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New Orleans

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The Soul of New Orleans

New Orleans Urban League

Moving Forward

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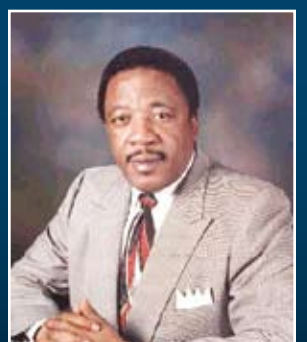


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Burnell Moliere



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New Orleans Urban League Moving Forward



New Orleans Urban League President Nolan Rollins with the NUL Young Professionals and other community supporters.

By Edwin Buggage

It is one of the oldest and largest community based organizations in the country. Since 1910 the National Urban League has led the fight against discrimination, and has been a vigilant advocate of every American having access to the American Dream.

Over the years many great and courageous people have led and organized the masses under the Urban League's banner. On the national front, A.

Phillip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, Whitney Young, and their present CEO former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial. While locally, people such as the late Clarence Barney, Harvey Britton and Edith Jones over the years have fought for fairness in employment and opportunities.

Today as New Orleans faces the monumental task of rebuilding it can add one more soldier to the names of so many who have been part of this historic struggle, Nolan Rollins.

He is the new President of the local chapter of

the National Urban League of Greater New Orleans. As a native of Baltimore, Maryland he worked as Senior Vice-President of Economic and Community Development of the Baltimore branch of the organization while simultaneously holding office as President of the NUL Young Professionals.

This post as president was a training ground preparing Rollins for his present position. He says of this experience, "We were the activist arm of the organization, NUL actually runs programs, but what we did was to go into communities and find volun-

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

teers to help with things such as mentoring or teaching financial literacy and other things that would be helpful to the community." "We would facilitate, build and nurture those kinds of relationships with communities."

Hurricane Katrina has left a city with a void in many areas, a fact not lost on Rollins as he talks about why he choose to come to the Crescent City. "I think this is the place to be because the city needs so many things right now." "If you are in the business of change then New Orleans is a place where we need soldiers who are about fighting the righteous fight; it is not just about rebuilding bricks and mortar, it's about rebuilding families." Adding, "This is the opportunity of a lifetime to rebuild a city, not to just where it was, but to where it's going to be and I think history will write well of the people and the community folks who are engaged in this work and I think this is a great opportunity I believe to do some good for a lot of people."

Rollins has been in the city of New Orleans for six months and is still amazed at the amount of wreckage remains and the amount of damage the city incurred. "Neither is the written word nor the pictures can do justice to what actually happened or is happening here; you have to be on the ground you have to go to the Ninth Ward, Lakeview and other parts of the city, because what I saw on TV is magnified by a million and that's just scratching the surface." "There is so much work to be done and we at the Urban League are ready to do whatever we have to do to be agents of change."

Under his guidance Rollins says they will focus on several key areas: youth and education centers, early childhood education and after school programs. But he says that education does not simply start and stop at the school house, but that it is important to also educate parents, "We believe that if we are going to provide students with a good education we have to provide their parents with opportunities to get them into schools and provide training



New Orleans Urban League CEO & President Nolan Rollins

for them as well so that they can be in better positions to do more for their children, because to help the children we need to build better communities."

While education is important Rollins sees the need for economic development and opportunities for African-Americans and minority businesses being an essential component of their program at the Urban League as well. "I think also our focus needs to be empower minority business and encourage them to do business in the region and be part of this rebuilding process and move the city forward."

Before coming to New Orleans Rollins oversaw 2.5 billion dollars in contracts and through the Urban League helped minority owned businesses get a piece of the economic pie which in his opinion is important as economics is the next frontier of civil rights in his mind. "I helped to make available contracts for these businesses so we could keep some of the monies coming in and circulating inside our communities because if we are not empowering ourselves economically then we cannot turn around some of the pressing issues that effect our communities."

The new chief of the New Orleans Urban League feels that economics is more than just the new frontier of civil rights, but goes further to say it is the now frontier, but he feels that social protest is still necessary and essential with all the components of

have gotten ourselves to the point where access is not the problem it's not an issue if can we sit at lunch counter's or go to certain schools, it's now can we afford to purchase the store or restaurant, can we afford to send our kids to these schools." "So it's really about how do we empower our folks economically in order to realize the fight that everyone has gotten us up to socially at this point."

Rollins since coming on board in August of last year has been in talks with many of the local elected and as civil rights leaders and says that the meetings have been productive and he looks forward to working with them on initiatives to move the city in a positive direction. While Rollins leads the organization at the local level, he answers to National President Marc Morial. He says he has talked with him on several occasions about the challenges that face the city. "I think that Marc Morial was a breath of fresh air into the organization." But he says that although he may offer guidance to the organization, he

is an advocate of autonomy and accountability from its local leaders. "He has stated that it would be the local people who make decisions about who the leaders of their organization should be, and he has been very open about giving me access saying that whatever I need he is there for me, but his expectation at the end of the day is for me to run the organization locally."

So with this change in leadership, the young and vibrant Nolan Rollins has focused his eye on being an advocate and helping minorities become part of the power equation and on providing a set of solutions for some of the problems of the city in the days to come. And he feels that the National Urban League, which is nearly a century old, is still relevant and will continue to be so, and it is here to stay. The Greater New Orleans Urban League is ready to lead the charge and face the challenges of rebuilding the city and making it greater than it was before and where minorities can participate at every level.

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NOLA Hosts 2008 State of the Black Union

Tavis Smiley's annual "State of the Black Union" (SOBU) symposium will cast its lens on the role African Americans will play in the 2008 elections and mobilize 1,000 volunteers to rebuild some of the poorest areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The 2008 State of the Black Union weekend kicks off this weekend in New Orleans with SOBU Builds on Friday, Feb. 22, with volunteers working at six simultaneous community service projects in the Upper Ninth Ward, the Lower Ninth Ward, Central City, Hollygrove, New Orleans East and Broadmoor.

Then, Smiley will host a conversation with 24 noted politicians, educators, social scientists, business leaders and clergy on, "Reclaiming our Democracy; Recasting our Future," from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CT Saturday, Feb. 23 at the Ernest E. Morial Convention Center.



Tavis Smiley

Participation in the service project and attendance at the panel discussion is free and open to the public.

Advanced free registration is required at www.tavistalks.com. All registered attendees will receive a DVD of Jonathan Demme's documentary *Right to Return: New Home Movies from the Lower 9th Ward* courtesy of ExxonMobil.

"Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath provided a portrait of disenfranchisement at its worst. The service we will provide to so many still in need on Friday sets up the conversation on Saturday on what leadership must look like for the next four years. If we can bring everyday people together to restore hope to this jewel city in a grassroots, hands-on fashion; the body politic should at the very least meet the people halfway and do its part. That is the true intersection of love and service," Smiley said.

SOBU Builds in partnership with Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu's Office will mobilize volunteers with the support of local community

partners who are currently addressing community needs. The sections selected for the projects represent some of the worst hit areas of New Orleans. While millions has been spent on these neighborhoods, there continues to be a need for recovery in three key areas: housing, education and recreation. Volunteers will be assigned to one of six projects.

As Americans approach the 2008 presidential election along with important state and local elections, this year's panel will examine the role that African Americans can and must play to create an America as good as its promise from education and health to the

justice system and wealth-building.

Some of the panelists for the symposium include: Mayor C. Ray Nagin; Norman Francis, president of Xavier University; Dr. Cornel West; Bishop Paul S. Morton; Newark, N.J. Mayor Cory Booker; the Rev. Al Sharpton; the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu; Angela Glover Blackwell, Michael Eric Dyson and Michael Steele.

The symposium supporters include Title sponsor Wells Fargo and National sponsors Allstate Insurance Company, ExxonMobil, AARP and Community Sponsor McDonald's.

What's Happening Now?

Delgado Presents Nobel Prize Winning Play "Betrayal" March 5-9

Delgado Community College's Theatre Department presents the Nobel Prize for Literature winning play, *Betrayal*, by Harold Pinter Mar. 5-9, 2008, in the 3rd Floor Drama Hall of Isaac Delgado Hall (Building One) on Delgado's City Park Campus at 615 City Park Avenue

Performances are March 5, 6, 7, and 8 at 8 p.m. with a Sunday matinee on March 9 at 3 p.m. General Admission tickets are \$10.00, and Senior citizen and student tickets are \$8.00. Reservations are not necessary, and tickets will be available at the Box Office before each performance. For further information please call (504) 671-6360.

Business Networking Event Announced

The Entrepreneurs Institute will be hosting an event, *How to Do Business with the State of Louisiana*. Come get valuable information on opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs and the State of Louisiana.

Guest speakers will be Rosemary Jackson and John Matthews and others from the State. You are strongly encouraged to bring business cards and marketing materials and refreshments will be served.

Thursday, February 28th, 5:30 - 8:30 pm at the Good Work Network, Business Resource Center

1824 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. Call (504)309-2073 for more information.

Stella Jones Gallery Will Host A Student Thesis Exhibition

"Mirror, Mirror on the Wall" - Selected African American female artists

The exhibition will be curated by Southern University at New Orleans (SUNO), M.A. Museum Studies candidate, Michelle Briscoe-Long and features seventeen local and nationally acclaimed African American female artists, commemorating Women's Heritage Month.

EXHIBITION DATES: March 1 through March 31, 2008

Artist Reception's: Saturday, March, 1 - 6-9pm

GALLERY HOURS: M-F 11-6, Sat 12-5

For more information, contact Michelle Briscoe-Long or Stella Jones (504)669-7071 or jones6941@aol.com

If you would like to have your event listed in **What's Happening Now?**, email us at datanewsad@bellsouth.net.

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Walker High School, 2832 General Meyer Avenue

School Planning Area A

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 6-8pm

Habans Elementary School, 3819 Herschel Street

School Planning Area B

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 6-8pm

King Elementary School, 1617 Caffin Avenue

School Planning Area C

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, 6-8pm

Wicker Elementary School, 2011 Bienville Street

Eastbank High Schools

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd, 10am-12pm

John McDonogh High School, 2426 Esplanade Avenue

Planning Area D

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25th, 6pm-8pm

Andrew Jackson Elementary School, 1400 Camp Street

Planning Area E

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26th, 6pm-8pm

McNair Elementary School, 1607 South Carrollton Avenue

Planning Area F

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28th, 6pm-8pm

Nelson Elementary School, 3121 St. Bernard Avenue

Planning Area G

MONDAY, MARCH 3rd, 6pm-8pm

Capdau Elementary School, 3821 Franklin Avenue

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Lowes Gives \$650,000 to Repair NO Firehouses

Grant from Lowe's will assist NOFD in reopening firehouses damaged by Hurricane Katrina and repairing

other firehouses throughout New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS, LA. – The New Orleans Fire Department

(NOFD) was awarded a \$650,000 grant from Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation for the renovation of 10 and repair of 4 firehouses throughout New Orleans. During the 2005 storm, 23 out of 33 Fire Stations were flooded forcing Fire Fighters to

operate out of temporary trailers. The repairs will range from the complete renovation of some stations (installing new mechanical systems, sheet rock, furnishings and fixtures and replacing roofs) to repairs of others (installing new lockers and ceiling tiles,

running phone lines and replacing fuel tanks and fences.)

Chief Parent said, "The NOFD is honored to have charitable corporate sponsors reaching out to help us rebuild. Thanks to Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation and the numerous organizations around the country that have convened to help us. We are truly grateful for the corporate community coming to our aid in the aftermath of this devastating disaster. In order for our neighborhoods to rebuild, we must have a presence in our communities to ensure the safety of our citizens and property. The revitalization of the NOFD and our beautiful city has truly been a team effort."

"After the hurricanes, 75% of New Orleans Fire Fighters saw their homes destroyed by flooding, in addition to their firehouses being left in ruins. By helping the New Orleans Fire Department return to fully functioning firehouses, Lowe's believes this is also an opportunity to help New Orleans residents feel more secure in their homes," said Larry D. Stone, chairman of Lowe's



Charitable and Educational Foundation. "This grant demonstrates Lowe's continued commitment to the long-term rebuilding efforts in the Gulf Coast and our New Orleans-area customers and employees."

Since its inception in 1957, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has helped communities nationwide through employee volunteerism and financial contributions. In 2007, the Foundation supported community and education projects across the country through grants totaling more than \$25 million.

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The Road Home And La Works Host An Employment Training Seminar

The Road Home program, in conjunction with LA Works, will facilitate an employment training workshop Thursday, February 28 in Slidell. The employment training seminar will provide hands-on assistance with resume preparation, interview skills and other valuable job seeking techniques. The seminar is free and open to the public. To register for this event, please call (504) 584-1771.

Where and When:

East Tammany Career Solutions Center
316 Howze Beach Lane
Slidell, La. 70461

Thursday, February 28 - 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

The employment training seminar and job fair will not provide information on the application process for The Road Home program. To receive more details on Road Home Information Sessions in your community, please visit <http://www.road2la.org/homeowner/events> for a list of locations and times.

JMJ Foundation TRAIL BLAZERS

Burnell Moliere



Trailblazer of the month, Burnell Moliere

By Tre Connerly

He is a pillar in the New Orleans community who has over the years been a force in the business community as well as a civic minded individual who has given back to give a hand up to those less fortunate. This month's Trailblazer is Burnell Moliere who is the owner of AME Services Inc. a building service contracting company.

In his several decades in business he has been much more than an entrepreneur, he has inspired others through his hard work and dedication, "I feel like what I have done in business as well as other African-American businessmen is to show that we can not only survive as business people but through hard work we can also thrive," he says.

In addition to running a successful company he has given his time and money where many have often provided lip service, he has been proactive in helping to solve some of the many problems that plague the city of New Orleans. He has worked with several church groups and schools providing them with computers so that children and adults can have access to technology helping people forge ahead and close the gap that is the digital divide. "It makes me feel good to give back because I feel all people need is someone to believe in them and give them the encouragement that they can be better so that's what I've tried to do throughout my life is encourage people to shoot for the stars and be the best possible person they can be."

In a city that has many people who were struggling before Hurricane Katrina and much more thereafter, the problems of crime and violence are of epidemic proportions. While some families have

suffered in the most fatal of scenarios; the death of a loved one and without life insurance to bury them Moliere has helped families bury their relatives. And on the crime fighting front, he has given to Crimestoppers. Of his helping those in their time of need he says, "Death of a loved one is a very hurtful thing and people should not have to be burdened by how they were going to bury their family members so I stepped in to help because that's what people are supposed to do when people are in need." He continues saying, "I have had a blessed life and it is in the blessings that we are given that we bless others." "As far as contributing monies to Crimestoppers I feel it is important that we as citizens do whatever we can to keep our city safe from violence."

Burnell Moliere's life before and after Hurricane Katrina is an example that an ordinary person can do extraordinary things, and in so many ways Moliere's life has been a statement of that fact. And as he moves forward his life one that has taken him on a journey that has seen its peaks as well as it's valleys, but in truth that is what life is essentially about, weathering the storms that life sometimes bring our way and knowing that tomorrow will be a better day, for perfection is a laudable goal many of us aspire to but is basically unobtainable. Moliere says his life's work has been about helping people and giving them a chance to compete and succeed. "I've dedicated my life to service and have always tried to do the right things, and I hope that my life can inspire the next generation to make the city of New Orleans and the world a better place."

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Data Around Town

The Urban League of Greater New Orleans held the inaugural celebration for "I AM THE MOVEMENT", the new organization aimed at uniting young professionals between the ages of 21 and 44. The event was held Friday at the New Orleans Museum of Art and Data was there. Photos by Lawrence Martin



(l - r) Dellona Davis, Michael Hubbard, Jr., Lamar Smith, Christian Fauria-Robinson, Roman & Sheila Burns, Gary and Denise St. Etienne, Dottie Reese, Winston Burns



Warmoth Guillaume, Keith Hitchens and Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones at the Urban League Event



Kenya Smith of the Mayor's Office, NO City Councilman James Carter and Terrell Clayton attended to show their support of the Urban League's new program.



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2008 Black History Month

Data News Weekly Black History Month



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Love 'Em or Leave 'Em?



Xxavier T
Data Columnist

My ex has just confessed that the girl he has staying with him is now his girlfriend. When he first told me about her living there, he said they were not messing around, and she was having a hard time and he was helping her out. I inquired because we were still sleeping together. I had a funny feeling that he was sleeping with her too. I told him about my feelings. He told me that it was not so and that I was tripping. Recently I have run into a few problems. Our son and I need a place to stay. I told him about this a month ago; not one time has he offered to help us out in any way.

I called him and asked him why he has not offered to help us. He said, "Someone is staying with me." I asked, "Is this your girlfriend?" Now he says yes. Not one time has he ever referred to her as his girlfriend. I wanted to know when all this happened. He said, "Not that long ago."

A month prior he was about to spend the weekend at my place. Four months prior he was saying he was confused about what he wanted. He always tells me that he still love me. He acts so nice to me one day but the next day he is jumping down my throat about the problems he is having with the chick. It's like he is blaming me for whatever is going on. And he even says he is confused about her and he thinks that she is what he is looking for he guesses. I feel like he has lied to me since the beginning. The question is why? I am starting to feel that he told me about them so he won't have to offer us a place to stay, but why? I would not have accepted his offer because we have been through a lot, but he could have offered to help me some other way, if not for me, for our son. Am I wrong to expect him to offer to help us out? This man is not involved in his son's life. He does not call regularly. He wants me to call him when I am in the area. Why do I have to call him to see his son? I don't feel like that is

my responsibility.

It seems as though he is trying to forget about us. He recently asked me to bring our son to spend a night at his house. I told him that our son doesn't need to be in this type of situation. His private life should be his own business. Am I wrong for not letting him stay over at his house? What should I do about this? Please help!

Keyless and Crushed

Dear Keyless,

Who cares if he called her the chick or the broad? The bottom line is that she lives with your Ex, and she has a key to the front door and you don't. He moved another woman in his home while stringing you along emotionally and told you she was living there. That's a bold brother. He's not trying to forget about you; he already has. You're the only one who needs to move on. You also need to be tested if you were not using protection. Obviously, your ex has no problem sleeping with two women. Please use condoms with anyone you meet from now on. Your health is your wealth.

It is disappointing that your Ex is not equally concerned about providing shelter for his defenseless son, but there are laws to address this unfair situation. Gather your documents and schedule an appointment

with the Office of Family Support. This is how you can ensure that your son gets all of the provisions entitled to him.

If you don't trust this woman, do not allow her around your child. Keep in mind that your Ex does have rights, and he should be allowed to exercise his parental responsibility. You will need to work out a fair visitation agreement that does not put your son in physical or emotional danger.

I also recommend creating a plan for your own personal growth. Happy, healthy mommies make better parenting decisions. Find a support group of women to encourage you, mentor you and help ease the burden of parenting without a husband. Some churches have organizations where married women with life experience mentor single moms. You should also work on additional training so that you can expand your job skills. The more skills and training you receive the more money you can command. Stay positive. God will provide for you and your son. You are not alone.

LOL,
Xxavier

Xxavier T. is the author of *Treat Your Man Like A V.I.P.* available on Amazon.com. She is also the host of *Love'em or Leave'em?* on WBOK 1230-AM. Email questions to askxxavier@gmail.com or visit xxaviert.com



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UNLEASHING THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

*By Marc H. Morial,
President and Chief Executive Officer, National Urban League*

A few years ago, a repair man came to my house to fix my washing machine. Before he even touched the washer, he pulled out a computer, connected it to the machine and, as I looked over his shoulder, the computer told him what was wrong. If you don't know how to use technology, he said, you can't be a repair man in the 21st century.

Technology today touches everything we do. Knowing how to use it can be the key to success in today's workforce generally, and specifically to careers that offer great opportunity. Over the past 25 years, the number of jobs in information technology has grown tremendously, and the number is expected to double in the next five years.

Sadly, too few African Americans fully engage with technology to help unleash their full potential.

Currently, fewer than six out of 100 professionals in information technology are African American, and even fewer are graduating with degrees that prepare them for information technology careers.

Access to computers and the Internet at home can help put young people on a path toward technology careers, but one of the biggest roadblocks for African Americans is financial. Acquiring a computer and a high-speed Internet connection takes money.

Prices of both have come down dramatically, but for some families, these costs still present a significant—even unbridgeable—hurdle.

Once exposed to technology, however, people realize how much it can do to make life easier, more productive and fun. Once they cross the digital divide, they never go back.

At the National Urban League, as we think about our future and how to bring about economic justice, we recognize that technology is power. And we are constantly working to place that power into the hands of people in our various communities.

This is not a task that we can do alone.

***Partnerships are helping reduce barriers
to economic opportunity.***

Fortunately, we have help from partners such as Microsoft, which recently awarded us a \$5 million software grant to bring the power of technology into over 100 Urban League affiliate offices serving more than 2 million people nationwide. This generous gift from Microsoft will significantly enhance local capabilities and increase access to digital technology for the disadvantaged students and adults participating in a wide variety of programs, from educational assistance to job training.

These efforts are incredibly important. It is imperative that we expose the people we serve to the power of technology—from repairing a washing machine, to planning for the economic success of the next generation.

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Fidel Castro Resigns as Cuba's President

Havana- Fidel Castro stepped down Tuesday morning as the president of Cuba after a long illness. The announcement was made in a letter to the nation written by Mr. Castro and published early Tuesday morning on the Web site of Granma, the official publication of the Cuban Communist Party.

he resignation ends one of the longest tenures as one of the most all-powerful communist heads of state in the world.

In late July 2006, Mr. Castro, who is 81, handed over power temporarily to his brother, Raúl Castro, 76, and a few younger cabinet ministers, after an acute infection in his colon forced him to undergo emergency surgery. Despite numerous operations, he has never fully recovered but has remained active in running government affairs from behind the scenes.

Now, just days before the national assembly is to meet to select

a new head of state, Mr. Castro resigned permanently, and signaled his willingness to let a younger generation assume power. He said his failing health made it impossible to return as president.

"I will not aspire to neither will I accept — I repeat I will not aspire to neither will I accept — the position of President of the Council of State and Commander in chief," he wrote in the letter.

He added: "It would betray my conscience to occupy a responsibility that requires mobility and the total commitment that I am not in the physical condition to offer."

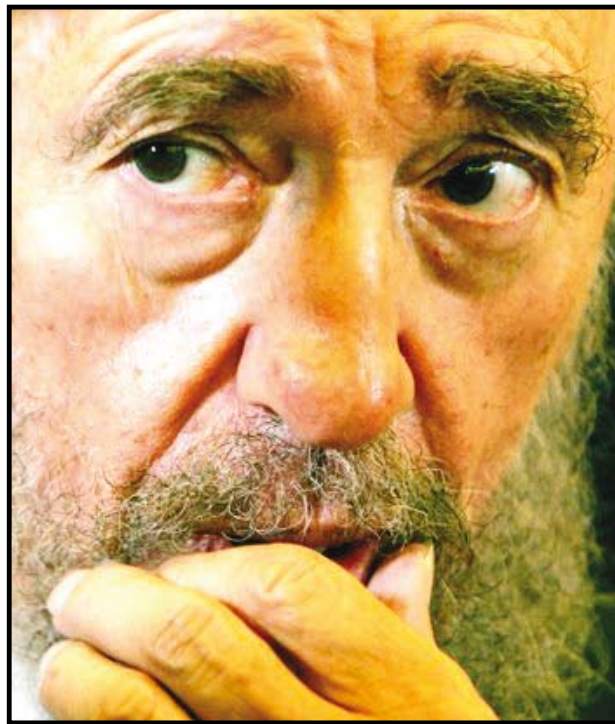
President Bush, traveling in Rwanda on a tour of African nations, greeted the news by saying that the resignation should be the beginning a democratic transition in Cuba that should lead to free elections. "The United States will help the people of Cuba realize the blessings of liberty," he said.

Mr. Bush called for Cuba to

release political prisoners and to begin building "institutions necessary for democracy that eventually will lead to free and fair elections."

But the announcement puts Raúl Castro in position to be anointed as the Cuban head of state when the National Assembly meets on Sunday, cementing the power structure that has run the country since Mr. Castro fell ill.

However, Mr. Castro's unex-



Fidel Castro

pected announcement left it unclear what role other high-level government ministers — among

them the vice president, Carlos Lage Davila, and the foreign minister, Felipe Perez Roque — would play in the new government.

Mr. Castro also made it clear he is not fading into the sunset but pledged to continue to be a force in Cuban politics through his writings, just as he has over the last year and a half. "I am not saying goodbye to you," he wrote. "I only wish to fight as a soldier of ideas."

That statement raised the possibility little would change after Sunday's vote, that Cuba will continue to be ruled in essence by two presidents, with Raúl Castro on stage while Fidel Castro lurks in the wings. At times over the last year and a half, the current government has seemed paralyzed when the two men disagree. In Washington, John D. Negroponte, deputy secretary of state, said it was unlikely that the United States would lift its trade embargo on Cuba, Reuters reported.



Senator Ann Duplessis

Celebrating Black History

Red is Blood Shed

Black is Skin

Green is Hope

HISTORY IS A CLOCK THAT PEOPLE USE TO TELL THEIR POLITICAL AND CULTURAL TIME OF DAY. IT IS A COMPASS THEY USE TO FIND THEMSELVES ON THE MAP OF HUMAN GEOGRAPHY. IT TELLS THEM WHERE THEY ARE, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT THEY MUST BE.

-DR. JOHN HENRIK CLARKE

Senator Ann Duplessis District Office

6600 Plaza Dr., Suite 211 | New Orleans, LA 70127 | 504.243.7795

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The Small Business Technology Event is coming to the UEP Gulf Coast, Inc. offices in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. Pre-register today to learn about integrated solutions that will help you achieve maximum profitability and efficiency.

The Small Business Technology Event

NEW ORLEANS

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

UEP Gulf Coast, Inc.

917 Terpsichore Street

New Orleans, LA 70130

BATON ROUGE

Friday, Feb. 29, 2008

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM

UEP Gulf Coast, Inc.

327 N. Boulevard

Baton Rouge, LA 70801

Pre-register for New Orleans at <http://uepnola.eventbrite.com> or 504-525-2609; for Baton Rouge at <http://uepbra.eventbrite.com> or 225-383-1326.



Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution



Ben Jealous
Data Columnist

Delivered 40 years ago, the message like the messenger remains relevant today. King warned that too many people live through periods of great social change with their eyes closed to the possibilities, reduced to Rip Van Winkle in unfamiliar surroundings, dumbfounded and lost.

The 2008 presidential race is a great revolution. We have an opportunity in Barack Obama unlike none before, an option that I never thought I'd see in my lifetime.

My fervor is not motivated by mere racial solidarity. Look no further than Clarence Thomas or Condoleezza Rice for evidence that shared race does not translate into shared values.

Obama is well-prepared: Harvard law degree, community organizer, civil rights attorney; and more legislative years than his rival Hillary Clinton. He inspires political activism in youth and the voiceless who did not believe electoral politics mattered.

Obama can win: Poll after poll

has shown that he's the most electable of all the prospective nominees. He's faced off against the formidable Clinton political machine, matched them in fund raising, and shaken the walls around that political principality in Iowa. He came in close in New Hampshire, and racked up more delegates than Clinton in Nevada.

Perhaps most importantly, Obama gets it: He watched his cancer-stricken mother confounded by her health coverage. Fifteen years out of law school, he and his wife were paying more to service their student loan debt than their home mortgage. He turned down a six-figure corporate law job to work for \$13,000.00 a year as a community organizer. He understands how the economic system is designed to hold us back. He has felt bludgeoned by that system.

And, yet, on top of all of this Obama's political boat has risen and so have the possibilities for all children of color.

We raise our children to believe if they work hard enough, they too can be President. But we Americans of a darker hue, live with the acidic knowledge that one day our children will confront the reality of race that renders some of their dreams categorically impossible.

That's how it's been for the 232 years since our democracy was founded. That's how it will be.

Until now.

My daughter is 2, and every night, after a few minutes of Sesame Street we watch the news. Invariably she sees this man who looks like he could be her cousin or uncle, and she gets excited.

Unable to interpret the latest remark by the candidate, his opponents, or their surrogates, she does know that when she utters the two words "Barack Obama," everyone – even her 91-year old great grandmother – gets excited.

And she just beams. We see reflected in her eyes the bigness of this moment, the revolutionary

nature of our times.

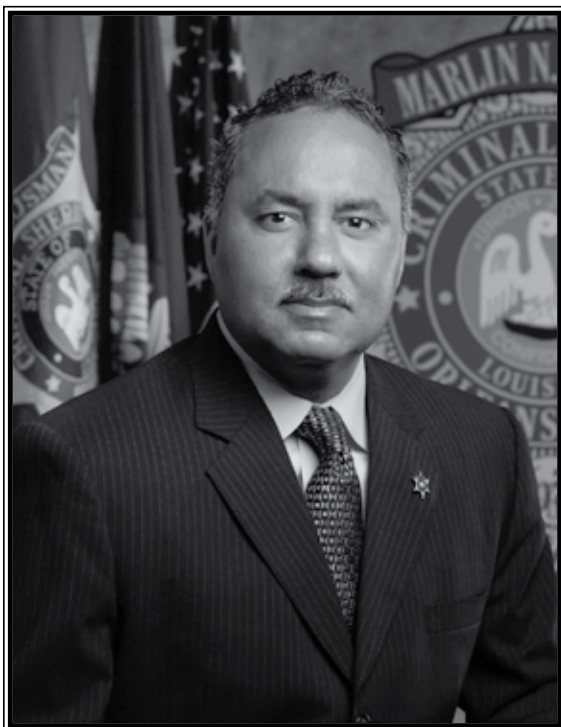
Dr King's challenge delivered to a congregation at the National Cathedral in March of 1968 has particular resonance during this intense primary election season when African American voices will matter most. Remain awake through the great revolution of 2008.

We don't want to wake up the day after the election and realize that we've slept through the opportunity to participate in a transformative moment that matters tomorrow.

Because of what Obama has already achieved in 2008, that possibility is within my daughter's reach. That a black child can honestly dare to aspire to the presidency is revolutionary.

Benjamin Todd Jealous is the former executive director of the NNPA, and the former managing editor of Mississippi's Jackson Advocate newspaper. He lives in Northern California with his wife and 2-year-old daughter Morgan.

SHERIFF MARLIN N. GUSMAN



TO SERVE AND TO PROTECT

Sheriff Marlin N. Gusman's Office of the Criminal Sheriff is dedicated to respect, rehabilitation and reform. Service, public safety, accountability, transparency and the public trust have true meaning for everyone in the Sheriff's Office. New Orleans will be safe when its citizens believe in our entire Criminal Justice System, and we are working every day rebuilding and maintaining this system.

"An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity."

REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

The Road Home Hosts Information Sessions

NEW ORLEANS - The Road Home Homeowner and Rental programs are having Information Sessions in New Orleans. The Information Sessions provide homeowners and rental property owners the chance to ask questions about application status, required documentation and more.

What: Information Sessions on The Road Home program

When and Where:

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

St. Bernard Community Center

1107 Le Beau Street

Arabi, LA

Wednesday, February 27, 2008

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Chalmette High School

1100 E. Judge Perez Drive

Chalmette, LA

Thursday, February 28, 2008

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

St. Maria Goretti Community Center

7300 Crowder Boulevard

New Orleans, LA

Friday, February 29, 2008

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Odyssey House Community Center

3614 Bienville Street

New Orleans, LA

In preparation for one-on-one consultations, The Road Home encourages homeowners to bring their Application ID numbers and photo IDs. This session is free and open to the public. Space is limited. Homeowners who are unable to attend may call 1-888-762-3252 to schedule Advisory Service appointments at a Road Home Housing Assistance Center. If you have any questions regarding the Rental program, call 1.888.762.3252 and select the Rental program prompt (#1).

For more information on The Road Home program, visit www.Road2LA.org or call 1-888-ROAD-2-LA (1-888-762-3252). TTY callers use 711 relay.

Tom Joyner, NAACP Launch Voter Empowerment Hotline

The Tom Joyner Morning Show and the NAACP National Voter Fund have partnered to launch 1-866-MYVOTE1 as part of a year-long voter registration, education and empowerment campaign.

"This is truly one of the most exciting and important presidential election years we've ever had," said Joyner, the nationally syndicated radio personality whose radio show is aired in 115 markets reaching nearly eight million listeners. "This partnership with the NAACP National Voter Fund is our way to make sure we register as many voters as possible, and give our community the tools to become active players in this year's election."

Julian Bond, chairman of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization, said that "the stakes in this year's elections are extremely high and for the first time in US History the African-American vote will be decisive

in both the Primary and General Elections."

Bond added, "The NAACP and NAACP National Voter Fund's Partnership with the Tom Joyner Morning Show could not come at a better time. The Tom Joyner Morning Show's national promotion will play a major role in our efforts to register and empower hundreds of thousands of African Americans and especially young voters throughout the United States."

The toll-free number can be used by callers around the country and will operate through the November 2008 election. After callers dial the 866-MYVOTE1 (866-698-6831), they can enter their zip code and select from one of several options:

- 1) Request a voter registration application, which they can sign and return to their local county elections board;
- 2) Find the closest polling place to their home;

3) Record up to a 60 second complaint if they have encountered any problems, or

4) Transfer to a person at their local county elections office.

Throughout the primary season and Election Day, Joyner and the NAACP will be encouraging tens of thousands to register to vote and be able to monitor any problems voters might have at their polling places.

The voter hotline is a part of Joyner's and the NAACP broader initiatives to educate and inform residents to get involved in what is one of the most racially diverse presidential campaigns ever. Joyner's Black-



Tom Joyner

AmericWeb.com **blackamericaweb.com** will feature a special 'Moving America' section that will exclusively be devoted to covering the presidential race as well as other critical issues affecting African-Americans.

"Since the start of this new partnership in late November, 2007, over 10,000 listeners have already responded," according to Greg Moore, executive director of the NAACP National Voter Fund. "Our overall goal is to register 100,000 new voters who will play a decisive role in the 2008 primary and general elections."

The NAACP National Voter Fund (NVF) was established by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as a free-standing 501C (4) corporation in June 2000 to engage in civic participation and community-based mobilization efforts through education and awareness campaigns surrounding key issues in communities of color. NVF's expertise lies in increasing voter turnout in the African-American communities through non-partisan voter registration, voter education, and get-out-the vote efforts. Their Web site is www.naacpnvf.net.

Scholarships available for Jesse L. Jackson Sr. Fellows

Reverend Jesse Jackson and PUSH-Excel are pleased announced that they are currently accepting applications for this year's Jesse L. Jackson Sr. Fellows. "We believe that a dream deferred is a dream denied. PUSH-Excel is committed to improving the quality of life for humanity through advocacy efforts, coalition building and direct services. The Scholarship program provides funding to students to begin, continue and complete college," says Reverend Jackson.

Jackson Fellows are awarded to strong high school students. Selected fellows will receive \$5,000.00. The award will be paid directly to the college or university he/she is attending. Selected fellows must meet the following criteria:

- * Senior attending a high school and graduating in Spring of 2008
- * Will be attending a four-year college or university in the U.S.
- * Cumulative 3.0 grade point average or above
- * Demonstrate academic preparation to attend college
- * Ability to overcome obstacles to achieve academic and
- * This scholarship is awarded one time only.

Scholarship applications are being accepted now through April 30, 2008. Applicants may apply online by visiting www.pushexcel.org. Make sure to choose Jesse L. Jackson Sr. Fellows in the application drop-down menu.

Scholarship winners will be notified by May 23, 2008.



Say Goodbye to the Blues

Join us on a Community Journey to Emotional Wellness

Saturday, March 8, 2008 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

UNO Lindy Boggs Conference Center

2500 Lakeshore Drive

New Orleans, Louisiana

Free Admission, Free Lunch, Free Children's Activities, Free Giveaways

Pick up helpful tips and learn about dealing with the blues, helping your children and recognizing the signs of emotional challenges.

To register call 1-800-814-1477.


For more information visit www.redcross.org/goodbyeblues



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