point you may hear the sound of brass or the beat of a drum. This is the place where Congo Square stands as a testament of the living culture that still lives today. This is the community that Kid Merv, the renowned trumpeter began his love affair with music. He is one of the many that will grace the stage at the Satchmo Summerfest. "It is both an honor and a privilege to be able to be part of this celebration of the birthday as we pay homage to the life of

a man who did so much for the City and the world," says Kid Merv. Continuing he says, "If it were not for him there would be no me, he is an important part of our culture and is an inspiration for musicians everywhere."

Walter Ramsey is the Founder and Leader of the Award Winning Stooges Brass Band. Their brand of eclectic fusion of traditional brass band music with other elements has led them to gain much recognition and acclaim. Recently, the band was employed by the U.S. Embassy as Cultural Ambassadors to New Orleans on a two week tour through Pakistan. They continue to tour internationally, recently doing a two-week tour of the United Kingdom for the Edinburgh Jazz Festival, the Durham Brass Festival, and many more stops all the while spreading the music and culture of the Crescent City. The Stooges will be performing at the Satchmo Summerfest closing out on the Cornet Chop Suey Stage on Saturday. On playing at the fest Ramsey says, "We have played at many festivals across the world, but it is an honor to play at one named after "Pops" to showcase what we do as an outgrowth of what he and so many before us have done to show the best of City and its musical heritage."

Kid Merv, is one of the artists who continue in the vein of playing traditional music. Throughout his life he's studied Armstrong's music and continues to look at it as a source of inspiration. "I was born into this culture of music and as a trumpet player Louis Armstrong is who I look at the most as someone to aspire to musically and creatively." Speaking of the great musical legacy of the City where there have been many greats, some of the unsung but with great talent. "My Great Uncle Kid Rene' was a contemporary of Armstrong and was a great talent, but only made one recording, this is the story of our City, so much talent that finds a limited audience, but I am glad that I have gotten the chance to be one of the artists who has been able to share what makes



Kermit Ruffins



Kid Merv

us special with the world."

Of Armstrong's lasting legacy and impact on young performers Ramsey says, "He's made me want to be not just a talented musician, but a great entertainer as well, that's the energy we bring onstage with us every time we do a show. We are channeling the spirits of him and so many others who have influenced us.

And it is my goal that we can do the same as we keep the music alive to inspire the next generation of musicians."

It's been over a century since Louis Armstrong was born changing the world of music and becoming synonymous with the City of his birth. A City that gave the world Jazz, and today his City honors him and his legacy. And the musicians and their sounds are the ripe fruit of a tree that is firmly rooted in the traditions of this cultural musical treasure that lies at the mouth of the Mississippi.

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