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Louisianians Go Back to the Polls

Data Endorses Lewis & Duplessis



Cheryl Gray



Incumbent State Senator Ann Duplessis



Jalila Jefferson Bullock



Councilwoman Cynthia Willard Lewis

By Benjamin Bates

After a low voter turnout in the primary elections the citizens of Louisiana elected a new Governor Bobby Jindal making him the first person of Indian descent to be elected to the governor's seat. Several other elections took place with many races yet to be decided and the crowded field of candidates has narrowed to a few in the race to the finish line. Who will lead the city and the state in the monumental task of recovery and reforming a political system that for many seems beyond repair?

State Representative Races

There are several races for State Representative; two of which were seats vacated by the incumbents who went to seek higher office and are facing one another in a race for the Louisiana State Senate. In District 91 a seat formerly held by Jalila Jefferson-Bullock there are two candidates who are in the run-off to fill this unoccupied seat. Judy Bajoie-Phillips is one of the candidates vying for the seat. Her platform includes bringing in more insurance companies to create a more competitive and affordable rates for Louisiana homeowners and she is also an advocate of ethics reform

in government. Her opponent is Walter Leger III whose platform includes rebuilding the healthcare system in the city and state, and promoting entrepreneurship and diversifying the economy. District 95 is heated with allegations of corruption surfacing in a race where a political newcomer is up against a political veteran to see who will represent this district covering parts of Uptown New Orleans. Walker Hines is making his first run at political office. Hines is 23 years old and a recent college graduate and is the son of Bill Hines a prominent local attorney. His campaign has been a populist one where he advocates a changing of the

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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guard and moving past the status quo so that the city can move forward in post Katrina New Orleans. Una Anderson is a present member of the New Orleans School Board who recently has been connected to allegations of bribery regarding garbage hauling contracts with the schools according to statements released by convicted New Orleans Businessman Stan 'Pampy' Barre. Anderson who in addition to being a school board member serves as Executive Director of the New Orleans Neighborhood Collaborative. She says her serving in this capacity as well as the school board experience has provided her with the tools necessary to deal with important issues such as housing, education, and the economy.

District 98 is a racially and economically diverse community also located in Uptown New Orleans. It is a district where two political newcomers are in a race to fill a seat previously held by Cheryl Gray who is in the run-off for a seat in the Louisiana Senate. The frontrunner in the primary Neil Abramson garnered 43 percent of the vote and has focused his campaign primarily around an issue that many New Orleanians are concerned about, crime. He has proposed that if he is elected to devote much of his time to getting the resources the city needs to fight crime as well as spending considerable resources on rehabilitation. His opponent James Johnson ran second in the primary election capturing 23 percent of the vote. He says that he is the best candidate to fill this seat because he would be able to unite the many different segments of the New Orleans community. He presently serves the New Orleans Alcohol and Beverage Outlet Board and the New Orleans Industrial Development Board. If elected he pledges to concentrate on education reform and the escalating crime problem.

State Senate Races

In Louisiana State Senate District 2 is a hot race between two political rivals, challenger Jon Johnson and the incumbent Ann Duplessis. Spending nearly two decades in Baton Rouge, in 2003 Johnson was defeated in a close race against Duplessis. In the primary Duplessis placed first coming within one percentage point of recapturing her seat. Throughout her campaign she has pointed to her successes in helping secure the monies that went towards the recovery. The challenger Jon Johnson has been a fixture in Baton Rouge who is trying to recap-

ture the seat he once held claiming that Duplessis hasn't done an adequate job getting people back into their homes in District 2. Duplessis countered by saying that Johnson who owned several businesses which were cited for various health violations, and that he was an ineffective leader. So the race is set for these two to face off in a contest which will determine who will lead this devastated district that comprises the Lower Ninth Ward and New Orleans East.

As longtime Louisiana State Senator of District 5 Diana Bajoie stepped down from the once crowded field which comes down to two candidates connected to political families. In the primary former State Representative from District 98 Cheryl Gray, daughter of Judge Ernestine Gray and former candidate for District Attorney James Gray was the front-runner and is now paired against Jalila Jefferson-Bullock, the daughter of U.S. Congressman William Jefferson. The election to replace Bajoie has been a political catfight from the beginning where Jefferson-Bullock challenged the residency of Gray with the lawsuit eventually being dropped. The campaign has seen both candidates take verbal stabs at one another, but on October 20th Gray was the victor. During the run-off season both candidates have been seen canvassing the city to rally support for their respective campaigns and to get the nod from the voters come election day.

Judge Criminal District Court Section A

The race to replace retiring Judge Charles Ellioe is between Juana Marine Lombard, who has worked for nearly a decade inside the criminal courts as a public defender as well as in private practice. She says her experience in understanding the inner workings on Tulane and South Broad makes her the best candidate to fill the job. She says if elected she will do everything within her power to expedite the process from the arrest phase to the trial phase. She also feels that simply locking away criminals is not the best

way to effectively deal with crime and violence in the city and proposes the establishment of drug court for non-violent offenders. Her challenger is Laurie White, a legal veteran who has worked as both a prosecuting attorney and a defense attorney. She says that if elected she will work to reduce the caseload on the docket to a manageable number. She has also stated that her top priorities if elected would be to speed up the time that cases such as rape and murder come to trial.

City Council-at-Large

This is a race that has been closely watched as a crowded field of thirteen originally sought the seat occupied by Oliver

Thomas who recently resigned amidst scrutiny. Many have talked about the need for change, but this race has essentially become a contest between two savvy political veterans facing off in this important race. Placing first in the primary is Cynthia Willard-Lewis, who presently serves as a member of the City Council in District E which comprises the heavily damaged Lower Ninth Ward and New Orleans East. Willard-Lewis touts her record as being a caring, compassionate, committed leader who has worked hard and diligently for her constituency in its darkest hour and being an advocate for the city on the local, state, and national levels. Her opponent

is Jackie Clarkson, who has been an elected official at both the local and state level as a former City Councilperson and as a State Representative. She says that she is best suited for the position because throughout her career she has been able to build coalitions between diverse groups of people to get things done. Also saying that her career in public life has been one where she has been able to pass legislation on a variety of issues from child protection, women's healthcare, education, fiscal reform, and neighborhood preservation.

The run-off elections will be held November 17th 2007.



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FBI Probes New Orleans Area Noose Case

By CAIN BURDEAU
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The FBI is investigating allegations that a public works department supervisor displayed in his office two nooses, a bullwhip and a dart board with a black man as the bull's-eye, an agent said Wednesday.

A black worker went public with the complaints Wednesday, saying he was fed up with the racist symbols in his white superintendent's office at a sewage lift station in Jefferson Parish.

"I've been in this department 6 1/2 years, and when I got to the department they were there," Terrence Lee said.

Lee's superiors dismissed his concerns when he

went to them, he said at a news conference in the offices of Danatus King, president of the New Orleans chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"I know I'm going to get fired, but I have to stand up," Lee said.

Lee identified the superintendent as Bill Hartline. Tim Whitmer, a top parish administrator, said Hartline is a longtime employee.

No home phone listing for a Bill or William Hartline could be found.

King called on Jefferson Parish to remove all racist symbols from its property and fire any worker responsible for exhibiting racist symbols.

Officials in Jefferson Parish, a bedroom community of New Orleans, said in a news release that "appropriate action" would be taken. Whitmer said parish leaders learned of Lee's allegations only on Wednesday afternoon.

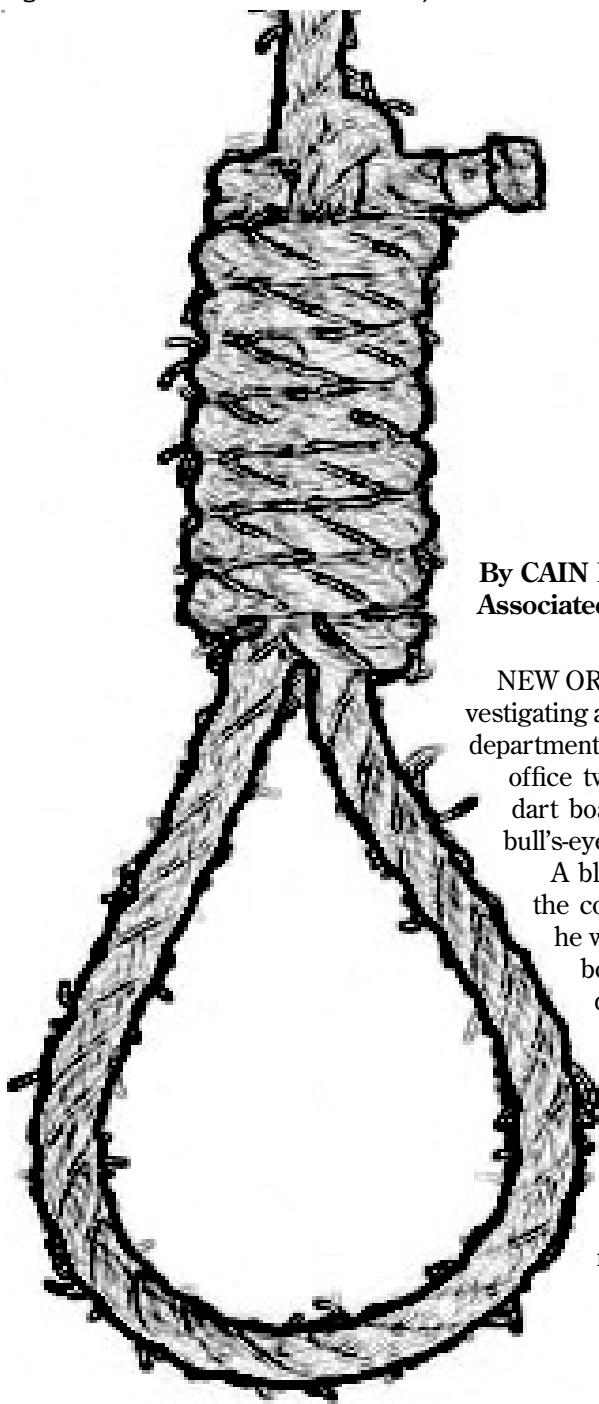
FBI agent Jim Bernazzani said he assigned the case to his civil rights division.

"We take these complaints very seriously," Bernazzani said. "We're seeing if it rises to the level of a federal hate crime."

The investigation will be based in part on photographs Lee took in 2005 of his superintendent's office. In them, the nooses dangle from a wooden contraption that reaches to the ceiling. A bullwhip hangs from a wooden post labeled as a whipping post. A black man stands at the center of the dart board, and his groin area makes up the bull's-eye.

Racial tension in Louisiana has been high after the case known as the Jena Six, in which six black teens were accused of beating a white student at a high school in the town of Jena. A noose was hung in a tree on campus not long before the attack.

In September, tens of thousands of people marched on the small central Louisiana town in one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in years.



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ANN ON THE BUSINESS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RECOVERY:

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- **Fought to shut down illegal dumping and landfills in New Orleans East.**
- **Worked to bring new high tech industry with Digital Media Tax Credits.**

ANN ON THE BUSINESS OF BUILDING A SMART COMMUNITY:

- **Supported and passed pay raises for teachers and school employees**
- **Passed the School Readiness Tax Credit**
- **Launched a Fashion Academy in our schools so students can learn the retail industry**

ANN ON THE BUSINESS OF SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS:

- **Passed pay raises for firemen and first responders**
- **Passed the Police Officers Bill of Rights**
- **Provided bullet proof vests for our police to keep them safe while protecting our community**

Paid for by Friends of Ann Duplessis

Data News Weekly Endorses Ann Duplessis for State Senate District 2

Rev. Jackson Calls for a Congressional Investigation and a Halt in Federal Transportation Funding to Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS (November 1, 2007) - Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., founder and president of Rainbow PUSH Coalition, is calling for a full congressional hearing and the halting of federal transportation funding to Louisiana, "... until officials can ensure freedom of movement." On Wednesday, a grand jury in Orleans Parish returned a 'no bill of indictment' against the Gretna police officer who fired a shot on the Crescent City Connection Bridge to enforce a blockade as New Orleans evacuees fleeing the rising waters attempted to cross the bridge in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"The Crescent City Connection Bridge is a state bridge and was built with federal funds," said Rev. Jackson. "The Gretna police department did not have the authority to barricade the bridge and prevent citizens from seeking safe ground."

After the grand jury verdict Arthur Lawson, Gretna Chief of Police, called this "a day of vindication for the Gretna Police Department." Rev. Jackson said, "It is because of this type of thinking that federal intervention is necessary. In America, there are

no laws that prohibit freedom of movement from one neighborhood, municipality, region or state into another. Gretna officials should understand that Gretna is a part of the United States and not sovereign."

Sheila Williams, executive director of Right to Return, Rainbow PUSH Coalition in New Orleans said, "It is troubling to know that if my family was on the east side of the bridge after Hurricane Katrina, they would have been prevented from going to their home located on the west bank of Orleans Parish where it was dry, had food and potable water." Both Black and white citizens were prevented from crossing the bridge. Williams said we should all be outraged considering it was the only



Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.

route in or out of New Orleans and other neighboring parishes in the days immediately following Katrina. It is not clear why the Gretna police made the choice to block the entire bridge rather than close the exit ramps into the City of Gretna.

Rev. Jackson and other national civil rights leaders marched in April 1, 2006 to protest the action of the Gretna police department.

New Professional/Science Building To Be Erected At Dillard



Groundbreaking ceremony held on November 9 at the Gentilly campus Dillard University broke ground for a new, state-of-the-art, 21st-century Science and Professional Schools Building on the historic campus's east side. The groundbreaking ceremony held on November 9, 2007 at 8:30 a.m. near the Samuel DuBois Cook Communications Center.

The 160,000 square-foot building will house academic and research programs in Natural Sciences

& Public Health, Nursing and Business. The building will have a common grand entrance/atrium that will

become a focal point for community and student social interaction. The new facility will be LEED-

(Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. [See attached architectural rendering.]

"This is the heartbeat of the 'new Dillard, the lifeblood of our pathway into the future,'" said Dr. Marvalene Hughes, president of Dillard University. "We are fearless and unwavering in our dedication to academic excellence and this project will further strengthen our mandate to serve our students and prepare them for global leadership. This is a prodigious

Continued on page 14.

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First appointments must be made by calling 1.888.762.3252. Appointment times will be based on availability. You are encouraged to call as soon as possible to schedule your appointment.

Where are appointments available?

Appointments are available at 11 Housing Assistance Centers throughout Louisiana and in Houston. Advisory Service follow-up appointments will still be available after the **December 15** deadline.

What if I only applied for mitigation money?

If you applied for mitigation money only, you must still schedule an initial appointment by **December 1, 2007** and complete it by **December 15, 2007** in order to be eligible.

What if I live out of state?

Applicants who live out of state may choose to complete a phone interview and an application packet through the mail. However, program managers strongly encourage homeowners to complete appointments in person if at all possible. This will help expedite the processing of the homeowner's application. Out-of-state applicants must still call to schedule their appointments by **December 1**, and all materials must be returned by **December 15, 2007**.

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Lost Traditions May Sadden Thanksgiving

If your Thanksgiving is steeped in family traditions, the occasion can be a difficult one should circumstances change and those traditions are lost.

The changes don't even have to be as severe as death or divorce. Those losses can be made less painful through the help of family and friends. Temporary changes can depress people, too, according to LSU AgCenter family specialist Dr. Karen Overstreet.

Changes may be relatively simple, such as grown children missing their first Thanksgiving at their parents' house or spending your first holiday in a strange city and not being able to come home. A parent might be starting a new job and has to work on Thanksgiving Day. Grandparents might decide to spend the holidays at another sibling's house instead of hosting the dinner at their home.

"Whatever the reason, lack of tradition can be upsetting," Overstreet says, adding, "Telling yourself it's not that important misses the point."

If your circumstances will prevent the usual Thanksgiving this year, the family expert advises looking on the situation as an opportunity to try something different. Adults without other family responsibilities may decide it's the perfect time to travel.

On the other hand, if you have children or prefer to stay closer to home you can create some new traditions of your own.



If you enjoy visiting, check with local organizations or your church to see if they know people who may be alone this year. If you have small children, it may be enough to visit just one person. Visits don't need to be long but can be beneficial to you as well as the person visited.

If you live near a university or a company that often transfers people in, foreign students or newcomers might love to spend time with a local family.

Again, churches, civic organizations, schools or the local company may be able to make connections for you.

Does your mouth water over magazine recipes, but you wouldn't dare change the family recipes that have been used for generations? This may be your chance to try a new one. Even though the family may be smaller this year, do a special dinner and try out something new. It's less a reminder of what's missing if you don't try to do everything the same way. If you're not in such a rush to prepare a big dinner, there may be more time for parents and young children to cook together, something that can be very special.

Use the time you would have spent visiting with family guests to write thank-you notes to important people in your lives. Maybe after dinner but before dessert, gather together and write notes to a teacher, the nearest fire station crew, your minister, a soccer coach or anyone that is special to you. Let children choose or make their own cards even if it's just a drawing. When the notes are stamped and addressed, bring out the pumpkin pie.

Again, churches, civic organizations, schools or the local company may be able to make connections for you.

If you are fortunate and things return to normal next year, you may find that you still want to include a new tradition from your experiences this year. Some families may develop multiple sets of traditions as their families change over time.

"Changing traditions can be difficult, but trying something new reminds us that time moves us on, and new challenges will always lie ahead," Overstreet says. "Changes can be opportunities if we let them."

For related holiday topics, visit the LSU AgCenter Web site at www.lsuagcenter.com. For local information and educational programs, contact an extension agent in your parish LSU AgCenter office.

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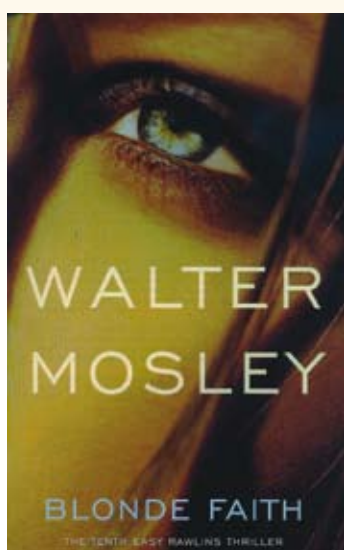
Cozy up to New Book Releases this Fall

The Bookworm Sez Data Book Columnist

As the temperature begins to drop, it's time again to curl up with a good book. Here are some recommended books to enlighten and entertain you while you de-stress from the holiday season. Remember, books make great gifts too!

"Blonde Faith" by Walter Mosley

c.2007, Little Brown | \$25.99 / \$32.99 Canada | 320 pages



Did you ever go looking for something and in the process, find something else that distracts you from your search?

You went to get your glasses and instead, found a piece of paper you were looking for. The paper reminded you of a book. You wanted to read the book, but you had to find your glasses first.

Two of Easy Rawlins' friends are missing, and he needs to find them fast: one, to save a life; the second, to save from prison. In the new mystery novel "Blonde Faith" by Walter Mosley, finding his missing friends will also help Easy find peace with his own past.

Everyone makes mistakes in their life, but Easy Rawlins made the biggest one of all. Because of his jealousy, he let the love of his life go and now Bonnie is marrying an African prince. Easy can remember the way she made his household run smoother. He can remember the soothing things she said when he got angry at himself. He can't remember why his jealousy got in the way of loving her.

Although he can't stop thinking about Bonnie, there are other things on Easy's mind, too. Just days ago, Christmas Black dropped his adopted daughter, Easter Dawn, off at Easy's house without so much as a word. E.D. was Christmas's whole life, and it wasn't like him to leave the little girl anywhere without telling her when he'd be back. Easy knows why he left the child, though. Christmas Black was in trouble.

And so was Easy's best friend, Raymond "Mouse" Alexander. Mouse and Easy go back many years, and while Easy went on to be a private investigator, Mouse embraced the criminal life. Mouse's wife, Etta, says the police are looking for the missing Mouse because they think he murdered Pericles Tarr.

Etta swears that Mouse is innocent, but Tarr's wife is equally sure Raymond killed her husband.

On the trail of Christmas Black, Easy is confronted by two armed military MPs and their commander, who claims to be looking for Christmas, too. But these military officers aren't in the search to return Black to his daughter. With the help of a beautiful ex-nun, Easy closes in on his friends and a conspiracy that spans two continents.

Will murder, revenge, and lost love shake Easy Rawlins' faith in himself?

Set in Los Angeles 1967, "Blonde Faith" is one of the finest noir novels I've ever read. Reminiscent of a Raymond Chandler character, Easy Rawlins is smart, sharp, thoughtful, well-read, and someone you'd want in your corner if you were in trouble. Author Walter

Mosley gives Easy a whole cast of vivid characters to befriend, an abundance of smoky bars to search, a bit of humor in his story, and a bounty of beautiful women to charm. Overall, I was enthralled with this book, and raced through it in one afternoon.

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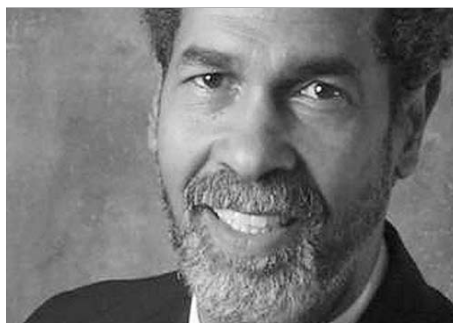
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Opinion

In The Spirit

Crossroads



The Love Dr.
Data Columnist

Our journey is at a crossroads. It seems that the lessons we had to learn had to be learned the hard way. As a people we actually became a group only because we shared the same problem, white supremacy, and its impact on our lives by slavery and then by Jim Crow and now by substandard education and the biased enforcement of law. We as individuals also have personal issues, some of which result from the loss of successful family culture, when welfare replaced daddy for too many generations, and then some of us are greedy, lazy, spoiled or perhaps disabled by drugs (including alcohol).

One of the slants of perception we have is about our ancestors who came from West Africa. Most of us would see them as being "brothers and sisters" as they got on or off the slave ship. Perhaps when they got off the slave ship that common bond of oppression had begun, but it probably wasn't there very strongly before our ancestors found themselves in interminable bondage. Even modern Africa has a diversity of language and culture, and genetically Africans offer more genetic variety than any other continent. The tallest human beings on the planet are Africans, the Watusi, and so are the shortest, the Mbuti, who are irreverently referred to as "Pygmies".

The reality is that our brotherhood and sisterhood has been driven by our misery as an oppressed people, and what we have seen after the lifting of legalized Jim Crow is the opening of opportunity for those who were positioned with resources and culture that valued education and working hard to do well. This is the "family values" piece and the one that seems to disappear after a couple of generations of missing or irrelevant fathers. It is a serious piece of what we call a lack of "unity", among African Americans. The truth is there are different priorities

for parents who have the children's futures as their highest priorities, and those who have never got established enough themselves to be able to do much to help their children. Because I understand that choices that looked good for women with children years ago ended up creating a monstrous alternative culture that does not encourage marriage and the raising of children by their fathers, I cannot blame those in this most deadly cycle, but I've learned that all I can do is teach and support other people who make a difference, and none of it's my fault. I had nothing to do with the creation of either racism or the welfare state. I help because people have helped me and I believe God wants me to, and He must because it just feels right, and there is a certain peace that comes from helping somebody, even though you may suffer stress and inconvenience in the process.

Is it now true that those of us who can buy homes have become so disgusted with the completely different nature of the baby momma culture that many have no more compassion for people who need to be influenced, educated and trained rather than locked out, abandoned and left to repeat the cycle? I hope we have also learned that we cannot continue to do "ballot" politics, where money and money politics dictates who gets on the recommended list. So I want to start a political movement based on a crazy idea called "doing the right thing", with priorities that are completely about the future with children and family life being the focus. I believe that when we begin graduating scholars, life will magnify for everyone here. Rather than being in the "money game" around politics, I want to join hands with about a thousand people who will agree to support doing the right thing for the future with children as the focus.

Imagine the difference a thousand people who will not accept anything more than chicken and soda for their campaign effort can make to a candidate, particularly one who wants to be accountable to the voters, not money interest. We can no longer allow money to control politics. That is a lesson all Americans are now paying a high price to learn, as next generations tax money is being spent to make quite a few folk richer. If you have any interest in joining me in creating an all volunteer political force to support doing the right thing for a prosperous future, please email me LD@LLOYDDENNIS.COM for the children.

Holiday Blues

Dealing with Grief, Loss, and Change During the Holiday Season

By LaTasha K. Clay, M.A., LPC, LMFT
American Red Cross

This will be Mary's third holiday season away from her friends and family in New Orleans. When Hurricane Katrina made landfall two years ago, she was forced to flee to Houston. She desperately wants to return home. Though she has a job and decent living conditions, she suffers from constant headaches, she doesn't sleep well, she always seems to be agitated or angry and she is constantly depressed. Facing another season of "deck the halls" and "joy to the world" makes Mary feel worse about her current situation.

There are thousands of hurricane survivors in and around New Orleans who can relate to Mary's plight. Since the 2005 hurricanes, it has been reported that the citizens of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast are facing increased stress and anxiety levels. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), mental health effects of devastating events like Hurricane Katrina can be deep and linger for weeks, months and even years.

Almost everyone who lives through a life-altering event experiences some feelings of sadness and depression of varying intensity and duration. This is also true for thousands of rescue workers, emergency medical personnel, and disaster recovery experts engaged in search-and-rescue operations. In many cases, these feelings of hopelessness and despair may become more intense throughout the holiday season.

Many people find themselves experiencing feelings of sadness, hopelessness, and helplessness during a time of year reserved for cheer and happiness. It is also at this time of year that we see a rise in the suicide rate. Many of these feelings and behaviors have been given the label "Holiday Blues." There are many different causes for the emergence of these feelings, and the symptoms are very similar to those of clinical depression. They include:

-MORE-

- Headaches
- Inability to sleep (Insomnia)
- Sleeping too much (Hypersomnia)
- Changes in appetite - weight loss or weight gain
- Agitation and anxiety
- Excessive or inappropriate feelings of guilt
- Diminished ability to think clearly or concentrate
- Decreased interest in activities that usually bring pleasure:
- Food
- Sex
- Work
- Friends
- Hobbies
- Entertainment

While the feelings and symptoms can be very intense they can also be generally short-lived. However, in some circumstances, they can begin to linger and affect our functioning long after the holidays have passed, resulting in clinical depression. The most important point in trying to address the "blues" is identifying why we are experiencing these feelings.

There are three major categories of causes for the emerging holiday blues. They are psychological, financial and physical.

- Psychological causes usually stem from family relationships as we reflect on past holidays, lost loved ones, watching others enjoying the holidays with their friends, family, and loved ones, or simply not being able to spend the holidays with our family because of the distance between us and them..
- The holidays create pressure to purchase gifts, prepare elaborate meals, host parties, decorate our homes, buy new holiday outfits, attend social gatherings, and maintain the normal expenses of running a household on a budget that does not increase as these expenses increase. Financial pressure from family, friends, and children to spend, spend, and spend for the holiday season adds to the stress that we may already be experiencing.
- Physically, there are many "extra" demands that are placed on us during the holiday season such as shopping, cooking, baking, cleaning, socializing, entertaining guests, making and wrapping presents, sending holiday cards, etc. Too much food and drink may cause us to gain weight, leads to fatigue, and frustration and unhappiness related to our weight and physical appearance.

As a general rule, if the symptoms of hopelessness and depression last for more than two weeks, or if they worsen, see your doctor. Anyone having suicidal thoughts should seek immediate care, either through their own doctor or through the nearest hospital emergency department.

The American Red Cross has developed the Emotional Support Program in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma, which provides financial support for mental health and substance abuse services. Those services can help hurricane survivors deal with holiday blues and other hurricane-related mental health problems. Enrolling in the ESP program is easy since there is no line to wait in. Individuals simply call 1-866-794-HOPE or log on to www.a2care.org and a benefit coordinator will guide them through enrollment..

Empowerment!



Terry B. Jones
Publisher

As I look back at the first primary, and the very low voter turnout of African Americans, it seems like the emotion and commitment that we once had during the Mayor's election has fizzled.

It's somewhat understandable as some of us are still in trailers, and are fighting with the insurance companies to get our lives back in order. It could easily create a feeling of a lack of self empowerment which relates directly to feeling a lack of control over our city.

All that understood, and put aside, we must understand that we are still the majority of registered voters, which means the power is still there.

This is not necessarily about an election but about setting a course of leadership that can be maintained for decades. And as our ambivalence it seems that the aggressiveness of the conservative ways is becoming even more aggressive. I think it is important that we understand that the decisions we are making now are not just about us in our present day, but for our children and our children's children. And using the empowerment we still have through the electoral system and bring up that last ounce of emotion to go forward and make the proper choices for our leadership one more time will prove to be something that we can look back on and feel proud that we made that last push and made the difference.

This reminds me of a parable that I heard about these slaves picking rows of cotton out in

the cotton field from early in the morning, until almost dusk, and almost inevitably when they went to the master and asked if they were finished, he would say just one more row.

And our ancestors were challenged and had to pull out their inner strength to do that one more row for the master. Their consequence was possibly death, but each and every time they found that strength and made that one more row. Ultimately it is the reason we are here today.

So I ask that as our ancestors went to their heart and soul, that we go to ours for the future of New Orleans.

We are taking this opportunity to endorse only two candidates in this race. One is State Senator Ann Duplessis, for State Senate District 2. Ann has proven to be an effective leader, in negotiations with the private sector and government as well. Even though I am quite aware that there are some decisions she has made in the past that we may not agree on, she has grown in the process. But we feel that after a lengthy conversation with her, that she has the vision of leadership that we need going forward for the future of her district and New Orleans.

Our other candidate is Cynthia Willard Lewis for Council Member-at-Large. Cynthia has proven her commitment and leadership before and on the city council. Her passion as a leader throughout the horrific devastation in her district after Katrina, standing tall with the community and speaking out for the rights of New Orleanians not only here but in forums throughout the country she has proven that her leadership is needed on an even larger scale. We are confident in Cynthia's vision for the future of New Orleans, and in her ability to galvanize support from her fellow council members and New Orleans leadership for the betterment of everyone.

As we look at the State House races our panel of advisors agreed that Jalila Jefferson Bullock and Cheryl Gray have both proven to be strong and intelligent leaders,

and therefore the choice of either will be beneficial to our city.

But the most important choice, you should understand, is making the choice to vote. Without that, we have no voice, and with no

voice, we have no rights, and with no rights, we have no power!

So New Orleans, Let's go one more row!

Remember only together, can we make a difference.



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Senate Inquiry Targets Televangelists

By Eric Gorski

Acting on tips about preachers who ride in Rolls Royces and have purportedly paid \$30,000 for a conference table, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee said Tuesday he's investigating the finances of six well-known TV ministers.

Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa said those under scrutiny include faith healer Benny Hinn, Georgia megachurch pastor Creflo Dollar and one of the nation's best known

who donated should have their money spent as intended and in adherence with the tax code."

Those ministries that responded Tuesday either said they were cooperating or committed to financial transparency and following the law.

The investigation promises to shine new light on the kind of TV ministries that were crippled by sex and money scandals in the 1980s. Experts also say it stands out as an unusual case of the government probing the inner workings of religious organizations.

Most of those under investigation preach a variation of the "prosperity gospel," the teaching that God will shower faithful followers with material riches.

Grassley's letters went to:

— Kenneth and Gloria Copeland of Kenneth Copeland Ministries of Newark, Texas, a \$20 million organization and prosperity gospel pioneer. Questions were raised about the transfer of church assets to a for-profit company, Security Patrol Inc., a \$1 million loan from Gloria Copeland to the group, and a "personal gift" of more than \$2 million given to Kenneth Copeland to mark the ministry's 40th anniversary.

A Copeland spokeswoman released a statement saying the ministry is working on a response to Grassley's letter, follows all laws and best practices governing churches and religious nonprofit groups, and "will continue to do so."

— Creflo and Taffi Dollar of World Changers Church International and Creflo Dollar Ministries of College Park, Ga. Grassley's letter asks for records on private planes, board makeup, compen-

sation and donations and "love offerings" to visiting ministers. In a statement, Dollar called his ministry an "open book" and said he would cooperate. He also questioned whether the investigation could "affect the privacy of every community church in America."

— Benny Hinn of World Healing Center Church Inc. and Benny Hinn Ministries of Grapevine, Texas, is asked about use of a private jet, a home in Dana Point, Calif. and "layover trips" while traveling on ministry business. Hinn did not respond to requests for comment.

— Bishop Eddie Long of New Birth Missionary Baptist Church and Bishop Eddie Long Ministries of Lithonia, Ga., was questioned about his salary, a \$1.4 million real estate transaction and whether he, and not the board, holds sole authority over the organization. Long plans to fully comply with the Senate's request, and his church has "several safeguards" to ensure transactions comply with laws governing churches, according to a statement from Long's spokesman.

— Joyce and David Meyer of Joyce Meyer Ministries of Fenton, Mo., who were quizzed about receiving donations of money and jewelry and the handling of cash from overseas crusades. They also were asked about expenditures at ministry headquarters, including a \$30,000 conference table and a \$23,000 "commode with marble top."

The ministry's lawyer released a statement describing the ministry's work and public release of several years' worth of audits. He also said the IRS found in October that the group continues to qualify for tax-exempt status.

— Randy and Paula White of the multiracial Without Walls International Church and Paula White Ministries of Tampa, Fla. are asked about home purchases in San Antonio, Texas, Malibu, Calif., and New York, credit card charges for clothing and cosmetic surgery and the reported purchase of a Bentley convertible as a gift for Bishop T.D. Jakes, a prominent Texas preacher and televangelist. An e-mail to a spokeswoman for Jakes was not immediately returned.



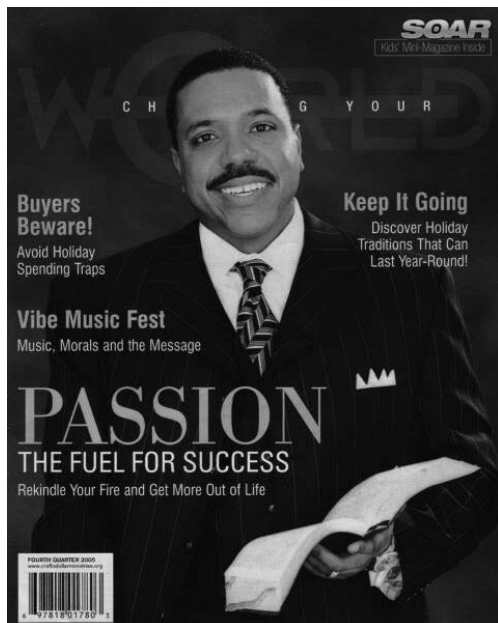
Rev. Paula White, Without Walls Ministries

In a statement, Randy and Paula White declined to comment on specifics, saying they needed time to review the letter with their lawyers. But the Whites called the Grassley letter "unusual, since the IRS has separate powers to investigate religious organizations if they think it's necessary."

Hinn, Kenneth Copeland and Creflo Dollar all sit on the board of regents for Oral Roberts University, which is mired in a financial scandal of its own.

The Senate Finance Committee has chided secular nonprofits for governance and compensation problems in the past, but this level of scrutiny for what are basically "non-pulpit churches" is unprecedented, said Ken Behr, president of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

Because the groups have tax status as churches, they are not required to file tax forms open to public inspection.



Pastor Creflo A. Dollar, World Changers International

female preachers, Joyce Meyer.

Grassley sent letters to the half-dozen Christian media ministries earlier this week requesting answers by Dec. 6 about their expenses, executive compensation and amenities, including use of fancy cars and private jets.

In a statement, Grassley said he was acting on complaints from the public and news coverage of the organizations.

"The allegations involve governing boards that aren't independent and allow generous salaries and housing allowances and amenities such as private jets and Rolls Royces," Grassley said.

"I don't want to conclude that there's a problem, but I have an obligation to donors and the taxpayers to find out more. People



Bishop Eddie Long, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church



Elect

Councilmember-At-Large Cynthia **Willard-Lewis**



Respected

Cynthia Willard-Lewis has served New Orleans, all of it. Across neighborhoods like Mid-City and Lakeview, Uptown and Central City, from Broadmoor to the Lower Ninth Ward and New Orleans East, Cynthia has stood for the rights of New Orleanians.

Cynthia beat the odds and WON... She was successful in fighting the plan to shrink the footprint of one of America's historic cities.



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Convening the Council's Recovery Committee...

Cynthia has and continues to push the City Administration as well as State and Federal official on rebuilding infrastructure issues

Cynthia Continues to Fight for the right to return and the right to rebuild.... From the storm to the present, Cynthia has remained solid



Engaged

and focused upon rebuilding New Orleans—one of America's greatest cities.

Cynthia has fought for New Orleans' Council District E

.... With energy, ideas and strength inspired by the people she meets everyday all around this great city! It's time, and she is experienced and prepared to Move New Orleans Forward...



Elect

Cynthia Willard Lewis
for Council-Member-at Large

West Coast Black Publishers Association Choose New Officers at 23rd Annual Conference

By Ruthie Hopkins
Journal Publisher

The West Coast Black Publishers Association elected Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Journal co-publisher, Attorney Joe C. Hopkins, as their new president at its 23rd Annual Conference held in Los Angeles, CA October 24 – 27, 2007. Arizona Informant Publisher and State Legislator, Cloves Campbell Jr., will serve as the First Vice President; outgoing President, Les Kimber, publisher of the California Advocate in Fresno, Calif., will serve as Second Vice President; Eleanor Boswell-Raine, co-publisher of The Oakland Globe newspaper, was elected to serve as Secretary; and Hardy Brown, co-publisher of the Riverside Black Voice News will continue as Treasurer. Hardy Brown is also the founder of the California Black Medial Association.

The West Coast Black Publishers Association (WCBPA) was formed in 1971 as a trade association with a mission to advance the cause of the Black Press in the Western United States and to provide regional and national corporate advertisers with a ve-



Newly elected officers, from l-r, AZ State Senator Cloves Campbell, Jr., 1st V.P.; Joe C. Hopkins, President; Les Kimber, 2nd V.P.; Eleanor Boswell-Raine, Secretary; and (seated) Hardy Brown, Treasurer

hicle for the effective marketing of their products and services to the Black community. The organization, which is comprised of 24 African American-owned newspapers from the six western states includes Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

This year's event included special guests State Assemblyman and former Lieutenant Governor

Mervyn Dymally; Pasadena area State Assemblyman Anthony Portantino; and Inglewood area Assemblyman Curren Price. The panel was joined by Arizona Informant publisher Cloves Campbell, Jr. who also serves in the Arizona State Legislature. The Legislators comprised a panel to discuss political issues that affect African American communities served by member newspapers.

Special guest speakers included Janet Curry of Bauman Curry & Co. Public Relations firm. Workshop speakers included Ms. Natalee Green from Young Communications, on behalf of one of the conference sponsors, The California Wellness Foundation.

Hopkins looks forward to a productive year that will move the organization to a greater leadership role in the Western United States on issues of concern to African American communities. He also plans to work with other regional organizations and governments to accomplish the organizational goals of mutual concerns.

The member publishers and newspapers that make up the West Coast Black Publishers include: Lenora Alexander, Denver Weekly News; Amelia Ashley Ward, San Francisco Sun Reporter; Danny Bakewell, Los Angeles Sentinel; Dennis Beaver, The Facts News of Seattle, Washington; Chris Bennett, Tacoma True Citizen newspaper of Seattle, Washington; Cheryl and Hardy Brown, The Riverside Black Voice News; Willie Brown, Inglewood Today; Paul Cobb, Oakland Post; Cloves Campbell, Jr., Arizona Informant;

Ellen Coley, Bakersfield News Observer; Ted Banks and Bernie Foster, Portland and Seattle Skanner newspapers; John Holoman; Herald Dispatch newspaper of Los Angeles; Atty. Joe C. and Ruthie Hopkins, the Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley Journal newspapers; Peggy Hunt, Tri-County Sentry Newspaper; Les Kimber and Mark Kimber, the California Advocate of Fresno Calif.; Dr. William Lee and Larry Lee of the Sacramento Observer; Melanie Polk, LA Watts Times; Willie Ratcliff, The San Francisco Bay View; Ramon Savoy, Las Vegas Sentinel; John and Geri Warren, San Diego Voice and Viewpoint; Charles Washington, The Portland Observer; Vernon Whitmore and Eleanor Boswell-Raine, Globe Newspapers of Oakland Calif.; and Brian Townsend, Precinct Reporter and Tri County Bulletin of San Bernardino, Calif.

Black newspapers exist to bring the message to Black communities. Businesses and advertisers looking to reach the Black market understand that marketing and promotions to this historical and unique market require their participation in the Black press.

Advertise in Data News Weekly Its the RightStrategy



Dillard Continued from page 6.

structure that will endure for generations to come."

The last new building erected on Dillard's campus was DUICEF (Dillard University International Center for Economic Freedom), which opened in 2004.

Invited guests for the ceremony included Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.); Sen. David Vitter (R-La.); State Senator Diana Bajoie; Cynthia Hedge Morrell, City Council-District D; Michael Haggen, Deputy Superintendent of School Management, New Orleans Recovery School District; Dr. Kelvin Adams, Chief of Staff, New Orleans Recovery School District; Romy Thompson, Global Green.

Dillard University, with a 55-acre campus on Gentilly Boulevard, was inundated with six to 10 feet of water in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina due to breaches at the London Avenue and 17th Street canals, resulting in \$400 million in damage. Dillard, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), has been a cornerstone of educational excellence and a critical part of the New Orleans community since 1869. Dillard offers a quality, four-year, comprehensive undergraduate program to students that represent 29 states and several foreign countries

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One on One with Reggie Bush

By: Justin Macione

Wednesday, November 07, 2007

Q: Are you looking forward to getting back to action this Sunday?

A: It's an everyday football injury that you go through. We're just taking a precautionary method to get ready for this game.

Q: Will you be ready to play?

A: Yes. I'm looking forward to getting back to it this Sunday.

Q: Was there a specific play where you got hurt?

A: I was getting tackled out of bounds. The guy tackled me and kind of twisted my leg. It didn't really start hurting me until later that night. It's nothing that could keep me out of a game or anything like that.

Q: Is it your right or left knee?

A: Left.

Q: Has it swelled at all?

A: No. There's no swelling at all. It's probably just a bone bruise.

Q: When you look at the way the passing game is going right now is that what the Saints would call balance?

A: I know from our perspective we don't go into the game saying how many runs or how many carries we're going to have each game. I think we just kind of take it as it comes, go by our game plan and go from there. These last few games Drew's (Brees) has been throwing the ball a lot, doing great and giving his receivers a chance to make plays. He's hot right now. He's doing good and we're excited. When he's doing good, the whole offense is doing good.

Q: Does balance matter as long as the offense is moving the ball?

A: As long as the offense is moving the ball I'm definitely not worried about how many carries I'm getting. Scoring points and winning games is the first goal.



Q: Can you talk about the performance of the offensive line?

A: We're just playing good football right now. In those first four games there were a lot of things we didn't do right. We turned the ball over. We didn't protect Drew as well as we should have. We didn't run the ball as well as we should have. A lot of things have changed, not just one specific thing. Earlier today in our meetings, coach put up the stats of the second quarter as opposed to the first quarter of the season. Those stats differ greatly. That's a key to our success so far to not turn the ball over as much, not allowing sacks and things like that.

Q: Have you guys also found out the importance of getting quick starts?

A: These are games you like to call trap games. They are games where your record doesn't really do you justice, because these are the type of teams that aren't

scared and will do anything to get a win. They're looking to ruin everyone else's season. Things haven't been going too well for them. They're going to do anything and everything they can do to win games from trick plays to onside kicks. I don't know for sure. These are the trap games that you have to focus more. There are games like these where everybody has to be on the same page and focused.

Q: At the start of the season your team had to avoid resting on your laurels and then when you were 0-4 you had to avoid playing the blame game. Now that you're having success again, what do you need to guard against?

A: We need to remember why we have been successful these past four games, remember why we weren't successful the last four games and keep all that in perspective and continue to do things well that we have been do-

ing well recently on both sides. In the first quarter we were on the losing side in the second quarter the winning side. We've been in both situations. Now we just have to keep our perspective and continue to do the things that help us win games.

Q: Do you almost feel that this offense has done better without Deuce McAllister?

A: I don't want to say that. Deuce is a great player. We obviously miss his presence and he's a great leader for me, a great guy for me to play with. I don't think it's because of Deuce. It's the situation this year.

Q: Were you held out for precautionary reasons?

A: Yes, precautionary, I talked about it earlier. It didn't keep me out of the game. When it initially happened, I didn't even think much of it until it stiffened on me later that night. It's mainly precautionary.

Q: Will you practice tomorrow?

A: Yes, I hope so.

Q: How close are you right now to where you are offensively to where you were at your peak last year?

A: Everything's definitely clicking for us right now. I can speak for the offensive guys because I play offense. I know everything's clicking for us right now. It's hard to compare to last year, because everything last year is so different than this year. Towards the end of the season we were clicking a lot. Right now, we're definitely hitting the right cylinders at the right time. I don't know how much of a comparison it is, but right now we're definitely clicking as an offense and as a team.

Q: Does it feel right?

A: It definitely feels right.

Q: Can you discuss the importance of both the offense and defense clicking at the same time?

A: Everybody on this team is important, especially on offense, every guy, receiver, lineman,

tight end. Everybody's equally important and it's evident when everybody's on the same page what we're capable of and what we can do and force defenses to respect not just me, (Marques) Colston or Drew (Brees), but the whole team and when you force teams to do that, it's very tough for them to stop you. We've been doing a good job of that lately. Hopefully we can keep that up and continue that momentum through the rest of the season.

Q: How can you describe what the offensive line is doing well to play their best football of the season?

A: Just all around. I think protecting Drew, Drew's only been sacked once in these last five games. Compared to the first three games, it's like four times. That's even low, but there's a difference. I definitely think they're doing a great job all around in protecting Drew, giving me a chance, opening up holes for me and giving Drew a chance to throw the ball downfield.

Q: Did Billy Miller or David Patten have a better run after the catch?

A: I would say Billy Miller because he's a tight end. He weighs 100 pounds more than Patten. That was impressive to me, seeing the big guy, having fun, making those moves. That was very impressive.

Q: Did you give him a hard time about getting tackled at the one yard line?

A: You never want to get tackled at the one yard line, especially after going 60 or 70 yards. That's kind of embarrassing.

Q: Can you discuss the hit on the knee?

A: I got tackled. I was going out of bounds. He kind of tackled me. He kind of tweaked my knee, not much.

Q: When did it happen?

A: It was toward the end of the game.



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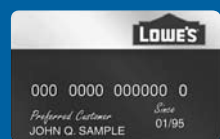
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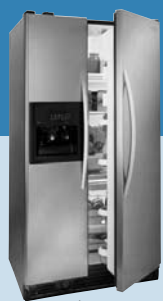
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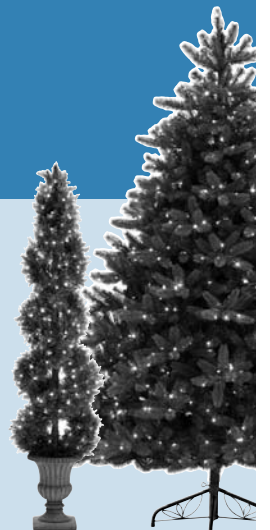
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