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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Newsmaker

Page 6

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Jefferson Indicted

June 9, 2007 41st Year Volume 37 www.ladatanews.com

The Soul of New Orleans



Page 2

Data News Weekly Celebrates its 41st Anniversary

(The Continuing Importance of the African-American Media)

By Edwin Buggage

In 1827 John Russwurm and Samuel Cornish started the first African-American newspaper aptly called Freedom's Journal where they covered a wide variety of issues affecting African-Americans and was one of the primary organ that shed light on the inhumanity of the institution of slavery. Nearly two centuries later the African-American media still serves as the collective voice of those that are sometimes not heard in the mainstream media. In New Orleans over four decades ago Joseph 'AòScoop' Jones had a vision to create a paper that would focus on the people and places of New Orleans in the African-American community. Today 41 years later Data News Weekly has stayed true to its motto as truly being the people's paper, covering the city's events and the movers and shakers in this critical time for the city

as it faces the monumental task of rebuilding. Since Hurricane Katrina Data News Weekly has become an industry leader, garnering several national awards for its coverage of the unfolding events in the city of New Orleans.

Many prominent people from various sectors of the New Orleans community feel that their still is a need for another voice that truly represents the people of the city and Data News Weekly fills that void. Dr. James Caillier, Executive Director of the Pat Taylor Foundation says, "I appreciate that Data News Weekly came back so quickly to be a voice to inform New Orleanians wherever they are, and offering information about the progress of the city and offering positive stories." "I just hope that the rest of the city had taken the same aggressive approach in the rebuilding of



"Throughout history the presence of an independent voices in the media was critical during every major civil and social movement, as is now during the recovery."

Sheriff Marlin Gusman

Continued page 4.

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Alice Stacker, Public Charter School Parent.

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- Charter schools are public schools. They are publicly funded, cannot charge tuition, and participate in Leap testing and the Louisiana’s School Accountability system.
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This message is supported by
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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

New Orleans maybe we would be in a different position today.”

As the story of the city continues to unfold before the eyes of the world the African-American perspective becomes even more essential according to New Orleans District Attorney Eddie Jordan, “It is extremely important that African-Americans have institutions like Data News Weekly

it is a publication that provides a unique perspective on issues facing the community at large and issues that may have special significance in the African-American community, it’s also important that we have an independent voice that looks at these issues from a standpoint that is unduly influenced by the mainstream media.”

While the road to recovery

has been a slow one according to Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus Chair Cedric Richmond, “I am still not satisfied with how slow the recovery is taking, but it is getting better.” He also sees the importance of the African-American Media and Data News Weekly continued effort to be the voice of the people of New Orleans. “I think the Data News

Weekly is an important part of the New Orleans Community and has been vital in getting the information our people need in this crucial time for our city.”

A city that in his State of the City address Mayor Ray Nagin said, “Is a city that is worth saving. We weren’t willing to give up the place we call home.” “So we held on and our strength and

determination carried us through those dark and difficult days. So where are we today? What is the state of the city of New Orleans?”

“My friends, the state of our city is one of strength and determination; we have endured and survived more than any thought possible.” This unique moment in history also placed monumental challenges on the African-American media in New Orleans, but Data News Weekly persevered and more than ever became the voice of the voiceless and the primary organ of the people of New Orleans that wanted a perspective that more closely mirrored their own.

A fact not lost on Criminal Sheriff Marlin Gusman, “Throughout history the presence of an independent voices in the media was critical during every major civil and social movement, as is now during the recovery.” “And I congratulate Data for keeping the torch burning and for keeping us informed.” Veteran Civil Rights Activist Jerome Smith understands the importance of the African-American media and

Continued next page.



“It is extremely important that African-Americans have institutions like Data News Weekly it is a publication that provides a unique perspective on issues facing the community at large and issues that may have special significance in the African-American community”

District Attorney Eddie Jordan

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

says as data enters its forty-first year that is more important than ever, "I think its more than needed because the one daily newspaper in the city is not going to address certain issues, its always necessary that we have some news organ that's emotionally connected to the reality of what black life is, I think black media is absolutely essential." But he feels that the progress of the city and its recovery has been lackluster and misguided, "My position has been that the city is indifferent to the absence of Black children and is not on the agenda in any serious kind of way, and I feel the great sin of this recovery has been that you can't define progress by things that are material some things are spiritual it is a crime for those children not to be back in the city or what their doing as far as leadership consistent with any form of universal decency."

Rev. Samson 'Skip' Alexander, is also a native New Orleanian and veteran civil rights activist who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. he likens the importance of the African-American media as a vehicle to recognize freedom and equality, "The African-American media is our Under-

out money." "I think those in leadership are doing the best they can but they don't have any money, so I ask who of us could do any better without the money necessary to do the job, and it doesn't matter if you have all the talent in the world without money what can you do?"

One of those persons who have been at the forefront of the struggle to get the resources to rebuild is New Orleans City Councilman-at-Large Oliver Thomas. He commends citizens who have taken matters into their own hands in the rebuilding of their homes and their lives, but feels a multifaceted approach with every segment of the community working together and with the necessary resources would expedite and make the recovery a more effective one, "The citizens have done a wonderful job, small business owners and community leaders and we've tried to at least help them as city leaders with the small resources we do have, but it has been the citizens who have led the way and that's a good thing, but the bad thing about it is citizens can only sustain this for so long." "There is a need for major leadership at every level of leadership, federal, state

"Data, information, facts, another point of view, and it is awfully important and information outlets like Data News Weekly is even more important now than they were then, because their "so much information now, so right now Data News is as vital as our heartbeat."

**Oliver Thomas
City Council President**

ground Railroad, it's like how could we do without the Underground Railroad and say we're going to get out of slavery, so the African-American media tells the story just how it is and with the interest of the African-Americans in mind." "And that has always been the case where stories affect our community; even when Dr. King was assassinated all the Black newspapers immediately put that news into the community where the white papers came two days later with a big headline saying he had been assassinated." Alexander feels the recovery effort is at a standstill but understands without adequate resources much cannot be done, "I don't think we're making any progress right now because we don't have any money, and we cannot make progress with-

and local and they need the resources coming in. Because leadership without resources to help people who have been through the worst natural disaster in the history of America just leadership isn't enough."

Councilman Thomas echoes the words of many city leaders that the minority media and newspapers like Data News Weekly are more important and vital to the survival of the Black community of New Orleans than ever. "Data, information, facts, another point of view, and it is awfully important and information outlets like Data News Weekly is even more important now than they were then, because their "so much information now, so right now Data News is as vital as our heartbeat."

"I appreciate that Data News Weekly came back so quickly to be a voice to inform New Orleanians wherever they are."

Dr. James Callier



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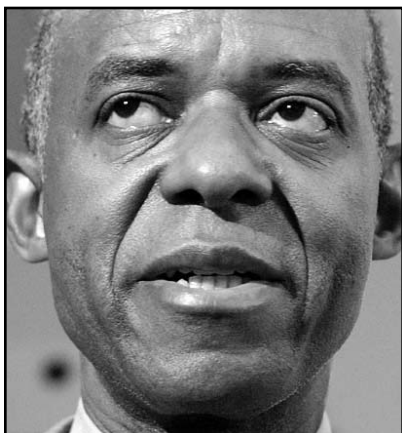
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Feds Indict Congressman William Jefferson



By Richard B. Schmitt and Ann Simmons

WASHINGTON – Rep. William J. Jefferson, D-La., was indicted Monday for allegedly using his congressional office to enrich himself and his family through a pattern of fraud, bribery and corruption that spanned five years and two continents.

The charges, the first against a Democratic member of Congress in the wake of the Justice Department's recent crackdown on pub-

lic corruption, follow a two-year investigation that gained attention when FBI agents raided Jefferson's home and found \$90,000 in cash stuffed in his freezer.

The 16-count, 94-page indictment, handed up Monday by a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Va., contains the first charges brought against a U.S. official for violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, enacted 30 years ago to combat bribery of foreign officials by U.S. corporations.

The allegations of money laundering, bribery and racketeering accuse Jefferson of soliciting millions of dollars in fees and company stock in exchange for using his office to promote wide-ranging business interests in West Africa, including a telecommunications start-up, an oil-exploration company and a waste-recycling company.

He allegedly negotiated one deal

in a congressional dining room on Capitol Hill and took official trips abroad to promote ventures in which he or his family had a financial stake, without disclosing the true intention of the travel on congressional disclosure forms.

Jefferson, 60, a member of Congress since 1990, is expected to be arraigned and enter a plea of not guilty Friday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria. If convicted on all charges, he could be sentenced to up to 235 years in prison.

Addressing the media outside his Los Angeles office, Jefferson attorney Robert Trout said that "Congressman Jefferson is innocent," and that "he plans to fight this indictment and clear his name."

Trout told reporters that the Justice Department had inspected every aspect of Jefferson's public and private life, and he accused federal agents of contriving to "trap" Jefferson in a government sting.

"But even after they had turned over every rock, they did not allege in this indictment that [Jefferson had] promised anybody any

legislation," Trout said. "There is no suggestion that he promised anyone any appropriations. There were no earmarks. There were no government contracts."

"None of the things that congressmen do is in this indictment," Trout said.

Jefferson is charged with soliciting bribes from 11 companies for himself and his family, as well as bribing a Nigerian government official. The alleged scheme covered five years, from August 2000 to August 2005, and included a front company that Jefferson allegedly set up to hide the money.

"But the essence of the charges are really very simple," said Chuck Rosenberg, the U.S. attorney in Alexandria. "Mr. Jefferson corruptly traded on his good office and on the Congress."

Jefferson first attracted the interest of federal investigators in 2005 in connection with his role in promoting a fledgling Louisville, Ky., digital-technology company, iGate, which was looking to gain a foothold in Africa. An investor in the venture became concerned and contacted the FBI, and agreed to wear a listening device for federal authorities.

According to the indictment, Jefferson told the investor during a meeting in July 2005 that he would need \$500,000 to bribe a Nigerian official to ensure "that the little hook is in there." The investor delivered \$100,000 in cash – marked bills from the FBI – that was intended as a first installment on the bribe. Jefferson later assured the investor that he had delivered the "African art" to the official.

The FBI eventually found \$90,000 of the marked bills in Jefferson's freezer, "wrapped in aluminum foil, and concealed inside various frozen food containers," according to the indictment.



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Timeline

Developments in the bribery investigation and indictment of Rep. William Jefferson, D-La.

July 30, 2005: The FBI alleges that Jefferson accepted \$100,000 in a briefcase from an FBI informant identified as Lori Mody, a businesswoman from Virginia. Jefferson believed Mody was collaborating with him in a scheme to bribe Nigerian officials so the pair could enter the Nigerian telecommunications market, according to the FBI.

Aug. 3, 2005: The FBI raids Jefferson's homes in New Orleans and Washington, D.C. At his Washington home, the FBI says it found \$90,000 of the money Jefferson took from Mody packaged in aluminum foil and stuffed inside frozen-food containers in his freezer.

Jan. 11, 2006: Brett Pfeffer, a former Jefferson aide, pleads guilty in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., to bribery-related charges. He admits to aiding and abetting bribery of a public official and conspiracy.

May 3, 2006: Vernon Jackson, a Louisville, Ky., businessman, pleads guilty to paying more than \$400,000 in bribes to a phony company headed by Jefferson's wife, Andrea, and family members to obtain favors from the congressman.

May 20, 2006: FBI raids Jefferson's congressional office, leading to a constitutional dispute over separation of powers.

May 21, 2006: FBI releases a 95-page affidavit detailing allegations against Jefferson.

Dec. 9, 2006: Jefferson re-elected to the House of Representatives with 57 percent of the vote.

June 4, 2007: Jefferson named in a 16-count indictment charging him with racketeering, wire fraud, money laundering, conspiracy, soliciting bribes, obstruction of justice and violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, which prohibits corporate bribery overseas.

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Glenn Jones and the officers of NBMBAA, New Orleans Chapter meet with N.O. Chief Development Officer Donna Addikson and Darryl Ward Deputy Chief Administrative Asst. for Jefferson Parish



Business After Hours attendees get important business information from SBA officials



N.O. Chief Development Officer Donna Addikson gives BAH attendees great recovery information



Alvarez Stampely, President of NBMBAA, New Orleans Chapter chats with Norbert Rome, president of New Orleans Community Coalition



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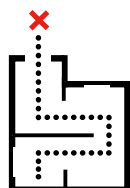
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What Is Racism



The Love Dr.
Data Columnist

I'm sorry, but at the age of 56, I have concluded that racism will never die. It's global, has survived for centuries, conquered the world, and is still just too profitable to go away.

The spread of the Western "European" across the globe from the tiny Western tip of Asia was fueled by the assumption that the European was superior and that he had a God given right to take from, and invade others for the sake of accumulation (greed). That is the essence of Racism. Some people act like they don't understand what we are talking about when we accuse them of practicing it or benefiting from it (which if coupled with inaction is the same as practicing it.)

A series of Catholic Popes validated each and every transgression against the rest of humanity, and received tribute, much of which remains as the gold of the Vatican.

Ever wonder how the followers of a Christ who had to be convinced to ride a donkey, accumulated so much wealth, or what fueled and funded the Renaissance (literacy) of Europe. The cooperation of religion is essential to the success of racism.

The greedy (who probably knew better) had to find a way around the principals touted in Christianity, where people were to do unto others as they would for themselves. The loophole was to change public opinion, to get regular every day Europeans to accept the idea of "races" of people, that some people really weren't people like "us". It is interesting that the greatest war in Europe was to stop the logical extension of "races", the idea of Aryan (blonde hair/blue eyed) superiority over other Europeans.

The Church provided the moral loophole by having "missionaries" accompany all expeditions, in a sort of "its ok to rob, maim, rape or kill the other races as long as you saved their souls", and just as the Spanish Inquisition had issued in the dark ages in Europe, the missionaries did the same in the colonies, dismantling sustainable cultures and destroying folk wisdom and healing knowledge as "superstitious nonsense" or "witchcraft".

What allowed the European to spread from his part of Asia was the use of boats as weapons, something both relearned from the Romans/Greeks (from the Egyptians), and passed down from the predatory Norseman culture of the frozen north, where the almost complete lack of melanin pigment creates blonde hair and blue eyes.

Europeans had reached a point where due to feudalism's breaking up and misuse of the land they could hardly sustain themselves, and were constantly warring with one another as a result. The development of weapon technology was spurred by intense winner take all competition for land. White people became extremely mobile, extremely aggressive and knew how to kill people. They also had hardened immune systems and virulent diseases from living in squalid conditions for generations.

By the way, white people are white because there is less sunlight as you go further north. There is sufficient sunlight around the center of the planet that even abundant melanin doesn't prevent sufficient vitamin D from being produced in the skin. Without dietary sources of vitamin D dark skinned people cannot live in the artic. That's why there is such a range of color among "white" people, tan skinned Sicilians to the extremely pale of Sweden and Norway. it's a vitamin D thing.

Other cultures had gone to sea. It the west we have an insignificant argument about who was the first European to "discover" America. First, the whole idea that something wasn't "discovered" until a European saw it, is testimony about the assumptions of Racism that were taught in schools as a matter of fact.

England is probably the birthplace of racism. Used against the Irish, English landlords were freed to abuse the Irish, and allow them to starve without needed assistance (kind of like Katrina). Carefully

copy this and use this link for a quick education about this period in the life of Racism, http://www.nde.state.ne.us/SS/irish/unit_2.html

Seeing Irish people practice racism against blacks is a sobering reminder of the powerful pervasiveness of the beliefs racism teaches through almost every institution... in the world. Thinking of racism as an American result of slavery is a big mistake. Any place in the world where another race is in the way of profit the tool is in use. Africa suffers the most.

Rich in resources Africa was colonized, as well as having its richest region, the West Coast, raped of its able bodied people for centuries. Using their weapons the Europeans gave certain "tribes" power over others within lines that never existed we call now national borders. Africans didn't need the "borders" for their nations were tribes of people, who may have had "territories" that they claimed and defended. Tribes weren't ruled by other tribes. Modern tribalism in Africa is a racist institution that is now eagerly maintained by Africans (the powerful tribes).

Greed is not a white or black thing, but racism is a real construction of rules and results that creates benefits for whites (or African tribes) at the expense of other races (or African tribes). Racism was both the foundation for and result of European colonialism... and religion made it possible.

Happy Anniversary Data News Weekly



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*On behalf of the Board of Directors,
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Coalition on Black Civic Participation
we extend heartfelt congratulations to the
Data News Weekly
for faithfully serving the community
for 41 years.*

Melanie Campbell

Executive Director and CEO



Hip-Hop 101 Part 1

Corporate Hip Hop –The New Minstrel Show

Edwin Buggage
Data News Weekly Editor

Hip-Hop was once a music that was on the cutting edge, with its raw grit told the tales of inner-city life, covering its joys and pains, its ups and downs in rhythmic verse over music. The hybrid nature of Hip-Hop borrows from many cultural practices in the African-American community and is tied to a historical tradition of the genius of African-Americans using the spoken word and music to make sense of their precarious predicament in America. Hip-Hop music incorporates playing the dozens, nursery rhymes, the personal narrative of the blues, and the improvisational style of jazz. These modern day urban griots have become the voices of the voiceless, and at their best are tied to a tradition of struggle similar to Richard Wright's character Bigger Thomas in *Native Son* or the nameless protagonist in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*.

Hip-Hop more than any other recent cultural phenomenon has become a vital part of the entertainment universe affecting many aspects of popular culture. With the ascendance of Hip-Hop we have witnessed it going from the streets to the suites, with it having an impact all over the globe. No longer, just a cultural production isolated in its indigenous environment, it is used to sell products and has been co-opted by companies who originally were reluctant to align themselves with this new form of music. But now they see the potential to capitalize on its appeal in the selling of its products and it has made many people extremely wealthy, and given visibility and mainstream acceptance to many recording artist who double as pitchmen of products.

But with this acceptance inside the elite corporate coffers the art form has become less cutting edge and simply part of the status quo. Mainstream Hip-Hop today resembles a toothless tiger in the hands of companies who truly do not care about the preservation of it as an art form but only as a means to appear hip and make a profit. This has reduced the

subculture from something that was vast, varied and relevant, to simply the presentation of one dimensional caricatures that play to the worst of historical stereotypes of African-Americans.

Corporations today that once showed only a passing interest in the music as a novelty now invest millions of dollars in its promotion and dissemination. Additionally many of the people who benefit the most financially from the music have a deep disdain for it and see it as no more than a bunch of noise, but they put it out there making hundreds of millions of dollars possibly billions. While today the music's reach is unprecedented, much of the bite has been sapped away, leaving the music generic, boring, and bland. Hip-Hop was once a music that resembled a beautiful collage of sounds, but today resembles paint by the numbers, with a simple formula; the easy to sing hook and contrived images of the artist, and the predictable video. The once threatening images of N.W.A. saying F-K Tha Police and Public Enemy proclaiming Fight The Power and Don't Believe The Hype have been replaced by cartoon like characters getting crunk, or mindless hedonistic songs and odes to jewels and cars or childish braggadocio, or songs degrading and debasing females or non-threatening muscle bound rappers talking about how many times they've been shot and survived, and then being able to make love all night; basically, corporate Hip-Hop has become blaxploitation with a beat.

The mainstream Hip-Hop scene today seems more like an up to date minstrel show with the mythic stereotypes of the coon, buck, and sambo taken to new heights. But what is ironic is while the persons portraying these images and are receiving much of the flack are African-Americans these historical stereotypes were created by white performers who performed in blackface, parodying and grossly exaggerating black behavior, but now these same images are being played by blacks, who make Faustian Bargains becoming the co-conspirators in

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Continued on page 15.

Mayor Nagin: State Of The City Address

By Benjamin Bates

Photo by Christopher Williams

Inside the D-Day Museum New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin surrounded by city leaders spoke enthusiastically about the city's progress while criticizing the state as well as the federal government seemingly failed effort to expedite the city's recovery.

He began his speech saying that this is an interesting time for the city, noting all the unfortunate things that have happened since Hurricane Katrina, but on an optimistic note said, "Tonight I want to talk about one New Orleans and one future." "A Story of determination, a story of love." During his speech he retold the continuing saga of Katrina up to the present day saying that throughout the process that he has been steadfast in his stances leading him to say, "These tough decisions have brought me more than my share of controversy."

In his speech he spelled out several accomplishments of his administration post Katrina, saying how they have streamlined and reorganized city government from top to bottom, and also

how the city is in better fiscal shape saying, "Moody's has recently returned the city of New Orleans bond status from "junk" to "stable." Continuing he said, "This vote of confidence from Wall Street recognizes our prudent fiscal management and signals that the city is open for business and that New Orleans is a good investment."

He touted that the city is on the road to recovery citing the thriving tourism industry, "Our tourism industry is seeing positive signs of recovery." "We witnessed record numbers of visitors for Mardi Gras and Jazz Fest, hotels and conventions are coming in at a steady pace and Essence Festival, Sugar Bowl and Bayou Classic have all returned."

But as he talked of many of the positive things that have been happening in the city, he had harsh criticism for the Bush Administration and what he called their failed promises, "Most of the 100 billion dollars that has been allocated for the Gulf Coast Region has not reached municipalities like New Orleans." "President Bush promised at Jackson Square to do whatever it takes

to heal New Orleans."

"Because the funding has not reached the affected areas and the people that promise has not been fulfilled." He also had criticism for the much maligned Louisiana Road Home Program calling it a misguided

policy and saying that while the state has a record surplus that the devastated southern part of Louisiana must become a priority saying, "As New Orleans recovers, so does Louisiana."

As he spoke from the podium to the capacity crowd and the world via CNN he plead his case saying that New Orleans is not looking for a handout and that the city is poised and ready to heal



the wounds of the past and become one city united moving ahead to the future. "We have a vision, we have a plan, we made the tough decision to position us for a full recovery, we have chosen life over death; we will rebuild, one New Orleans, one Louisiana."

For the full transcript of the Mayor's State of the City Address, visit www.ladatanews.com.

Time for Change in New Orleans



C. Ray Nagin

Mayor, City of New Orleans

This legislative session presents an opportunity unlike any we in Louisiana have witnessed in recent history. With a budget surplus that exceeds \$1 billion, the State has an opportunity to invest in the future of Louisiana and our children.

We can not afford to squander this

temporary infusion. This surplus was generated largely as a result of spending related to the recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. And while this boom is expected to continue for the near future, it won't last forever. When it is over, we need to have created a better Louisiana.

New Orleans is seeing positive signs of renewal. City sales tax collections are now 88 percent of pre-Katrina amounts. Among medium to large businesses, 97 percent have returned, and 88.9 percent of Class A office space in the Central Business District is occupied. In addition, building permits are trending upward. We anticipate a \$60 billion construction boom over the next five to seven years.

We also have a recovery plan that has been endorsed by members of the City Council, the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority and other significant partners throughout the city and the nation. Touching all areas of the city, this plan identified 17 targeted redevelopment zones. These zones will be anchored by clusters of homes, businesses and public assets to avoid blight

and will spur additional development. Using local and federal money, the city will invest approximately \$1.1 billion in these zones and throughout the city as we continue to accelerate our recovery.

New Orleans and Louisiana both have significant unmet needs that the state's surplus could help to address. Our recovery provides a time for change in Louisiana. Louisiana and New Orleans must rebuild together. The state can be positioned to be more competitive through smart allocation of resources to address historic challenges such as healthcare and education reform.

My specific proposals for the state include:

- Advance local municipalities 75 percent of obligated federal funds as allowed under the Stafford Act to accelerate the recovery of affected areas. Obligated funds have been promised by the federal government but have not yet funneled through the state bureaucracy to the local level.
- Create a commuter rail system connecting New Orleans to Baton Rouge. The system should be created with the flexibility to expand throughout

the state, especially for emergency and evacuation purposes.

- Design and reconstruct approximately 12 miles of the city's major thoroughfares.
- Improve roads and bridges.
- Amend legislation to make design-build a legal option for rebuilding projects.
- Create the Hurricane Katrina Tax Recovery and Jobs Incentives Zone to offer incentives to businesses doing value-added manufacturing of certain products.
- Phase out the personal income tax over five years.
- Remove the surcharge for Citizens Property Insurance Corporation policyholders for three years.

Citizens of New Orleans and Louisiana deserve the best. We can't afford to squander this opportunity to use these excess funds in the most meaningful way.

We must strive to improve New Orleans for our children and our grandchildren. They are depending on us.

City Gets "NOLA Ready" For 2007 Hurricane Season

Text Notification System To Alert Real-Time Emergencies

On Thursday, May 31, Mayor C. Ray Nagin and the City of New Orleans Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Preparedness will host a press briefing focused on the 2007 evacuation plan, the city assisted evacuation plan and hurricane preparedness for New Orleans residents. The city will also introduce the new, high-tech emergency notification system that will assist in delivering real-time messages in times of emergency.

During this press briefing, the Department of Homeland Security will launch a city-wide emergency text communication system called NOLA Ready developed by the Roam Secure Alert Network (RSAN). RSAN will power the system so that real time emergency messages are delivered to first responders, local government officials, business owners and registered residents of New Orleans. This system will also allow for shared emergency information with surrounding parishes, across Louisiana and across the country.

"NOLA Ready ensures that we can stay connected in the event of another major disaster or even routine emergency situations. We are urging all residents to register with this system through their cell phones so that we can deliver vital information to them and they can be prepared for any emergency circumstances that may arise," said Mayor Nagin.

Text communication was the only effective means of communication in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita when most of the region's infrastructure was severely damaged. All registered participants will receive information about necessary evacuations, possible flooding, power loss, and communications disruptions. The system will deliver real-time text messages and will also provide situation reports and life-saving alerts to emergency managers via email, cell phones, pagers, blackberries and Treos. A demonstration of the text system will be offered during the briefing.

"In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, we understood the necessity of communication not only with federal, state and local officials, but more importantly with our residents," said Colonel Terry Ebbert, Director of Homeland Security. "The city's communication tools are an important part of emergency preparedness and a major part of our hurricane season plans for the future."

"We're getting ready for any type of event that may occur because our main objective is to provide vital public safety information to all of our citizens," said Lieutenant Colonel Jerry Sneed, Director of the Mayor's Office of Emergency Preparedness. "NOLA Ready offers that additional tool in a chest of plans and preparations for a major hurricane and any other type of disaster."

While the 2007 Hurricane Season is only 48 hours away, Mayor Nagin and Col. Ebbert have worked diligently during these past 22 months to develop and enhance strategies to keep all New Orleanians safe in the event of an emergency. Last year, the Office of Emergency Preparedness rolled out the City Assisted Evacuation Plan (CAEP), a first in the nation. This evacuation plan was developed and will be utilized to assist special needs residents in evacuating the city in the event of an emergency.

If a hurricane threatens the City of New Orleans, and Mayor Nagin issues a mandatory evacuation order, all residents will be urged to vacate the city within the given timeframe.

"The City of New Orleans will not offer any shelters of last resort. Everyone's personal safety will depend on evacuating quickly and calmly and having a plan. Planning means understanding the possible danger ahead, learning how to plan ahead for travel, shelter, and communication needs, and deciding in advance what you need from your home," said Ebbert.

The Office of Emergency Preparedness has also been participating in a number of emergency

drills, and, along with senior staff from throughout the city, participated in a series of rigorous training exercises last week to sharpen their emergency response skills and to help the city to become more prepared as the start hurricane season approaches.

In addition to the Federal Emergency Training Exercise in Maryland, the Mayor's Office of Emergency Preparedness is conducting a series of informational sessions to educate individuals in a variety of organizations and media outlets in New Orleans about the city's evacuation plan and the City Assisted Evacuation Plan. The sessions also focus on the organization's emergency plan and individual personal plans.

The informational sessions were developed to educate each organization about the need for partnerships in keeping citizens safe, to give each organization a chance to see and understand the city's plans for emergency evacuations, and to help them create their own plans in preparing for the next storm to come.

"We've been talking to media outlets and city agencies to keep everyone focused on staying safe. We're taking our briefings to senior citizens, city employees, tourism and communications professionals and all local media outlets throughout the city. The idea is to educate as many residents as possible about the need to be prepared," said Sneed.

The city continues to urge all citizens to develop a personal preparedness and evacuation plan that would include packing emergency supplies such as non-perishable food items, bottled water, flashlights and batteries, medications and a change of clothing for an approximate three-day period.

For more information on the city's Evacuation Plan and the City Assisted Evacuation Plan for special needs residents, contact the city information hotline by dialing 311 or (504) 658-2299. To register for the notification text system, log onto www.nolaready.info.

NOLAReady

New Orleans Community Alert System administered by the New Orleans Office of Emergency Preparedness

Lt. Col. Jerry Sneed, Director

NOLAReady is an alert system that allows City Officials to contact you during an emergency by sending text messages to your:

- E-mail account (work, home, etc)
- Cell phone
- Pager, BlackBerry

Here are examples of when **NOLAReady** may be used:

- Life-threatening weather
- Amber Alerts
- Highly disruptive road shutdowns
- Evacuation or Shelter in Place information
- Boil water notices
- Information about emergency shelters
- Other emergency information

When an emergency occurs, authorized senders will instantly notify you using **NOLAReady**.

NOLAReady is your personal connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.

While **NOLAReady** is a free city service, your wireless carrier may charge you a **fee** to receive messages on your cellphone.

To Register for NOLAReady visit www.cityofno.com and click on NOLAReady.

How to Prepare For Hurricane Season List

In preparation for the 2007 Hurricane Season, the City of New Orleans Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Preparedness recommends that everyone develop a personal evacuation plan that would include emergency supplies for at least a three-day period.

If a Category 3 hurricane threatens the City of New Orleans, Mayor C. Ray Nagin will issue a mandatory evacuation order in which all residents will be urged and are expected to vacate the City within the given timeframe. The City of New Orleans will not offer any shelters of last resort. Everyone's personal safety will depend on evacuating quickly and calmly and having a plan. Planning requires understanding the possible danger ahead, learning how to prepare ahead for travel, shelter, and communication needs, and deciding in advance what you need from your home.

- Prepare evacuation plans and kits
- Practice trailer home safety
- Be sure to evacuate elders/people with special needs
- Evacuate with your pets
- Evacuate when pregnant
- Volunteer to help others in the case of emergencies

Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- One gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Manual can opener
- Eating utensils
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Prescribed medical supplies such as glucose and blood pressure monitoring equipment and supplies
- Cell Phone
- Scissors
- Tweezers
- Tube of petroleum jelly or other lubricant
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Whistle to signal for help
- Local maps

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such

as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container

- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Complete change of clothing
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

Individuals with special needs are encouraged to register their information with the City by dialing 311 or by calling (504) 658-2299. Callers will be asked several questions to determine if they are eligible for assistance. In the event of an evacuation, eligible applicants will be transported from predetermined pickup points within the City limits to state shelters. All eligible special-needs applicants must arrive at the designated pickup point on their own.

You are eligible if you:

- Have no transportation
- Have unreliable transportation

- Cannot afford fuel to leave or the cost of a hotel room
- Possess medical, physical or psychological conditions which prevent you from self-evacuating

Those with special health needs will be required to fill out a medical questionnaire so that a copy of their permanent medical record will be available during evacuations.

www.cityofno.com

Dillard University secures \$22 million in grant awards

Awards will fund recovery, research and outreach programs

(New Orleans – May 24, 2007) Dillard University has received nearly \$22 million in major awards and grants, and will use the funds to strengthen its programs and rebuild its campus. The \$22 million represents a 51% increase from last year which was, at the time, the highest amount in Dillard history [see graph below].

The awards include grants from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the National Science Foundation, and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

"Dillard University administrators and researchers are pursuing projects that bring many benefits to our students, our community, and our state," said Theodore Callier, assistant vice president for sponsored programs at Dillard. "In addition to the economic impact, the awards afford students hands-on research opportunities and allow university administrators to continue rebuilding the university."

Award highlights include:

- Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program, U.S. Department of Education - \$2.4 million for technology, student retention, and the establishment of centers in bioscience, and business and global studies.
- Hurricane Education Recovery Awards, U.S. Department of Education - \$7.5 million for critical rebuilding projects on campus, including the repair and restoration of several campus facilities such as renovation of the Will W. Alexander Library, and science laboratories and facilities.
- Hurricane Katrina Foreign Contributions Award, U.S. Department of Education - \$4.5 million to repair and restore several essential facilities including three historic dormitories (Hartzell, Camphor, and Straight Halls), as well as funding for student scholarships.

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development - \$2 million to rehabilitate and renovate academic and university-owned multi-unit housing facilities.

- Dillard University Federal Emergency Assistance, Louisiana Board of Regents - \$5.3 million to help rebuild campus facilities and provide support for faculty and staff.

- Minority Worker Training Programs, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences - \$1.5 million to implement construction and environmental remediation training through Dillard's Deep South Center for Environmental Justice. This is part of a multi-year \$6 million commitment from NIH through 2010.

- Louisiana Board of Regents Enhancement Grants - \$350,000 for faculty research and development initiatives ranging from film studies to environmental sciences and public health.

- National Science Foundation - \$561,000 for improving research and instruction in environmental and computational sciences. This is part of a multi-year \$2.8 million commitment from NSF through 2010.

- National Science Foundation - \$258,000 for collaborative research in material science with the University of New Hampshire as part of a three-year \$600,000 commitment from NSF.

Single-year funding for government-sponsored programs and research for fiscal year 2006-2007 will exceed \$22 million by June 30, 2007, with more than \$21 million already received. This likely level of funding represents approximately 51%, (\$7.3 million), more than fiscal year 2005-2006, and \$14 million above the \$8.1 million received in fiscal year 2004-2005.

"We will use these funds to ensure Dillard's commitment to excellence in research and service. These awards are vital to recovery and building the New Dillard; faculty and administrators are to be commended for a job well done," said Dr. Walter Strong, executive vice president at Dillard.

Continued from page 11.

the proliferation of these one-dimensional images. One in which the entertainment industry takes carte blanche presenting young black men as mindless misogynists who are irresponsible, and

exercise fiscally unsound behavior, and they do this without taking into account the diversity that exist within the African-American community broadcasting these images across the globe.

But the problem of the co-opting of Hip-Hop is complicated even more by the fact that even so-called underground organic artist are in many instances on the same record labels as the mainstream rappers and their music is also simply just another product that's marketed slightly different to another segment of the market. This is the sad reality of living in this our age of media consolidation where a few companies have a hand in the operation of many. So what are we to do when it comes to our images and how they are presented, because even when we control the medium we fall into some of the same pitfalls as some of the others? But today as we gain more control of our cultural creations be it in music, television, or film we must be more cognizant of the impact it has on how we are perceived. And while admittedly that even in some of the grossest stereotypes there are grains of truth, the picture of African-Americans in corporate controlled Hip-Hop is presented through a distorted one dimensional lens, but the picture of young African-Americans is one that is much broader in scope, breadth, and depth.

And while these media conglomerates presents only the most

negative aspects of the black experience; broadcasting that to the world gives others a skewed view of Black life in America you would think it was 1907 not 2007 based on some of the images presented in mainstream Hip-Hop. With its images of comic non-threatening inarticulate buffoons or cartoon like studio thugs who come across as pathetic quaint childlike figures to be laughed at. But true Hip-Hop music is multi-

faceted and diverse and is akin to the genius contained in the musical forms that preceded it, and it is important that it gets back to its rightful place in the musical pantheon, one which shows a people in the face of struggle and less than favorable historical circumstances and out of pain create works of genius through spirituals, blues, jazz, rock, roll, soul, and yes- hip-hop.

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when the sun is shining and then takes it back when it starts to rain.
We won’t be that kind of bank.”

– Alden J. McDonald, Jr.
President of Liberty Bank

What if a bank decided to do well by doing good? What if it decided to serve the underserved? What if it took a sincere interest in community and business development? And what if it did all that and managed to become rock solid?

In 1972, the founders of Liberty Bank asked those questions. Because they dared to, Liberty has become a bank that New Orleans has come to trust and many in the nation have come to respect.

Of course, like any successful institution, along the way we’ve had our share of storms and overcome many challenges. In the 1970s, we had to prove that a bank for the people and by the people could be a viable business model. We did, and became a serious player. In the 1980s and 1990s when the oil bust forced many banks to shut down, we not only survived, we thrived. Today, after enduring the most devastating natural disaster

to ever hit the United States, we are emerging stronger. Our branches are being rebuilt—not just in bricks, but in spirit. And although there is much work to do, we’re moving forward. Most importantly, Liberty Bank is healthy and looking optimistically to the future.

Our priority remains to provide excellent service to our customers and our community. For the short term, we’ll do this while helping rebuild New Orleans. For the long term, we’ll be expanding and reaching out to customers who are now residing in other communities.

It’s an interesting time. It’s a day when you the customer will build a stronger financial future and make a little bit of history. Best of all, you’ll do so while having a positive impact on the rebuilding of a major resource for America: New Orleans.

Pay us a visit online at
www.libertybank.net.

