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**Inaugural  
Highlights**

**Data Zone Page 6**

January 26 - February 1, 2013 47th Year Volume 37 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

Special Edition

# Super Bowl 2013 Comes to New Orleans Over 30 Community Events Planned!



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 2013

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# NFL, National And Local Organizations Host More Than 30 Super Bowl XLVII Community Outreach Events In New Orleans



Super Bowl XLVII brings much more than football to New Orleans. Throughout the weeks preceding the game, more than 30 charitable activities and community outreach events will enliven and enrich the community and provide lasting legacies.

Super Bowl Week activities will also include the announcement of the annual Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award, the presentation of the Don Shula NFL High School Coach of the Year Award, and a celebration of the positive impact of the Super Bowl with the Super Saturday of Service

The following are just some of the ways the NFL and Super Bowl XLVII will benefit New Orleans:

## Super Bowl XLVII Environmental Program

The NFL Environmental Program has developed a series of initiatives to minimize the impact of Super Bowl activities on the local and global environment. Environmental projects are developed in partnership with the 2013 New Orleans Super Bowl XLVII Host Committee and local, state and national organizations.

These initiatives include:  
Solid Waste Management/Recycling  
Prepared Food Recovery

Sports Equipment and Book Donation Project  
Climate Change Initiative

For more information, contact Jack Groh, NFL Environmental Program Director, at 401-952-0886 or NFLenvironment@aol.com.

## NFL Play 60 & LULAC Health Festival

On Saturday, Jan. 26 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., the NFL, in partnership with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) will host

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a "health fiesta" at St. Martin Episcopal School (225 Green Acres Rd., Metairie, La.). The NFL and LULAC will offer fitness-focused activities and information about local health resources and the

**NFL PLAY 60** campaign for local Latino youth and families. Youth attendees will participate in a number of NFL PLAY 60 skills and drills led by USA Football coaches. These activities will help introduce kids to the game of football in a non-intimidating, non-contact way.

For more information, contact Darlene Capiro, NFL, at darlene.capiro@nfl.com or Paloma Zuleta, LULAC, at 202-812-4477.

## NFL Prep 100 Series

On Saturday, Jan. 26 and Sunday, Jan. 27, NFL Player Engagement will kick off the PREP 100 Series in New Orleans. The event will host 100 local student-athletes who will participate in two days of classroom instruction stressing player health and safety, as well as on-field instruction focusing on proper techniques and player improvement drills. The student-athletes will be selected based upon academic achievement, athletic experience, leadership activities, and coach and teacher recommendations.

Participants will receive on field coaching from former NFL players including BRENTSON BUCKNER, MO COLLINS, and ETHAN HORTON, as well as participate in sessions with current and former NFL players.

To learn more about PREP 100, visit [www.nflplayerengagement.com](http://www.nflplayerengagement.com) or contact Austin Moss at 212-450-2437/Austin.Moss@NFL.com.

## Super Bowl XLVII One World Super Huddle

New Orleans area fifth graders will learn about the differences that make them unique and the similarities that bring them together as part of the NFL's diversity program "One World: Connecting Communities, Cultures, and Classrooms." On Monday, Jan. 28 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., eight classes from varying ethnic and racial backgrounds who have been communicating with

each other through pen-pal letters will meet for the first time at the

New Orleans Audubon Zoo (6500 Magazine St.).

Local schools participating in the One World event are as follows: Lusher Charter School, Hynes School, Arden Cahill Academy, Esperanza Charter School, Alice Harte School, Langston Hughes Academy, Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary, St. Catherine of Siena School.

For more information, contact Clare Graff, NFL, at 212-450-2435/clare.graff@nfl.com or Richard Buchsbaum, Audubon Zoo, at 504-212-5452.

## NFL Play 60 Challenge School Visit

As part of NFL PLAY 60, the league's youth health and fitness campaign, NFL players including New Orleans native and former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback KORDELL STEWART will visit Fifth Ward Junior High School (81419 Highway 21, Bush, La.) to host a special fitness activity on Tuesday, Jan. 29 from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.. The NFL PLAY 60 Challenge, developed in conjunction with the American Heart Association, is the primary in-school curriculum for NFL PLAY 60. More than 150 4th-6th grade students at Fifth Ward Junior High took part in the NFLPLAY 60 Challenge, a Super Bowl program that taught students the importance of getting 60 minutes of daily physical activity.

For more information, contact Clare Graff, NFL, at 212-450-2435/clare.graff@nfl.com or Linzy Rousel Cotaya, American Heart Association, at 504-473-6494/Linzy.Cotaya@heart.org.

## The NFL Experience Driven By GMC

The NFL Experience Driven by GMC, pro football's interactive theme park, will return to New Orleans for the first time in a decade from Wednesday, Jan. 30 – Sunday, Feb. 3. Located at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center (900 Convention Center Blvd.), the NFL Experience puts the ball in the fans' hands, allowing them to run, pass, punt and



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Cover Story, Continued on page 9.

# Former Mayor Ray Nagin Indicted on Federal Corruption Charges

NEW ORLEANS – Former New Orleans mayor Ray Nagin has been indicted by a grand jury on 21 federal corruption charges stemming from alleged wrongdoing while occupying the city's highest elected office.

Specifically, the indictment released alleges Nagin awarded lucrative city contracts to

contractors in exchange for more than \$200,000 in kickbacks and first-class trips to Hawaii, Jamaica and Las Vegas. If convicted on all charges, he could receive more than 15 years in prison.



Former New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin

The charges stem from a City Hall corruption investigation that already has resulted in guilty pleas by two former city officials and businessmen Frank Fadella and Rodney Williams who are co-operating witnesses in this case against former Mayor Nagin.

The indictment alleges that, between 2005 and 2008, Nagin:

Accepted more than \$70,000 in bribes from a consultant who later won more than a dozen public works contracts with the city. Received paid lodging and vacation expenses for himself

and his family in Hawaii and was flown first-class to Jamaica by a city contractor. Accepted a free private jet trip to Chicago and Las Vegas from another contractor and steered business towards his New Orleans-based family granite supply company through dealings with the city.

He's due in federal court Feb. 20 to be arraigned by a federal magistrate.

Data News Weekly will update this story as it progresses.

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# Jeffrey May

## *21st Century Activist*

by: Edwin Buggage

Jeffrey May has dedicated his life to community service and helping those in need. He is a person whose life is draped in the spirit of his passionate conviction in the fight for fairness and justice. "I had a great example in my mother, who worked serving others and always told my brother and I that when you are blessed you bless others," he says of the beginning of a life that is fueled by his unbreakable commitment to service.

Jeffrey May is a man who lives to give, and is a twenty-first century activist. He is someone who is a voice for justice fighting the battles that sometimes is not focused on in the media or political pundits. His work as the Former Director of The New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center and his present post as the Assistant Director of National Neighbors, a Division of National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) that deals with discrimination in the housing market, bank lending practices and other businesses that is what every day he is on the frontlines fighting to prevent. In his work, he travels the country doing

workshops to empower people in various communities about consumer protection and leads a team that investigates banks looking for patterns of discrimination in their lending practices.

"As a student of history I realize that we still have a long way to go in our journey to full justice and equality, but we must recognize that while we still have a long way to go since the battles of the 1960's for access we have fought and won. However, activism and civic engagement today it is not just about us marching in the streets, it is about realizing how to protect and empower ourselves against other forms of discrimination that keeps us from accessing the American Dream of home ownership and most importantly consumer protection. I think these are some of the issues we are facing in the twenty-first century," says May.

While today his work takes him across the country fighting for justice, he takes the time to serve on several boards and do other work in his community. Over the years, he was appointed District Chairperson of the Urban West Region



of the New Orleans Boy Scouts of America; where they provided mentoring, broadening the experiences and emphasizing the importance of continuation of education for urban youths of New Orleans.

"There are a lot of talented young people in our communities who often times do not get the opportunity to reach their full potential because there is no one there to help guide their journey and give them a guide and a path to success," says May. Continuing he says, "I know this from just looking at some of the people I grew up with who had so much

potential but felt their life chances were limited, so my goal is to continue to expand the lens of our young people and give them more options for success."

As a member of Alpha Phi Alpha, who can count among its many greats Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. throughout its rich history dedicated itself to service and excellence. Through his Greek Fra-

ternity, he has worked mentoring young men; in addition, to working with the homeless and other community service projects. "Giving is the most important thing we can do, I feel we gain when we give, so it not only enhances the life of the person who is receiving it also enhances me as well."

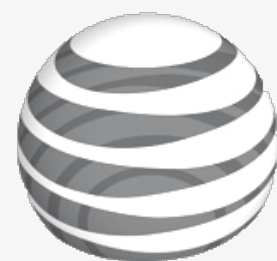
As Hurricane Katrina scattered people from New Orleans all over the country a Diaspora has emerged. Where in many cities across America people get together to stay connected to New Orleans and Louisiana. For we are a people with a rich and unique culture throughout the City and state; and in our Nation's Capital, Jeffrey sits on the board of the Washington DC based organization Louisiana Network. It was created to preserve and promote Louisiana culture among its members. It also does fund raisers to give money to charities or help those in

need. Since its inception, they have worked to support homeless veterans in New Orleans, donated monies to 2010 CNN Hero, Derrick Tabb and his New Orleans music preservation program and other worthy causes.

"Wherever I am I will always be connected to New Orleans, it is my home and whatever I can do to help I will," says May. Continuing he says, "It is what's shaped who and what I am today, a person who truly cares about and loves people and I can say that there are no other people like us when it comes to extending our arms to help others."

Jeffrey May has taken up the mantle of leadership of the challenges of the Twenty-First Century. He is a caring, compassionate person who is committed to serving others, and for his great work, Data News Weekly has named him our Trailblazer of the Month for January 2013.

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# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## New Orleanians at The Inauguration

Photos by Edwin Buggage

President Barack Obama was sworn in on January 21, 2013 with throngs of people coming from all over the globe to witness this historic event which fell on

The MLK Holiday. Later that evening, people put on their best to attend the ball that was the hottest and most sought after ticket in town; The Official Presidential

Inaugural Ball and Data News Weekly was there on the front lines of history. For more scenes from the Inauguration, visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)



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# King's Greatest Legacy

## Seeing Polarization as Progress



By Lee A. Daniels  
NNPA Columnist

I've always disliked the way Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday is often celebrated.

The reasons why became even clearer to me these past few days, as the importance of considering King's life and work was juxtaposed against three other developments: the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation; the celebration of Barack Obama's second inaugural as president of the United States; and the splenetic, knee-jerk resistance of the National Rifle Association and other conservatives to the president's ef-

forts to devise sensible gun-regulation proposals.

Those events tell me I'm right in thinking too many King ceremonies indulge too much in the simplistic, feel-good rhetoric of "Can we all just get along?" and ponder too little why he was so widely criticized in the last years of his life – not just by the overt racists but by White liberals and more than a few Black politicians and colleagues in the civil rights leadership as well.

The reason is that King refused to temper his increasingly sharp criticism of America's flaws. Instead, he became more provocative in identifying those flaws existence in the North and West as well as the South. Those were the years that the Apostle of Nonviolence fully took on the mantle of, as Rev. Hosea Williams, one of his trusted aides, described him, "the militant of the century."

So, I'm sure that, while many in pulpits and auditoriums these past few days bemoaned the "ra-

cial divide" and the "partisan gridlock" that are roiling American society, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would have been pleased.

Not pleased as in "happy" or "delighted," but because he'd understand that the polarization itself is a sign that the nation's "outsider groups" are making progress in gaining a full measure of their American citizenship.

For example, recall the furious response to and the ratcheting up of polarization over the Massachusetts Supreme Court's 2003 ruling legalizing gay marriage. Who would have predicted that by 2013, albeit still-heated opposition from conservatives, public acceptance of gay marriage would have come so far so fast?

So it was for the 13 brief years Martin Luther King, Jr. flashed across the American landscape. Even a cursory reading of media headlines from the mid-1950s to the late 1960s illuminates how widespread the racial polarization was. Yet, it's now clear the

opposition to the Movement was so fierce precisely because overt, legalized racism was about to fall. The polarization was one of the "rainbow signs" that a change was going to come far more quickly than most White Americans expected.

Indeed, the Civil Rights Movement underscored that there are two different kinds of polarization. One results from the oppression that confines its targets to second-class status. Before the mid-1960s Black Americans (and other Americans of color) had been locked in that physical and psychological ghetto for, literally, centuries. The other kind of polarization, however, comes into being when the targets of oppression start challenging the status quo in significant ways.

King and the Movement's other leaders and rank-and-file activists understood that securing equal rights for Blacks required relentlessly, nonviolently upsetting the White majority's comfort

with the country's racist laws and customs. Their actions compelled the nation, and the world, to juxtapose America's soaring ideals and rhetorical commitment to freedom for all with its tawdry reality. The ensuing polarization led straight to the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Today's political chatter is saturated with gloomy descriptions of and predictions about the fierce polarization in the political arena.

Yes, it's evident that in the wake of Obama's re-election, conservatives have re-committed themselves to flooding the state legislatures with reactionary measures and fomenting chaos in the Congress. Yes, it's critically important to not lose sight of the magnitude of the challenge: the callous proposals to restrict women's right to determine what reproductive choices are best for them that conservatives are yet again trying to push through

Daniel/Continued on page 11.

# Lance Armstrong was Following an American Tradition



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

Who is surprised that Lance Armstrong was doping? Who thinks he was the only one? Who is surprised that he used the Oprah Winfrey show as his platform to "come clean"? We are a nation of cheaters and Armstrong is one in a long line of our nation's cheaters.

Indeed the very foundation of our country is the result of cheating. The Pilgrims cheated the Native Americans that befriended

them out of their land. Later, the United States Army continued that cheating by slaughtering Native people, kicking them off their land, and consigning them to reservations. As a result of this thievery and chicanery Native American people have the shortest life expectancy of any ethnicity in these United States.

Enslaved people were cheated with the fruit of their labor, not to mention their lives and liberty, by our nation's "peculiar institution." After slavery was abolished, the cheating continued. The sharecropper system was nothing but an official method of cheating. Land owned by African Americans was stolen. Those African Americans who managed to amass wealth had to pretend they had less because economic envy sparked the wholesale appropriation of land and communities. Examples include the destruction of

Black Wall Street in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the 1898 destruction of property (and life) in Wilmington, N.C. Some historians estimate that there were more 200 of these kinds of incidents.

We cheated Mexico by appropriating half their land in a murky "trade" through the Louisiana Purchase. Now we have the nerve to talk about "illegal immigration" because people are returning to land that was once stolen from them. And daily, employers cheat undocumented people because without legal documents, they have no bargaining power against unscrupulous employers.

Cheating? George W. Bush and his minions cheated Al Gore of the presidency in 2000, and the Supreme Court aided and abetted him in this cheating. Imagine the course of history had we a kinder, gentler president who might not read a children's book upside

down in the moments before September 11?

Let's not even talk about the theft implicit in the banking bailout. These banks were lent money to aid in economic recovery by lending money, but instead of lending, they've tightened up credit requirements, making it more difficult for some people to borrow. And figuring out ways to cheat on one's taxes may be one of the great American pastimes.

There are more ways to cheat that putting your sticky fingers on things that don't belong to you. African American men are cheated of their dignity and freedom of mobility, whenever empty taxis speed by them. African American women are cheated of the ability to see themselves reflected in the public space when advertisers treat us as stereotypes. And racism cheats us of the ability to have equality of opportunity.

I'm not at all condoning Lance Armstrong's doping, and I fully agree with the decisions to pull his titles and banish him from biking. Yet there is much irony in the way people are handling this. The Today Show had cheater Pete Rose commenting on Lance Armstrong's cheating. That's like asking the fox to comment when his brother breaks into the henhouse, or like asking George W. Bush to comment on an election. And not to play the "race" game, but don't you think all hell would break loose if this were an African American athlete?

We send young people mixed messages when we both say "play fair" and "winning isn't everything, it's the only thing." We live in a win at any cost, winner take all, society. Lance Armstrong wanted to win so he doped up, and

Malveaux/Continued  
on page 10.



# Pipeline to the People

By Corey Anderson

*Question: How do you feel about the Super Bowl coming to New Orleans?*



**Justin Charles**

"Saints ain't playing. I'm done."



**Rosalyn Kent**

"I think that the Super Bowl will be good for the City of New Orleans since people still think its recovering after Katrina. Not saying that it doesn't need it, but it will give it a needed boost."



**D. J. Onauguluchi**

"I think it's very beneficial, especially after both Hurricanes Katrina and Issac. It will boost the economy with the tourists coming in and this is a very traditional City; it's New Orleans and it has deep roots."

Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

kick like the pros while enjoying the electrifying atmosphere of Super Bowl XLVII.

Covering more than 850,000 square feet, the NFL Experience will provide visitors of all ages with an opportunity to test their football skills in a variety of fun interactive attractions.

The 30,000 square-foot NFL SHOP at Super Bowl presented by Visa offers fans a unique shopping experience complete with largest offering of official NFL limited edition Super Bowl XLVII merchandise and the latest in authentic NFL products. NFL SHOP at Super Bowl presented by Visa will be open early for local residents starting Friday, Jan. 25 – Sunday, Jan. 27 and reopening with the launch of the NFL Experience Wednesday, Jan. 30 –

## Sunday, Feb. 3.

Tickets to the NFL Experience are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under, and permit entry for a particular day and time. Tickets can be purchased over the phone by calling (866) TIX-4NFL (849-4635), online at www.SuperBowl.com or at Mercedes Benz Superdome box office at Gate A. Beginning Jan. 30, opening day of NFL Experience driven by GMC, fans can purchase tickets at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center box office. Tickets sold at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center box office will go on sale one hour before opening daily. Tickets purchased by phone

and online are subject to a Ticketmaster service charge.

Proceeds from NFL Experience ticket sales will support philanthropic initiatives for youth in New Orleans in conjunction with the Super Bowl.

## 2013 NFL Experience Schedule of Events

(subject to change):

Wednesday, Jan. 30:  
3 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 31:  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 1:  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2:  
10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 3:  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More complete information on NFL Experience's schedule of events, attractions, player appearances and more can be found at www.SuperBowl.com.

**Super Bowl Gospel Celebration.** Fri, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. NFL-sanctioned Gospel concert at UNO Lakefront Arena will feature Grammy Award-winning musical artists, active and retired NFL players (including Hall of Famers) and celebrity guests. Admission: \$48.95-\$110.75.

**Marshall Faulk's One Night Only.** Thurs, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. Africa for the Future presents its inaugural benefit, hosted by NFL Hall of Famer Marshall Faulk and featuring silent and live auctions, an open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, and musical performances by Jonathan Batiste and Les Nubians, as well as students from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts. The event at the Columns Hotel features confirmed celebrity guests: NFL Hall of Famers Faulk, Michael Irvin and Eric Dickerson; actors Dwight Henry and Wendell Pierce; and NFL Super Bowl champ (and former New Orleans Saint) Darren Sharper. Admission: \$250 per person.

**Super Bash New Orleans.** Fri, Feb. 1 at 10 p.m. The Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce and 100 Black Men of America host a benefit at New Orleans Museum of Art with live entertainment by DJ Spinderella. Admission: \$150 general admission, \$250 VIP.

**Taste of the NFL.** Sat. Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. Food and wine tasting featuring a top chef from each of the 32 NFL team markets paired with a current or former NFL player from each team. The extravaganza at Morial Convention Center also features live entertainment, silent and live auctions. Admission: Individuals, \$600; VIP tables of 10, \$7,000.

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# Super Bowl XLVII'S Star-Studded Verizon Super Bowl Boulevard Music Line-Up

## Local Favorites to Rock Woldenberg Park, Jan. 31-Feb. 3

Local stars will flood Woldenberg Park to perform for both visiting and local football fans at Verizon Super Bowl Boulevard, Thursday, Jan. 31, through Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3. The Host Committee and Festival Production Inc.- New Orleans' Quint Davis announced the Verizon Super Bowl Boulevard music line-up full of New Orleans favorites.

Verizon Super Bowl Boulevard, on the grounds of the Audubon Institute's Woldenberg Park, will feature a four-day lineup of local music artists, popular food and beverage offerings, live national television broadcasts, interactive fan events, and the iconic larger-than-life Super Bowl roman nu-



Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue

merals. Free to the public, the Verizon Super Bowl Boulevard opens Thursday, Jan. 31, at 5 p.m. and runs daily until 10 p.m. through Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 3, when it will close at 2 p.m.

### The line-up is as follows:

#### Thursday, Jan. 31

Hot Club of New Orleans, High Ground Drifters Bluegrass, Cameron Dupuy & Cajun Trouba-

dours, Smitty Dee's Brass Band, Amanda Shaw & The Cute Guys, Lyle Henderson & Emanu-EL, Original Dixieland Jazz Band, Stooges Brass Band, Bonerama

#### Friday, Feb. 1

Pine Leaf Boys, The Iguanas, Mem Shannon, Gal Holiday & Honky Tonk Revue, The Palmetto Bug Stompers, TBC Brass Band, Dwayne Dopsie & the Zydeco Hellraisers, Lagniappe Brass Band, Walter "Wolfman" Washington & The Roadmasters, James Andrews, Ingrid Lucia, Barbara Shorts, Leo Jackson & The Melody Clouds, Tuba Skinny, Kinfolk Brass Band, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue

#### Saturday, Feb. 2

Bruce Daigrepoint Cajun Band, Sunpie & the LA Sun-

spots, Kristin Diable, Lars Edegran's New Orleans Jazz Band, Young Pinstripe Brass Band, Tab Benoit, John Mooney, Roddie Romero & The Hub-City Allstars, Lost Bayou Ramblers, Creole String Beans, Meschya Lake, Vivaz, Betty Winn & One A-Chord, Mahogany Brass Band, Rebirth Brass Band

#### Sunday, Feb. 3

Washboard Chaz Blues Trio, David Doucet Cajun Trio, New-Birth Brass Band, Soul Rebels, Cynthia Girtley's Gospel, Papa Grows Funk, Charmaine Neville, Treme Brass Band, Tim Laughlin

For information on Super Bowl XLVII and for a complete schedule of Verizon Super Bowl Boulevard events and entertainment, visit [www.NolaSuperBowl.com](http://www.NolaSuperBowl.com).

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Malveaux/ Continued  
from page 8.

some of those around him probably did the same. No excuses. But in a winner take all culture, what do we expect?

Now Armstrong has humbled himself by admitting he was wrong after adamantly denied he was doping. Why now... to clean up his name, to get back in the game, to keep raising money for his cancer-fighting organization? Like the foundation of our nation's culture, though, Armstrong is both a liar and a cheat.

It is a shame that Lance Armstrong chose to cheat during his biking career. If we had to recite a litany of cheaters, we'd have to start with the Pilgrims, the Founding Fathers that condoned slavery, and move on from there.

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

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# Destiny's Child to Reunite at Super Bowl



Destiny's Child

## Beyonce to headline the February 3rd halftime show.

Destiny's Child will reunite at the Super Bowl halftime show on February 3rd, which member Beyoncé is headlining, sources confirm to Us Weekly.

According to reports, Beyoncé will open the show, and will eventually be joined by Destiny's Child bandmates Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland. The trio will perform a short medley of their biggest hits, as well as a new song, "Nuclear," which the group said yesterday would be on an upcoming compilation called Love Songs. Then, Beyoncé will return to center stage solo for the big finale, which is said to include the premiere of a track from her upcoming new album.

Daniels/ Continued from page 8.

state legislatures; their resistance to pursuing reasonable solutions to the crisis of undocumented immigration; their continuing to try to find ways to undermine Blacks' right to vote, to mention just a few.

But we should also realize that the president's re-election not only cemented in history his individual importance. It also underscored the rise of multicultural America as a powerful, progressive voting force which enabled Obama to overcome the most dangerous reactionary threat to democracy the country has faced since the Civil War. In that regard, America's current polarization is a stark, and welcome, reminder that we're still fighting for the full

measure of our rights as Americans – and that at this moment we're winning.

So, if you happened to be at a celebration marking Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, or an event marking the second inauguration of President Barack Obama, and some of the 1960s civil rights freedom songs were sung, you should realize that wasn't an indulgence in nostalgia but an acknowledgment of our present reality – and responsibility.

Lee A. Daniels is a longtime journalist based in New York City. His latest book is, Last Chance: The Political Threat to Black America.

## The Teacher Who Changed My Life

### An Essay Contest By New America Media and Local Ethnic Media

### New Deadline: February 4, 2013

**WHAT:** Data News Weekly is partnering with New America Media (NAM) and other media partners in New Orleans, LA to organize an essay contest on teachers. We invite you to write a short essay (500 words max) describing the teacher who changed your life or the life of your child. Who is this remarkable person? Did this person mentor you, open your mind to a subject that became your passion, help you in a personal crisis?

**DEADLINE:** February 4, 2013. (Mail-in entries must be postmarked by then). All entries are subject to the contest's Official Rules attached below.

#### ELIGIBLE CONTESTANTS

All contestants must reside in New Orleans or the surrounding parishes. You can ONLY enter one of the following categories:

##### 1) Teenagers between 14 to 18 years old;

Write about a teacher, who is not your relative, who teaches in public or private school in the city of New Orleans or the surrounding parishes.

##### 2) Adults 19 years of age and older;

Write about a teacher, who is not your relative, who teaches in public or private school in the city of New Orleans or the surrounding parishes who have changed your life or the life of your child.

##### 3) Teachers in Memory

Write about a teacher, who is not your relative, who might have passed away or lost contact with, or a teacher who taught you in your home country.

#### ESSAY FORMAT

Essay writers are invited to write up to 500 words. In English or in the writer's native language. In-language submissions will be translated prior to final judging. Essays should be sent us via email or regular mail, along with the Entry Form (See below).

#### JUDGES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Distinguished educators, journalists, scholars and advocates will select a winner from each category. Judges will look for evidence that the teacher opened up a new pathway of knowledge or opportunity for the student that he or she had previously not been aware of, or that the teacher inspired or fostered a love of learning. We are looking for real life examples and expect the entries will help us expand our definition of what a "great teacher" is.

#### AWARDS

Winners in the "Teenager" and "Adult" categories will each receive a cash award of \$500 and the teachers profiled will also receive an award of \$500. Winner in "Teacher In Memory" will have the honor to pick a local public school in New Orleans or the surrounding parishes to donate a \$500 check made by NAM.

#### AWARD PRESENTATION

We will host a special presentation of the awards in New Orleans in February. Winning essays will be published by NAM and other media outlets.

#### FOR ENTRY FORM & OFFICIAL RULES, PLEASE VISIT:

[www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

TO JOIN, PLEASE EMAIL OR MAIL YOUR ESSAY ALONG WITH THE ENTRY FORM TO:

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