

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Page 8 DataZone

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Data News Weekly On the Scene

October 10 - October 23, 2009 44th Year Volume 11 www.ladatanews.com

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Inspires N.O.

The Soul of New Orleans

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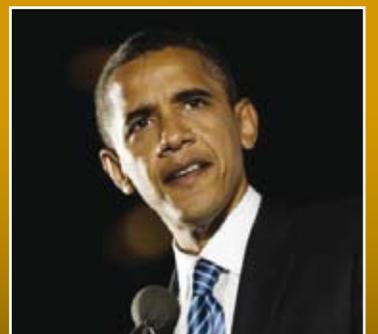
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4-0 Inspires N.O.



Photos by Glenn Summers



Larry Panna, Jr.
Data News Weekly Contributor

When was the last time you felt this way? When did you have the feeling of victory with no blemishes? The feeling of promise, potential and a new start were just within reach. Was it the day you met your significant other? Perhaps it was the day that your child was born. With so much at stake, it appears that the hardest part is over and now you can move forward to create bigger and better things no matter what the cost.

The first quarter is over...

Enter the New Orleans Saints. Anyone within a stone's throw of a 42 inch flat screen TV or an HD Radio can sense the change and potential in the air. Local and national experts are now standing up and beating their chests for the Black and Gold as they pontificate and prognosticate on the Saints being the best team in the NFL. A local radio personality has even given the once dormant defense a new name, to distance itself from the previ-

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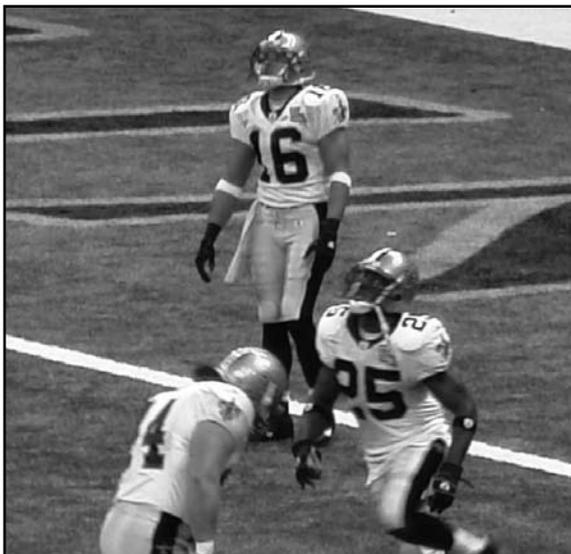
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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



ous moniker, the "Dome Patrol". They should now be respectfully known as "Dome Security."

When was the last time these chronic under-achievers were 4 and 0? The year was 2006, the same year that they advanced two games deep into the playoffs and one game away from the elusive promised land of the Super Bowl. There are some glaring differences though. When was the last time a Saints defensive player returned an interception

for a touchdown (or two)? When was the last time Will Smith and Charles Grant flattened the "generals" of the opposing teams' offense to make "quarterback pie"? When was the last time the almighty and powerful Oz, better known as the offense, the one of which made the Saints offense the NFL's No. 1 rated in the 2009, took a back seat to a once inferior and cowardly lion, the defense?

Are the planets finally lining up? Are all the elements there for the perfect storm? It wasn't very long ago when those needed ingredients were conjured up to instigate the greatest "man-made" disaster that our fair country and precious city has ever witnessed. Lady Katrina dealt us a tainted hand and soon after we scratched and clawed our way from rock bottom to once again celebrate the unique style of living that has duly described as "only in New Orleans."

Well, not only have the New Orleans Saints risen from the dead, but once again risen the spirit of the people who love them best, its fans. For four incredible weeks we have risen to a Monday morning of glee and elation, Black and Gold proudly bran-

dished by both the black and white. The unmistakable mark of the fleur de lis is proudly displayed on t-shirts, ice chests and folding chairs at tailgating events around the dome or at a neighbors' backyard barbecue. Little ones have their faces painted in the team colors. The family dog sports swanky pet swag. Pink "Brees" jerseys are adorned by fanatical female followers. "Who Dat" banners fly high from front porches as tiny replica flags whip freely in the wind from the family mini-van.

These days it's hard to find someone who has a gripe with what they see on the gridiron. One fan in particular mentioned the importance of being "happy without haste". "I am very happy that they are doing so well. Good to see the defense doing well since the offense struggled. It does a lot for me inside but I have to say, there's a long way to go! The Super Bowl is possible now!"

This could be contagious.

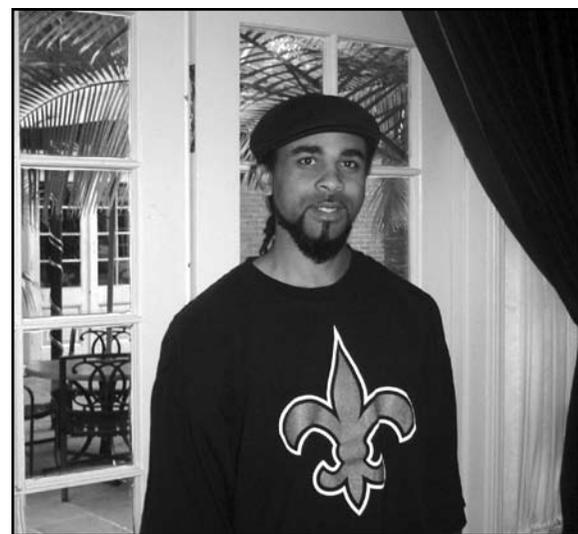
But unlike a debilitating, airborne disease like the infamous H1N1 virus, this "sickness" can't be shaken with antibiotics or a needle prick to ones' rear end. This is a sickness many we long to have! Call it the Black (and Gold) Plague! There is no known vaccine or cure but one thing...and it can be found in a bowl that is super in size!

Let's not get ahead of ourselves here! The first quarter has ended with three more intense and treacherous quarters to follow. Inevitable injuries occur. Balls are dropped. Egos can ruin chemistry. Let's face facts; Jamal Brown's weakened condition will not allow him to play this season. Reggie Bush is capable of exploding at any

moment but in recent times appears to be imploding. Jeremy Shockey could potentially "shock" us again with antics more familiar in a children's daycare setting than a football field. But I digress. Once the smoke clears, these guys are just as human as you and I. As an edited version of scripture might

read, "He who is without sin, cannot toss the pig skin."

Under normal conditions, a euphoric fan would opt for an out-right victory as opposed to the "fifth quarter". In this case, the fifth quarter represents the playoffs and the Super Bowl. A 16 game season broken down into 4 distinct pieces, with a fifth piece added as a very special bonus and only a very successful few can hold. Perhaps this time, players and fans alike would like to go into "overtime"...and win.



Morphosis FLOAT House Completed for Make It Right Foundation

New Orleans – Morphosis Architects, under the direction of renowned architect and UCLA distinguished Professor Thom Mayne, has completed the first floating house permitted in the United States for Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation in New Orleans. The FLOAT House is a new model for flood-safe, affordable and sustainable housing that is designed to float securely with rising water levels.

Mayne led a team from Morphosis Architects and graduate students from UCLA Architecture and Urban Design in this innovative housing project to help with the rebuilding of the Lower Ninth Ward post-Hurricane Katrina. The concept emerged from a study of the flooding record, social and cultural history of the city, and the ecology of the Mississippi Delta. Morphosis and UCLA's collabo-



Morphosis Architects designed The FLOAT house, which is an affordable, flood-safe housing unit that will float with rising water.

ration on the research, development, design, and construction of the FLOAT House is exemplary of their shared goals to engage students in real-world design for social impact.

In the event of flooding, the base of the house – reconceived as a chassis – acts as a raft, allowing the house to rise vertically on guide posts, securely floating up to twelve feet as water levels

rise. While not designed for occupants to remain in the home during a hurricane, this innovative structure aims to minimize catastrophic damage and preserve the homeowner's investment in

their property. This approach also allows for the early return of occupants in the aftermath of a hurricane or flood.

"When Brad Pitt launched Make It Right, he promised the residents of the Lower 9th Ward that he would help them build back stronger, safer and better able to survive the next storm or flood. The FLOAT House is helping us deliver on that promise. For the first time, this house brings technology to Americans that was created to help save homes and speed recovery from flooding. It's an approach and design that could and should be replicated all over the world now threatened with increased flooding caused by climate change," says Tom Darden, Executive Director of the Make It Right Foundation.

Designed in response to Ninth Ward residents' specific needs, the FLOAT House serves as a

Newsmaker, Continued on page 9.



At AT&T, diversity and inclusion will always be top priorities.

That's why we're proud to support the Louisiana NAACP and its outstanding work advocating for equality.



Former Saints Player and Local Radio Personality Focus on Louisiana's Children

With 283,350 of Louisiana's children living in poverty, 137,000 without health insurance, and 62,887 of 3 and 4 year olds, not enrolled in a pre-school program, Every Child Matters in Louisiana along with other community partners will hosted an event on Oct. 7 to call attention to the needs of our most vulnerable citizens—Louisiana's kids.

With the help of the New Orleans Saints, the non-profit, J.U.G.I.E (Joining Underprivileged Generations Growing In Education), and Kingsley House; former Saints Pro-Bowl Punt Re-

turn Specialist, Michael Lewis and Q93 FM radio personality, Juggie, spoke to Kingsley House Head Start students on the importance of health care and education.

Keith Liederman, Executive Director of Kingsley House, kicked off "Step Up for Kids Day" with a brief overview to Kingsley House parents and staffers on the critical needs of Louisiana's children, and ways to address them. As part of the day's event, the 3 and 4 year old students also participated in a picture drawing campaign with Lewis and Juggie. The pictures will be mailed to President Ba-

rack Obama and will reflect what health care and education means to them.

At the conclusion of the picture drawing campaign, students received a chance to toss football passes with Lewis in the courtyard and obtained autograph signatures of Lewis and Juggie. Musical entertainment was also provided by local disc jockey, DJ Spin.

"Prevention is everything when it comes to maintaining a healthy lifestyle," said Lewis. "I'm happy to be part of such a positive effort that recognizes the critical need

to educate our kids about the importance of developing good eating habits and getting yearly check-ups as they get older."

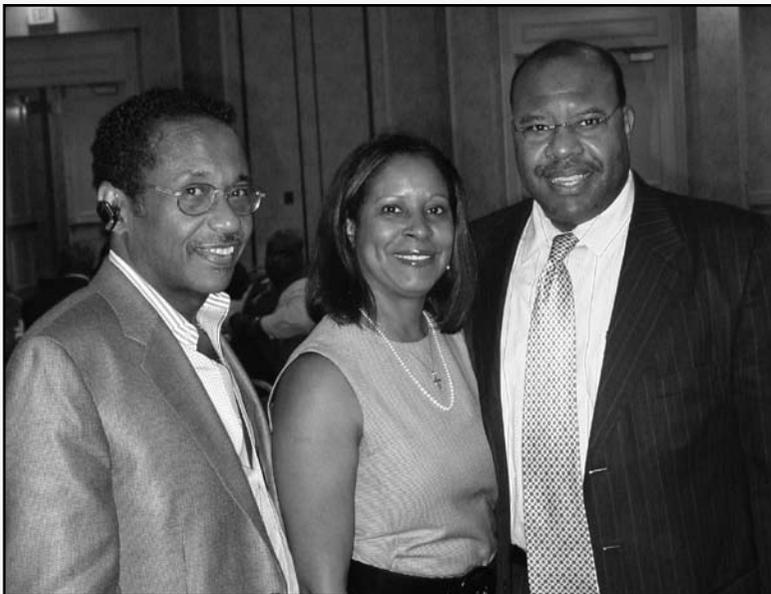
Juggie, who is also the founder of Joining Underprivileged Generations Growing In Education, a non-profit aimed at helping inner city youth learn the craft of radio and television production said, "ensuring that our youngest and brightest minds are not left behind is valuable to the success of American society. It's critical that we put in place now the proper tools and educational resources for our kids, so that they can have

a foundation to build a better tomorrow."

The local event was part of the wide array of "Step Up" activities that took place in every state and in Washington, D.C. during Step Up for Kids week, Oct. 5-9, 2009. As people stepped up for kids across the nation, they asked officials to directly address the needs of children and families as they make their budgetary decisions and to shift spending priorities in the direction of our most valuable assets.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference Hosts Presidential Leadership summit.

Local and national elected officials, as well as civic and business leaders came together to support the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on Saturday, Oct. 3 at the Airport Hilton.



Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones, Nadine Ramsey, and Patrick W. Bell, Director of Government Affairs with Capital One Bank.



SCLC Interim President Dr. Byron Clay Sr. and LA Congressman Anh 'Joseph' Cao.



Kenner Mayor Ed Muniz, Byron Clay, and Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones.



Russell Robinson, Rowena Robinson, and Byron Clay Jr.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data's feature Shoot Ya Best Shot showcases candid photos from around town. To have your photos included in the Shoot Ya Best Shot special section, email them along with the photographer's name to datanewsphotos@gmail.com.



The Young Men Olympians recently celebrated their 125 years of existence in New Orleans with a huge secondline celebration. Photographed here are the members of the organization's 5th division, better known as "the Furious 5".



Keith Pittman and Judge Robin Pittman celebrate Keith's birthday at Sweet Lorraine's with friends.

Music Is Her History

Singer, Raion Ramsey Presents A Night of Jazz and Neo-Soul



Dionne Character, Author
Data News Weekly Columnist

There is no doubt that Raion Ramsey was not born with soul embracing her spinal cord. The daughter of world renowned Bassist/Vocalist, Donald Ramsey, Raion is also the

grand-daughter to the late Margie Ramsey, a gospel great with many quartet choirs, including, but not limited to, The Zion Harmonizers.

With a natural ear for music, Raion has always known she wanted to become a singer. Her career started in church as a member of Val and Love Alive Fellowship Choir, which is where she developed her skills as a solo artist.

After the disaster of Katrina, Raion relocated to Arlington, Texas and became a member of the honors choir, show choir and senior chorale group at Mansfield Timberview High School. A member of T. D. Jakes' Potter's House Youth Praise Team, Jimmy Wright and Promise, Raion's passion for music continues to grow.

A student of Dillard University studying Vocal Performance, Raion will be making her dream come true solo debut, Sparkling through the Night of Jazz & Neo-Soul, at Sweet Lorraine's Jazz Club, 1931 St. Claude Avenue on Friday, Oct. 16 at 9 p.m.

One can expect to hear standards by Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Billy Holiday, with a hint of neo-soul featuring tunes by Jill Scott, India Arie and more. Knowing she has immense stiletos to fill, Raion is ready to represent her father and her grandfather with her fusion of jazz and gospel roots because "Music Is Her History".

For more information, check out Raion at Facebook.com/RaionRamsey.



Raion Ramsey

'Praise in the Park 2009' Promises to Set New Standard of Praise

A new tradition in music has arrived in New Orleans. Versatile Entertainment presents "Praise in the Park 2009". 'Praise in the Park' is a highly anticipated free three-day music event at Louis Armstrong Park on Oct. 16, 17, and 18, 2009, from 11:00am - 6:00pm daily.

The event has a lineup features National Gospel/Christian recording artists, Entertainers and World-renowned speakers. Earnest Pugh, Lucinda Moore, Johnny B. Williams and Zie'l are a few of the artists confirmed to perform. The event looks to draw over 5,000 people over the three day period. Food and beverage merchants will be on hand to quench the thirst and tickle the taste buds of attendants.

One of the featured highlights of 'Praise in the Park' takes place on Saturday, Oct. 17. There will be a FREE Career & Health Fair on site. Event goers will have the opportunity to meet with potential employers as well as take advantage of free health screenings. So in addition to helping you get your praise on, you can get help finding employment and staying healthy.

'Praise in the Park 2009' looks to bring people of all cultural backgrounds together for the sole purpose of giving Praise & Worship to the Lord Jesus Christ as one body. The audience will be families, churches, community leaders and professionals.

This event is open to the public and is free of cost on all three days.

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Recovery Funds Awarded to Help Former Residents of C.J. Peete

Urban Strategies, a not-for-profit corporation that works with its development partner, McCormack Baron Salazar, to help communities build safe neighborhoods, good schools and a range of comprehensive human service supports was recently awarded a \$1 million grant by The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The recovery funds will help Urban Strategies assist former residents of the C.J. Peete public housing project in New Orleans - who are returning to the new community currently under construction called Harmony Oaks -

in achieving self-sufficiency.

The Strengthening Communities Fund (SCF), created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, awarded a total of \$46 million to 84 grantees under the new program. The grants were provided to help improve the ability of nonprofit organizations to promote the economic recovery of people with low incomes. The fund is comprised of two programs, both of which will boost the ability of community and faith-based organizations to handle the broad economic recovery issues in their communities, including job training and retention and ac-

cess to state and Federal benefits. All grants are one-time, two-year awards.

Urban Strategies is collaborating with Harmony Oaks' developers, Central City Partners (CCP), which includes McCormack Baron Salazar, KAI Design and the New Orleans Neighborhood Development Collaborative to revitalize the former C.J. Peete Public Housing Development as a mixed-income community. The organization has been engaged by the CCP team to implement community and supportive services like job training and placement, quality child care and schools, ac-

cess to physical and mental health services, senior programs and enrichment activities for children and youth.

"This grant will be used as a social investment into the former public housing residents to provide the services and community enhancements needed to positively enhance their lives and futures," said Sandra M. Moore, president of Urban Strategies. "These types of funds are crucial to help families and children break free from the cycle of poverty and turn the neighborhood into a thriving, socially and economically integrated community that catalyzes

self-sufficiency."

The first wave of families returning to the site will move in at the end of the year and the redeveloped Harmony Oaks community is expected to be completed by the end of 2010. The redevelopment will include 460 high-quality mixed-income rental units, 50 home-ownership units and a state-of-the-art Campus of Learners comprised of a K-4 charter school, a health suite and a recreation facility. For more information on Urban Strategies and Harmony Oaks, visit www.urbanstrategiesinc.org.

Community Comes Together to Support United Negro College Fund



New Orleans residents and others will have an opportunity to raise money for a worthy cause during the 22nd Annual United Negro College Fund Walk for Education. The walk will take place Sunday, Oct. 11 at the Audubon Zoo and Park with proceeds from the event benefiting Dillard University and Xavier University.

Through the years, the Walk for Education has generated more than \$1.5 million in scholarships for Dillard and Xavier students. Registration for the event will begin at 7:30 am, with the run starting at 9 a.m. followed by the walk at 9:05 a.m. There will also be several events for children in the Kids Tent, sponsored by Ronald McDonald, Louisiana Children's Museum, The Home Depot, Audubon Zoo Aqua Van, Audubon Zoo Mobile, and others.

Special Prizes will be given to participants in the following fund-raising categories:

Prize Categories

Special prizes will be awarded to participants in the following fund-raising categories.

1st Place Prize - Raise \$2,000 and above

- Ticket to the UNCF/Liberty Bank "Ball in the City" Extravaganza

2nd Place Prize - Raise \$1,500-\$1,999

- Hotel and Restaurant Package

3rd Place Prize - Raise \$1,100-\$1,499

- Apple iPod or MP3 Player

4th Place Prize - Raise \$900-\$1,099

- Portable DVD Player

- Two tickets to the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival

UNCF—the United Negro College Fund—is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 39 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding 18 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs

Entergy Named to BusinessWeek's "Best Places to Launch Your Career" List



Entergy Corporation is the only energy company included in BusinessWeek magazine's 2009 "Best Places to Launch Your Career" ranking.

The magazine compiles an annual listing aimed at college seniors and recent graduates ranking the 50 best opportunities. No other energy company was included among the top 50 firms in either the 2009 or 2008 rankings. "The number of ranked employers is down sharply this year, owing to our decision to raise the bar on eligibility," according to BusinessWeek.

"We're extremely proud of this recognition, ranking us side-by-side with many of the world's largest and most successful companies," said J. Wayne Leonard, Entergy's chairman and chief executive officer.

"Today's graduates are facing an incredibly challenging job market in the current economic environment. On the other hand, we are always interested in adding talented people who share our values and are ready

to 'go to work,'" he said.

"Whether it's working safely around high voltage electricity, or the precision required in a nuclear plant, or achieving the reliability customers expect when they flip the switch on the wall, it requires the best of what we have to give," Leonard said, "a special person who is willing to be held to the highest possible standards."

"Our track record on retaining employees is evidence there is enormous personal satisfaction in the work, and Entergy is a great place to learn the ropes from some of the

most experienced, dedicated and talented people in their fields," he said.

The magazine noted Entergy has "one of the best retention rates in the ranking."

The listing is based on surveys of students and career-services directors as well as a questionnaire completed by the company. It is the fourth time BusinessWeek has published

the rankings. The magazine's methodology for compiling the rankings changed in 2009 and resulted in what it called a "tougher competition" than in previous years.

More Than Half of Americans Surveyed Are Not Worried About Swine Flu, According to New Deloitte Poll

As the first recipients of the H1N1 vaccine are vaccinated, more than half of Americans surveyed (52 percent) do not believe the H1N1 virus, or Swine Flu, will have a major impact in the United States compared to 44 percent who believe it will, according to the results of a new Deloitte Center for Health Solutions survey.

"Most people know that H1N1 is a potentially serious pandemic; however, our survey findings suggest they do not associate the virus as something that could pose a major threat to the U.S., nor do they appear to sense the need for immediate vaccination," said Paul Keckley, Ph.D. and executive director, Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. "The data also suggests that certain parts of the population, particularly the uninsured,

are potentially more vulnerable to Swine Flu than others."

While more than half of respondents (53 percent) say they plan to get vaccinated and the majority of respondents (79 percent) say they know the symptoms of the virus and where to get vaccinated (78 percent), significantly less of the uninsured population surveyed are aware of the symptoms (68 percent) or where to get vaccinated (57 percent), and less plan to get vaccinated (49 percent).

Additionally, about half (49 percent) of the respondents surveyed say they have a plan where they work or go to school to handle the H1N1 virus, compared with only 34 percent of the uninsured who say they have such a plan.

"According to our research, 54 percent of Americans are doubtful

that health care reform will pass this year," added Keckley. "The disparity between the uninsured, underinsured and insured varies widely within the current health care system. It will be interesting to see if a major pandemic, such as Swine Flu, may factor into influencing the health care reform debate as the system is further challenged."

Additional findings from the survey include:

Respondents who are underinsured, or have inadequate insurance, are even less likely to plan to get vaccinated than the uninsured (46 percent compared with 49 percent).

Forty-one percent of respondents surveyed do not plan to get vaccinated.

Men (58 percent) are more

likely than women (46 percent) to believe the virus will not have a major impact.

The uninsured (60 percent) and African American respondents (71 percent) are more likely to believe the virus will have a major impact.

Respondents 55 to 64 years old and respondents age 65 and older are more likely to know where to get vaccinated (86 percent and 83 percent, respectively) compared to respondents 18 to 34 years old (73 percent); 35 to 44 years old (79 percent); and 45 to 54 years old (72 percent).

Respondents 55 to 64 years old and respondents age 65 and older, are also more likely to plan to get vaccinated (61 percent and 61 percent, respectively) compared to respondents 18 to 34 years old

(52 percent); 35 to 44 years old (42 percent); and 45 to 54 years old (51 percent).

Respondents in the Northeast (58 percent) and West (56 percent) are more likely to believe Swine Flu will not have a major impact on the U.S. compared to 49 percent of respondents in the South who say it will have a major impact.

African Americans are more likely to plan to get vaccinated (62 percent) compared to Caucasians (51 percent) and Hispanics (55 percent).

Hispanic respondents surveyed are less likely to know where to get vaccinated (67 percent) compared with Caucasians (80 percent) and African Americans (77 percent) surveyed.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 4.

scalable prototype that can be mass-produced and adapted to the needs of communities world-wide facing similar challenges. On track for a LEED Platinum Rating, the state-of-the-art home uses high-performance systems, energy efficient appliances, and prefabrication methods to produce an affordable, sustainable house that generates its own power, minimizes resource consumption, and collects its own water.

Like the traditional New Orleans "shotgun" house, the FLOAT House sits on a raised four-foot base, preserving the community's vital front porch culture and facilitating accessibility for elderly and disabled residents. This high-performance "chassis" is a prefabricated module, made from polystyrene foam coated in glass fiber reinforced concrete, which hosts all of the essential equipment to supply power, water and fresh air. The chassis is engineered to support a range of home configurations.

Of his involvement with the project, Thom Mayne says, "The immense possibilities of the Make It Right initiative became immediately apparent to us: how to re-occupy the Lower 9th Ward given its precarious ecological condition? The real-

ity of rising water levels presents a serious threat for coastal cities around the world. These environmental implications require radical solutions. In response, we developed a highly performative, 1,000 square foot house that is technically innovative in terms of its safety factor – its ability to float – as well as its sustainability, mass production and method of assembly."

While the Morphosis floating house is the first to be permitted in the United States, the technology was developed and is in use in the Netherlands where architects and developers are working to address an increased demand for housing in the face of rising sea levels associated with climate change.

The chassis was designed and built by Morphosis Architects and UCLA graduate students on the UCLA campus. In July 2009 the chassis was transported to New Orleans where prefabricated modules designed by the group were assembled on-site. Construction services were donated by general contractor Clark Construction Group, Inc.

UCLA Architecture and Urban Design chair, Hitoshi Abe, states "Our students were thrilled to have the opportunity that this unique project afford-

ed to apply their research and design to a real world problem – building affordable, sustainable housing for communities afflicted by flooding. Our success demonstrates that the value of applied research can change the working methodologies of students and faculty who strive to develop and evaluate solutions with a positive impact on their context. The close collaboration between student, faculty and outside experts generates a unique studio environment characterized by outstanding creativity and energy."

Mayne's Morphosis was among thirteen local, national and international architects selected to participate in the first stage of the Make It Right project. The architecture firms were called upon to reimagine traditional New Orleans housing types, such as the "shotgun" house, to provide affordable, sustainable, and high design quality housing. The FLOAT House will support Make It Right's mission to catalyze redevelopment of the Lower Ninth Ward by providing a displaced family with a flood-safe home, while preserving the community's culture.

New Orleans City Council Request for Statements of Qualifications

Independent Monitor of Energy Smart RFP Process

The City Council of New Orleans, Louisiana exercises exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over the provision of electric and natural gas services in the city and administers the franchises and permits of electric, natural gas, thermal energy, cable and telecommunications providers in Orleans Parish. The Council is seeking the services of a qualified individual or firm with the requisite experience and capability to serve as the Independent Monitor (IM) to independently oversee all aspects of Entergy New Orleans, Inc.'s (ENO) solicitation of interest and administration of a Request for Proposals (RFP) process and its selection and recommendation to the Council of a Third Party Administrator (TPA). The TPA will be retained by ENO, upon mutual consent by the Council, to implement, deliver, administer, and conduct measurement and evaluation of the energy conservation and demand side programs approved by the Council in Council Docket UD-08-02 (Energy Smart Plan).

Interested individuals and firms should review the Council's complete Request for Qualifications statement available on the Council's website, www.nocitycouncil.com. Complete Statements of Qualifications must be received by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND THE REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PACKET PLEASE CONTACT:

COUNCIL CHIEF OF STAFF
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NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112
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Civil Rights in the Age of Pres. Obama



Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief

ceilings and continue to break the chains that kept many people from realizing the American Dream.

But conversely many African-Americans are still overrepresented in the ghettos, underclass and prisons of America. They are still in inferior schools where the vestiges of multi-generation cycles of poverty exist. In pockets of America Lady Liberty's light provides a dim flicker of hope for some of its citizens. Where hopelessness and despair continues to limit their life chances, it is a tale of two experiences inside of Black America. One where some have found the road map to success and continue to race to the finish line building wealth for the next generation, and those who are just trying to get to the starting line to drink from the trough of opportunity.

This is one of the major challenges civil rights organizations find themselves in today. How do they identify what issues to address in the 21st century? Should they continue to look at issues through the narrow lens of race only? Or continue to fight and address the issues in the same way using the same tactics they did in 1950's and 60's? The question for some is how do they justify racial repression in a nation that has black CEO's, millions of successful middle class educated blacks, and an African-American President?

We must ask the question of ourselves

is the glass half empty or half full? Today's issue's surrounding race is not a one size fit all proposition. Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, Stanley O'Neal, Richard Parsons and Barack Obama circumstances they and their children face are far cry from someone living in public housing, just working to get by. In the 21st century we cannot continue to paint the black experience with a monolithic brush that taints the picture of who and what Black-America is in its entirety.

It is up to civil rights organizations to redefine their mission and bring in young people who can bring a plethora of new ideas and energy to the movement. It is time to pass the torch to the young people so they can light and reignite the flame that made the movement what it was during its heyday in the 1950s and 1960s.

During that time television dramatized truth all over the world with powerful visuals showing man's inhumanity against his fellow man. It galvanized a generation of people to organize against injustice. Once again technology via the internet can be a vehicle for social change and organizing. With the push of a button anyone can communicate and organize across the globe. It is today that injustice must be attacked using new tools and vehicles to bring about change.

It is time to give the task of the struggle to the next generation to fight the battles that still need to be fought? The movement is not dead, it is only the methods, actions and strategies that are dated. It is time to alter the agenda for the problems that are facing our communities. As opposed to being the racism police going after Don Imus and any time there is a white black conflict.

That is not to say we must not be vigilant in the eradication of racism, but we must also attack the enemy within with the same vigor.

Today, these are some of the questions we must begin to ask ourselves. How do organizations/individuals promote striving for excellence in our communities? How do we make schools in our most impoverished communities more than just warehouses that train our kids for mediocrity? Why do we accept criminal elements in our community? Why is it that some of the organizations that marched putting their lives on the lines against whites will not march in our communities against people who are making the lives of residents miserable. Why are some of those who have become successful not taking the time, energy and effort to reach back and lift somebody else up? To give them hope that they can achieve, but sometimes does not have the road map to success. Do we realize that it is us who have they keys and that just with our encouragement, time and commitment that can make the difference in someone's life.

In the final analysis, issues of inequity and injustice still exist. Yes, the movement is alive, but unfortunately on life support. Many organizations are still active, but have not learned the difference between activity and productivity. Today's organizations need new blood running through the veins of struggle to give new life, to become a movement and become relevant again. The struggle towards freedom and justice is a race that continues. It is like a relay and the time has come to pass the baton, and continue to run towards the promise land moving forward and not look back.

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New Orleans Tribune Publisher Issues Official Statement Regarding Fatal Accident

Beverly McKenna, publisher of The New Orleans Tribune, was one of the parties involved in the tragic accident that occurred at the uptown corner of St. Charles Avenue and Valence Street on the early afternoon of September 26. Mrs. McKenna and her family are deeply saddened by the accident and the death of Mr. Roy Rondeno, Sr. on Oct. 2. Mrs. McKenna has expressed her profound grief directly to the Rondeno family.

Mrs. McKenna has also fully cooperated with investigators regarding the accident. Despite some press reports, it

should be noted that there is no stop sign on the neutral ground and Mrs. McKenna was not charged with running a stop sign nor was she distracted or under the influence or ticketed for anything other than a failure to yield.

Mr. Rondeno was a beloved and respected member of the entire community. He will be sorely missed, not only by his devoted family members, but by a wide cross section of New Orleanians whose lives he touched. Mrs. McKenna and her family ask that friends and supporters keep the Rondeno family in their prayers.

AT&T U-Verse Arrives in Southeast Louisiana

Residents in Southeast Louisiana now have a new choice for their television and communications services, powered by the most advanced technology. AT&T recently announced the launch of AT&T U-verse services in parts of St. Tammany, Terrebone and Lafourche Parishes, including AT&T U-verse TV, AT&T U-verse High Speed Internet and AT&T U-verse Voice. The services became available for ordering on Monday, Oct. 5.

AT&T U-verse services, which are all delivered over AT&T's advanced Internet Protocol (IP) network, offer a new alternative to cable and an unmatched experience for customers. AT&T U-verse brings together your TV, broadband, home phone and wireless services all on one bill with unique features that provide a new level of integration, convenience and control.

"This is a significant day for consumers in Southeast Louisiana and I'm proud to have played a part in bringing those consumer choice, control and access to the latest technologies," said Sen. Ann Duplessis. "Public Policy should encourage competition that puts consumers in the driver's seat."

"The launch of AT&T U-verse reflects our commitment to make the investments necessary to start bringing consumers in Southeast Louisiana a new era of true video competition," said William A. Oliver, president, AT&T Louisiana. "We are thrilled to start offering this innovative video choice in



AT&T President Bill Oliver and Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones.

Southeast Louisiana. Area residents have asked for more choices in television service and today we're delivering."

"Cable has been the only game in town for too long, and we're excited to change that today," said Bonnie Denson, general manager, Consumer Markets - Gulf States. "We know customers want a better choice to break free from cable, and AT&T U-verse is the answer. And we're taking it even further by making your services work together and offering cool, new features you can't get anywhere else."

More Choice, Advanced Features

AT&T U-verse TV is the only 100 percent Internet Protocol-based television (IPTV) service offered by a national service provider, making AT&T U-verse one of the most dynamic and application-rich services available today,

with advanced capabilities that customers don't get from other providers.

Where AT&T U-verse services are available, local U-verse TV customers can enjoy numerous TV benefits, including the ability to manage and watch your recorded programs from a single DVR on any U-verse connected TV in the house with Total Home DVR; the ability to watch up to four channels at one time with U-verse TV Multiview; an extensive High Definition (HD) channel lineup with access to more than 110 HD channels; the ability to program DVR recordings from your Web-connected mobile phone or PC; personalized, on-screen weather, sports, traffic and stock information via AT&T U-bar; the ability to stream your personal photos and music files from your PC to your U-verse TV with Media Share; the ability to check the current weather conditions and forecasts in any U.S. city with Weather On Demand; and more.

With AT&T U-verse High Speed Internet services, every AT&T U-verse customer or small business broadband user can enjoy faster available speeds. Packages include a range of speeds, with the fastest downstream speeds up to 18 Mbps. All AT&T U-verse High Speed Internet packages include wireless home or office networking at no extra cost, and access to the nation's largest Wi-Fi network with unlimited connectivity at more than 20,000 hot spot locations.

AT&T U-verse Voice is a managed IP-based service that is delivered over the AT&T's fiber-rich network. This allows U-verse Voice customers to enjoy great sound quality and reliability, as well as unmatched calling features that combine with your AT&T U-verse TV, broadband and wireless services. Customers benefit from a single, combined voice mailbox for AT&T U-verse Voice and AT&T wireless messages; U-verse Central, an online portal to manage your call preferences and settings from any PC; an online voice mailbox; the ability to view your call logs from your PC or your recent incoming calls on your TV screen; the ability to initiate a call from your PC or TV using Click to Call; and more. All U-verse Voice customers have 911 service.

AT&T U-verse offers multiple combinations of TV, Internet and Voice packages to customize your experience. The most popular AT&T U-verse TV offers start at \$49 a month (taxes, fees and other monthly charges apply). Professional installation is included, and you also get a 30-day money-back guarantee. Additional promotional offers are available to qualifying customers who bundle U-verse Internet or Voice service.

AT&T U-verse customers who want the complete home entertainment experience can also benefit from AT&T ConneCTech, an in-home care solution for virtually any technology or entertainment need, including computer, networking, TV, home theater installation, repair and maintenance. For more information, visit www.att.com/connectech.

For additional information on AT&T U-verse — or to find out if it's available in your area — visit <http://uverse.att.com>, call 800-ATT-2020 or visit one of the following retail locations:

- 1102 N. Highway 190, Covington – (985) 875-1993
- 69284 Highway 21, Madisonville – (985) 809-6784
- 601 N. Causeway Blvd., Mandeville – (985) 624-9900
- 61103 Airport Road, Slidell – (985) 781-4786
- 796 E. I-10 Service Road, Slidell – (985) 847-9900
- Southland Mall, Houma – (985) 868-5163
- 1344 Tunnel Blvd., Houma – (985) 868-0220
- 367 N. Canal Blvd., Thibodaux – (985) 446-3418

President Obama Awarded With 2009 Nobel Peace Prize

Obama will visit New Orleans on

Oct. 15 to survey recovery progress

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples. The Committee has attached special importance to Obama's vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons.

According to the Committee, Obama has as President created a new climate in inter-



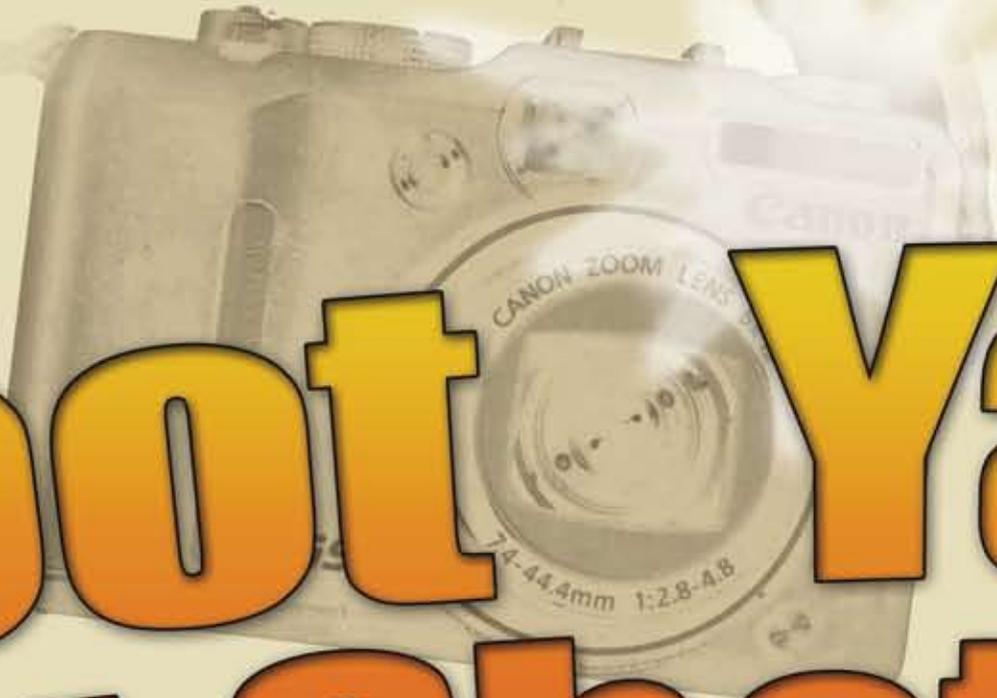
President Barack Obama

national politics. Multilateral diplomacy has regained a central position, with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play. Dialogue and negotiations are preferred as instruments for resolving even the most difficult international conflicts. The vision of a world free from nuclear arms has powerfully stimulated disarmament and arms control negotiations. Thanks to Obama's initiative, the USA is now playing a more constructive role in meeting the great climatic challenges the world is confronting. Democracy and human rights are to be strengthened.

The committee also stated that only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world's attention and given its people hope for a better future. His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world's population.

On the heels of being awarded the prize, Pres. Obama will visit New Orleans on Oct. 15. The President is visiting New Orleans to survey the city's progress since Hurricane Katrina.

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