

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

NUL Gala Highlights

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July 3 - July 9, 2010 45th Year Volume 06 www.ladatanews.com

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The “Essence” of New Orleans



Jill Scott



LL Cool J

By Edwin Buggage

It is that time again, “the party with a purpose”, where a sea of black faces gather in and around New Orleans to celebrate with three nights of music, empowerment seminars and commerce. Essence Festival is a time when beautiful Black people come

to display the essence of positivity.

In recent years it has become more than simply a music festival, but a family reunion. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, these events have become sacred gatherings in which local people come to relive and re-

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

616 Barrone Street, Suite 584, New Orleans, LA 70113
Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622

editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones
CEO/Publisher
Glenn Jones
VP Advertising & Marketing
Cheryl Mainor
Managing Editor
Edwin Buggage
Editor
Dionne Character
Arts & Entertainment Editor
Melanie Mainor
Copy Editor Intern
June Hazeur
Accounting

Contributors
Erica Brown
Micah Boyd
Edwin Buggage
Dionne Character
Erica Duroseau
Hazel Trice Edney
Dr. Aaron E. Harold
Cheryl Mainor
Glenn Summers

Art Direction & Production
MainorMedia.com
Editorial Submissions
datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Advertising Inquiries
datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Please call (504) 309-9913 for subscription information. Dated material two weeks in advance.
Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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Janet Jackson



Charlie Wilson



Mary J Blige

connect with a city that will never be the same. "I only come to the city a few times a year" says, Gerelda Williams, a New Orleans native now living in Dallas Texas. "I come in with my husband and we visit to reconnect with family and friends it is more than just a festival it is a reunion."

The Essence Festival as always has a wide pool of talent on a local, national and international stage. But a major change has taken place this year in the line-up. For the first year since its inception Frankie Beverly and Maze will not be closing the show. Instead it will be Mary J. Blige. It has been a topic heavily

discussed on talk radio. This leaves the question of what will the culmination of Essence be this year? Will it be a sea of people dressed in white having a heavenly time? "I think it will have some impact, but I think the festival is bigger than any one performer," says Lisa Smith, an entrepreneur from Los Angeles coming in to enjoy the Essence Fest.

Essence this year is special in that it is nearing the five year anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. So some feel this Essence Fest holds a special significance. Chiquita "Chiq" Simms, is a native New Orleanian who owns a PR and Marketing company.

She led a boycott of Mardi Gras in 2006. Today she is living in Atlanta with a large list of celebrity and corporate clients that take her all over the country since losing everything during Hurricane Katrina, but the Crescent City still holds a special place in her heart. "This is an important time for the city, this year it should be more than just partying." Continuing she says, "This year the motto of "the party with a purpose" must go further because the city is at a crossroads and there are so many things the city needs so I hope that come through at this year's Essence Festival."

National Urban League President Marc Morial Goes to Gulf on Fact-Finding Mission



National Urban League President Marc Morial surrounded by supporters of minority oystermen and fisherman.



Blacks from the area who have made a living on waters now see their way of life in jeopardy

Story and Photos by Edwin Buggage

The National Urban League and the National Coalition for Black Civic Participation went to Pointe à la Hache, Louisiana in Plaquemines Parish on a fact finding mission to witness the plight of Black fisherman and oystermen in this distressed area.

During the day NUL President Marc Morial accompanied by Byron Encalade, President of the Louisiana Oystermen's Association, Parish President Billy Nungesser other elected officials and concerned citizens came to this small hamlet to address what has come to be known as the new Katrina.

It is common in that it is an issue where a mix of class and race has come to the fore in a way that has relegated the plight of minorities to the backburner. It is a story where a bungled bureaucracy

has made the lives of a people making a life of fishing on the gulf. It is a way of life that now is in jeopardy.

As representatives of BP and the United States Department of Labor spoke of ways to remedy the situation, Mr. Encalade voiced the concerns of many in this fishing community, "I understand that you talk about retraining and how to expedite the claims process, but what do we do right now when our lives, livelihoods and immediate needs are not being met."

As Morial sat and moderated the meeting he listened intently asking how is justice going to be served to those he feels has been unjustly locked out of the claims process because of flaws in how people are being compensated? "I would like to

get a better understanding of how to better execute the payment process where no one is locked out of getting what they need and that the claims process is fair," said Morial.

"This initial visit seems productive and I hope it can continue," says James Demolle, a fisherman from the area. "I don't know what the future for the region is, but we need help and to have our story told and I hope that this visit by Marc makes more people aware that this catastrophe is bigger than just an oil spill, it's threatening a history of our city and our people."

Afternoon City Council Meetings Reach Broader Public



New Orleans, LA - June 28, 2010 - Intent on providing more convenient public access to City Council meetings, the New Orleans City Council will begin a pilot program in which select Council meetings will commence at 3 p.m., rather than the usual 10 a.m. meeting time. The first afternoon Council meeting will take place on August 26, 2010, and every fourth Council meeting from that date on will be designated as an afternoon Council meeting and will begin at 3 p.m.

The pilot program will gauge increased public participation, which is a main objective of the City Council.

"The City Council, like the new Administration, is very interested in enhancing customer service for the citizens of New Orleans. This new pilot program will hopefully afford more citizens, who might not have had the chance before, the opportunity to engage and participate in the City's legislative process," said City Council President Arnie Fielkow.

The Administration and City Council assessments determined that increased costs associated with this pilot would be minimal, if at all.

Entergy Nuclear Among Nation's Top Performers

Report Shows Fleet Operates at More Than 90 Percent of Capacity

Nuclear energy continues to be the most reliable energy source in the United States with Entergy's nuclear fleet leading the way, according to a report released by the American Nuclear Society.

In the report released in May 2010, the median rating capacity factor for Entergy's 11 nuclear plants was 90.8 percent during the three-year period between 2007 and 2009. This means overall Entergy's nuclear plants were online producing safe, low-cost energy more than 90 percent of the time, ranking third in the industry among companies owning five or more nuclear plants.

Entergy's nuclear accomplishments are significant when compared to the capacity factors of other forms of energy. According to the Nuclear Energy Institute, over the same three-year period steam turbine coal plants managed a capacity factor of 70.8 percent while combined cycle natural gas plants only managed to produce a capacity factor of 41.7 percent and wind at 31.1 percent.

Considering production costs at nuclear power plants in 2008 averaged 1.87 cents per Kilowatt-hour, cheaper than coal (2.75 cents) and natural gas-fueled (8.09 cents) plants, the reliability demonstrated by these results equates to significant savings on customer's energy bills.



The Orleans Parish School Board, Hynes School community and Lakeview residents recently celebrated the groundbreaking of the school's new campus on Harrison Avenue. The ceremony marks a critical step in returning Hynes back to its pre-Katrina location in Lakeview. Once completed, the Hynes campus will be the first public elementary school to serve the community. Photographed at the groundbreaking are (left to right) Orleans Parish School Board Members Cynthia Cade and Brett Bonin, Superintendent Darryl Kilbert and Orleans Parish School Board Member Ira Thomas.

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PROGRAM

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Local Musicians bring the NOLA Essence to the Fest

Though the Essence Festival is best known for world famous talent on the main stage, the thing that makes it great, or, the Essence of Essence is New Orleans. To get the real feel of New Orleans, you have to listen to New Orleans musicians, and this year's lineup of Local favorites promises not to disappoint or leave anyone without that authentic New Orleans flavor to savor long after the multitudes return home. From Irma Thomas, and Kermit Ruffins to Irvin Mayfield and Dumpstaphunk, all makes and manners of New Orleans musicians will be on hand to represent for the Crescent City.

Make sure to check it out and support our local treasures as they step up to hold it down for the NOLA!



Hot 8 Brass Band



Ivan Neville & Dumpstaphunk



Little Freddie King



Irma Thomas

Local Artists Performance Times and Dates

Friday July 2nd

7:00 pm – Lincoln Stage
Little Freddie King

7:15 pm – McDonald's Stage
Big Sam's Funky Nation

7:30 pm – My Black is Beautiful Stage
Irma Thomas

7:45 – Coca Cola Stage
Irvin Mayfield and The
New Orleans Jazz
Orchestra

Saturday, July 3rd

7:00 pm – Lincoln Stage
Soul Rebles Brass Band

7:45pm – Coca-Cola Stage
Rebirth Brass Band

Sunday, July 4th

7:30 pm – My Black is Beautiful Stage
Hot 8 Brass Band

8:00 pm – Coca-Cola Stage
Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk

8:00 pm – McDonald's Stage
Shamarr Allen &
The Underdogs

8:15 pm –
Kermit Ruffins & The BBQ Swingers

For more information or to purchase tickets to events go to www.essencemusicfestival.com



I am from Louisiana and I know our beaches are our home, our way of life and our livelihood. Protecting the coast and cleaning up the beaches is very personal to me.
- Keith Seilhan, BP Cleanup

Making This Right

Beaches

Claims
Cleanup
Economic Investment
Environmental Restoration
Health and Safety
Wildlife

At BP, we have taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf. We are committed to keeping you informed.

Looking For Oil

Crews are cleaning Gulf Coast beaches 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When oil is spotted, the Response Command Center is notified, a Shore Cleanup Assessment Team (SCAT) is mobilized and cleanup begins immediately. Cleanup efforts are being coordinated from 17 staging areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. Over 33,000 people are involved in the cleanup operation.

If you see oil on the beach, please call 1-866-448-5816 and we'll send a team to clean it up.

Cleaning Up the Beaches

The number of people mobilized to clean up the beaches depends on the size of the affected area. Individual teams can number in the hundreds, and thousands of additional workers remain on-call. Working with the Coast Guard, our teams continue cleaning up until the last bit of oil has been removed. As a result, in most cases when oil reaches a beach, it is even possible to keep it open.

Our Responsibility

Our beach cleanup operations will continue until the last of the oil has been skimmed from the sea, the beaches and estuaries have been cleaned up, and the region has been pronounced oil-free. And none of the costs of our efforts will be paid by taxpayers.

Our commitment is that we'll be here for as long as it takes. We may not always be perfect, but we will make this right.

For information visit: bp.com
deepwaterhorizonresponse.com
facebook.com/bpamerica
twitter.com/bp_america
youtube.com/bp

For assistance, please call:
To report oil on the shoreline: (866) 448-5816
To report impacted wildlife: (866) 557-1401
To make spill-related claims: (800) 440-0858
www.louisianagulfresponse.com



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Essence Music Festival Book Signing Events



Dionne Character, Author
Entertainment Editor & Columnist

Three days of cultural bliss will be held at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center during Essence Music Festival. With all the hype about the music, "fierce" entertainers, influential speakers, and seminars, I look forward to meeting and greeting some of the hottest authors on the literary scene.

On Friday, July 2, 3-5 p.m., I will be signing

my new release, *Wildflower: Growing From The Muck* along with a host of authors sponsored by Community Book Store during Essence Music Festival.

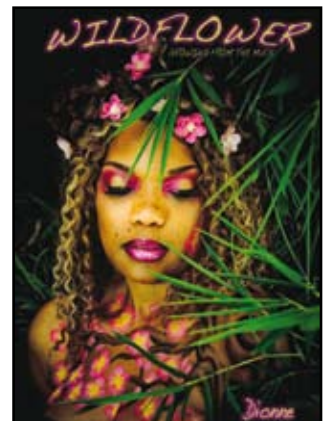
If you're not in the mood for crowds, loud music, and traffic, on Saturday, July 3, 3-5 p.m., one can meet and greet Best Selling Authors, Zane, Brian W. Smith, and Award Winning Hip Hop Journalist, Aliya S. King at The Afro American Book Stop, located at 7056 Read Blvd., in East New Orleans. This event is "free" to the public. Food, drinks, and live entertainment will be provided by "yours truly" along with Mario Abney and Manny Burke. Also in the house, New Orleans Slam Team Member, Nature Man along with various other artists.

For more information contact The Afro American Book Stop at (504) 243-2436.

Dionne Character can be reached at dasolediva@yahoo.com or www.dionnecharacter.com



Zane



Wildflower



Brian W. Smith

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

New Orleans Urban League Gala



photos by Terry Jones & Glenn Summers

The Essence of Love

By: Dr. Aaron E. Harold

Hi Family, how are you today? Hopefully, you are doing fine and well; and you are excited about your future. Can you believe it? We are celebrating another year of Essence in the Big Easy again. When we talk about Essence, what does that word truly mean to you and me? Well, this is what it really means. It is the basic nature of something; It is also the concentrated substance that keeps the flavor of what is extracted. For example, in a strawberry cream pie, it's the strawberries and the cream. In lemonade, it's the lemons, and in chocolate ice cream, it's the chocolate. The car that you and I drive; it's the motor, because without it, you can't go anywhere.

When we give a family reunion, and family and friends come from all over to celebrate, enjoy and embrace each other, it's the family and friends. They are the most important ingredient of the event. In any relationship between a man and a woman there must be a certain degree of love. The reason why I say degree of love is because in time, love is suppose to grow and get even better with patience, work, understanding, and the proper nurturing with either other. There is an old saying that most of us are familiar with "Love makes the world go Around", or love between people from all walks of life, will allow the world to operate more freely, more sufficient, and less stressful. Also, there wouldn't be a cause for war and destruction.

Many people that I talk with will tell you about all the drama they go through in their relationship. Folks, drama is a simple distractions or unnecessary stuff that is not good or healthy for you. In order to truly have a happy and healthy relationship, you must first evaluate what is causing these unnecessary problems. Second, both of you should ask this question of yourselves; do you care and love the person that you are with? If not, then why are you wasting each other's time? Have courage to make a wise and good decision to move in a new direc-

Continued on next page



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I recommend a roll of duct tape. Seal the seams in your air conditioning ductwork, and you could really save a bundle each year. Find more money-saving tips at entergyneworleans.com.

Jelinda Gibson Allen, Engineer



Entergy

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Statement Of Gulf Coast Fishermen, Seafood Workers, And Maritime Communities On The Gulf Of Mexico Oil Drilling Disaster

THE FACTS:

We Are a Unified Community. Gulf Coast fishermen, seafood workers, and maritime communities from Florida to Texas will not be divided by nefarious, unscrupulous corporate tactics.

This Disaster Has Been Devastating. As residents of the Gulf Coast, many of us have not fully recovered from Hurricane Katrina and subsequent storms. There are still unmet needs in housing, healthcare, economic development and community restoration, almost five years since Katrina's landfall in this same area. Many of the fishing cooperatives that formed since Katrina have not received adequate support and funding; many families still have not received housing assistance to rebuild (in south Mobile County, Alabama for instance, more than 450 families that qualified for Federal housing rebuilding support, will not receive it because funds are insufficient); and many communities, community services and eroded shorelines across the Gulf Coast region have not been fully rebuilt or restored. See, www.ushrnetwork.org/sites/default/files/Katrina_Aftermath_Joint_Report_USA.pdf.

Notwithstanding, we returned to rebuild. Now, our prime fishing areas are closed, at the very beginning of the commercial fishing season. Many fishermen and seafood industry workers are small business owners or seasonal workers who are not covered by unemployment compensation and other worker benefits. We have made significant investments in preparing our boats and equipment for the 2010 season, with the expectation of a good year – finally. That expectation has been shattered.

We Are Entitled to Accurate Information. Since the BP oil drilling disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, people in the fishing and maritime communities across the Gulf Coast from Florida to Texas have re-

ceived misleading, factually inaccurate, and sometime deceptive information about the extent and impact of the disaster. We do not know when this disaster will end nor how its impacts on the ocean, estuaries, marshes, bays, bayous, beaches and communities that are our home and source of livelihood. We also do not know how the wide scale use of chemical dispersants will impact the long term health of our seafood resources and communities. At the very least, those responsible for this man-made disaster must be held accountable by the federal government, and fully transparent in their disclosure of information and documentation.

We Are the Gulf Coast Experts. Our long experience and environmental knowledge have not been utilized to mitigate and solve the impacts of this catastrophic ecological, economic and social disaster. Still, most of us have not yet been employed as "first responders" to protect our fishing grounds, shore lines, wildlife, and our communities. This is nonsense.

OUR DEMANDS:

We as commercial fishermen, seafood workers and residents of maritime communities in the Gulf Coast are demanding:

1. Responsibility and Accountability: The President of the United States and the U.S. Congress must ensure British Petroleum (BP) and its subcontractors are held financially responsible for the full immediate, short-term, and long-term impact of this disaster. Further, BP, its subcontractors, and any other corporate entities deemed responsible parties for this disaster, must provide all appropriate assistance to fishermen, seafood workers and maritime communities dealing with the long term impacts of this disaster and its yet unforeseen impacts on the fishing, seafood, recreation, and culture in Gulf Coast communities;

2. Oversight: The President and the U.S.

Congress must provide public oversight, information, and administration of support to assist fishermen, seafood workers and Gulf Coast communities in this disaster. The federal government must have complete oversight over the BP oil drilling claims process, and BP must relinquish this control immediately;

3. Compensation: The President and the U.S. Congress must ensure that immediate compensation is paid to fishermen, fishing crews, seafood processing workers, seafood industry related workers and others, to provide for income replacement and family living expenses. The lack of federal or state income returns must not preclude any fisherman, fishing crew member, seafood processing worker, and seafood industry related workers and others from receiving compensation. This claims compensation protocol must include:

a. A system for classification of claimants;

b. Immediate compensation for six (6) months of lost income that is equivalent to at least an annual income of \$24,000. Fishermen, fishing crews, seafood processing workers, seafood industry related workers and others who can substantiate higher annual income from fishing will receive higher payments;

c. In 6 months (October 2010) a sum equal to one half of one year's lost earnings (and no less than \$12,000 per worker) shall be paid to every fisherman, seafood processing workers, seafood industry related workers and others remaining out of work as a result of this disaster;

d. Within 12 months of the initial payment, the President of the United States must make a final assessment of full damages for lost earnings to be made to fishermen fishing crews, seafood processing workers, seafood industry related workers and others and seafood workers. This de-

termination should include evaluation of other long term losses beyond loss of earnings such as damage to boats and equipment, damage to oyster beds and fishing grounds, and other longer term losses.

e. All other workers along the Gulf Coast, directly or indirectly connected to the seafood industry, must receive emergency unemployment compensation, retroactive to the beginning of this disaster, from the appropriate state agencies, reimbursed by BP and other responsible parties.

4. Forbearance of Loan Re-Payments: A consequence of the BP oil disaster is the indefinite interruption of income for people whose livelihood is based on the fishing and seafood industries. Therefore, the President must provide a mechanism whereby payment obligations for home and business related loans are placed in forbearance.

5. Prioritizing Local Communities: Priority in contracting and hiring must be given to local fishermen and firms along the Gulf Coast; and that firms that use workers receiving substandard pay be excluded from contracting.

6. Language Access: All information and documents related to providing information and instruction to fishermen and seafood workers must be translated, into Vietnamese, Cambodian, Laotian, Spanish, and other languages so that the residents of the multicultural maritime communities across the Gulf Coast will be able to read and understand the information provided.

7. Access to Funds: That there are significant unspent Federal funds for Katrina Hurricane relief and rebuilding that are unspent which must be re-programmed and utilized to meet these unmet needs so vulnerable Gulf Coast people and communities can better deal and respond to the current oil drilling catastrophe.

Essence of Love, Continued from previous page.

tion, after sitting down and talking to one another intelligently about the situation.

If you do still care and love the other person, but you are having problems that's causing distractions in your relationship, then sit down, have a glass of wine with a good meal and talk to each other calmly about making some changes or eliminating the source that is causing the problems. Remember ladies, you can't change him if he doesn't want to be changed. Ladies, stop trying to be his mother, because you are not his mother. You're supposed to be

his friend, his lover, and his companion. Brothers, the same thing go for you. Stop pointing the finger at her, just because I made that statement. You can't raise her, she's already grown. She's not your child or property. She likewise is supposed to be your friend, lover, and companion.

Folks, love is a wonderful and most important ingredient you must have in a relationship, in order to get to the next level. Why, because love has to be the heartbeat that motivates us to continue to care, share, and be patient with each other. Listen;

there is no perfect relationship between a man and a woman. There will be problems from time to time. However, the question is, how do you handle them when they come up? Believe me, they will come. Having a strong foundation that consists of love, understanding and patience will help get you through those rough times. The reason why so many marriages don't work out is because of the lack of that main ingredient called love. This beautiful world that you and I live in was made because of love.

The air that we breathe is love. The wa-

ter we drink is because of love and the rain that comes down on this earth is because of love. Listen folks, remember this, don't be afraid to let love be your main source in your relationship because love is powerful and it will never fail. So, give love a chance, because what do you have to loose when there is more to gain. God Bless You.

For comments you can contact me at (504) 274-9284.

A Cigar Worth Finding

By Erica Duroseau

A stroll in the French Quarter can lead to so many different experiences. Boutiques, restaurants, art, and just about anything that can stir up curiosity in the most arduous shopper. But, what about the avid cigar connoisseurs, who crave freshly rolled cigars, the spicy aroma of Nicaraguan and Honduran imported tobacco, or perhaps a stogie flavored with cognac or Old New Orleans Rum? Luckily for that person, New Orleans Cigar Factory provides precisely the atmosphere needed to kick back, take a break from the busy French Quarter streets and enjoy a feast for the senses of a cigar lover.

Not the typical smoke shop, New Orleans Cigar Factory offers that easygoing feel of our city, and an experience of the rich history that draws so many people into New Orleans. One literally takes a step back in time when entering the Decatur location. Latin beats saturate the atmosphere and master cigars rollers are busy at

work. With a second location on Bourbon Street, the factory produces over 30,000 cigars a month, and has clientele from all over the world. Many out-of-towners visit the shop to stock up on their supply, or to have a few boxes of their favorite stogie mailed home. But residents of the city can discover that taking advantage of this local gem would not be a bad idea at all. In fact, through some of the many visits I made there, I discovered that the flavor infused Vanilla Sweet Panatela was a perfect match. There's actually a cigar for everyone there. For the occasional cigar smoker like myself, smooth, mild cigars like the Panatela can satisfy my taste. The selection, however, is extensive and any cigar lover can find a match for their taste in tobacco. New Orleans Cigar Factory also provides cigar rolling for private events and functions. For more information, log on to www.cigar-factoryneworleans.com or call (504) 568-1003



The New Orleans Cigar Factory allows patrons to experience the rich history of New Orleans

Wilbert "Chill" Wilson Releases "When the Walls Came Down."

By Micah Boyd

Photos by Vincent Sylvain

While Mr. Chill greeted those in attendance at the signing of his long awaited book, smiles and elation bounced off the walls of his Northwest Carrollton barbershop. As Mr. Chill made a grand entrance, many stood around in expectation of the evening's events and eagerly awaited an opportunity to purchase a copy of his recently released book, "When the Walls Came Down." Equipped with a blue Pilot G-2 pen and a hand towel, Mr. Chill began to make his way around the barbershop, greeting an array of family, friends and guests who came out to celebrate the triumph of Wilson.

Men and women of all generations filled his cozy shop that resembles more of an art gallery than a barbershop. The book signing brought together a gumbo of people representing the various

racess and classes of New Orleans. "When the Walls Came Down" is the story of Mr. Chill's recovery as a small business owner as he diligently worked to rebuild in the tremulous time following Hurricane Katrina. In an engaging, first-person narrative, Wilson navigates the reader through his personal and professional struggles and the ultimate transformation that lead him to owning his own barbershop. "Chill's story is really one that transcends ethnic and economic background, because it harps on a common theme of resilience. Chill's mettle is really what brought him through all that's happened to him," remarks Edwin Buggage, co-author and life long friend.

The evening's airwaves were dazzled by nationally known jazz recording artists, Marlon and Stephanie Jordan, whose smooth, tantalizing sounds carried the evening as Mr. Chill signed books



and greeted supporters and those who made Mr. Chill's success possible.

As a New Orleanian, Mr. Chill is no stranger to adversity. Having conquered the challenges of transitioning from a makeshift barbershop to a new building; in

five years "Chill" has more than just survived the storm he has thrived rebuilding his business and his life. And because of that Mr. Chill feels his life has gone full circle and his book is a chronicle of how to rebuild the walls from tragedy to triumph. "Writing

this book really helped me look back and see How I have grown and the goal is the book and my life is to show that anyone can be a positive influence in their community." Mr. Chill's courage to restructure his future speaks to a desire for something greater than what he once faced. His fortitude embodies an aggression to resist mediocrity and become more than what it was predicted by foes.

He says of his story, "To have overcome the hurdles I faced took blood, sweat, and tears. To get where I am today took hard work, not luck; I hope this translates with the readers. Hopefully, they will see this story and it can be something that can inspire people in understanding we all have hurdles and obstacles in our lives, but its less about that and more about how we respond to it that makes all the difference and that is the theme of When the Walls Came Down."

Captain Charles' Café on the Ave. Opens

By Erica Duroseau

0We always know when a New Orleans event is going to be a success. It's when the name "DJ Captain Charles" is associated with the party. For years Captain Charles has brought non-stop entertainment throughout the city, paving the way for other DJ's and entertainers to be recognized for contributions made in music and on the scene in New Orleans. Now, his sights have turned to the restaurant business, and once again, we think he's got it right.

Walking in to this quaint, newly remodeled eatery named Captain Charles' Café on the Ave, located at 4600 Washington Avenue you would never be able to imagine the transformation the place has gone through within the last six months. Once just the shell of an old gas station and piled up rubble on the side of the road, this bistro now has that New Orleans laid back feel with a simple, yet sophisticated atmosphere. Of course, music is on the menu. On a typical Wednesday night, you can catch Old School music videos on the flat screens inside, and outside on a large wooden deck, built especially for outdoor entertainment, jazz and drum tunes to entertain the lunch crowd, or perhaps the college patrons who



Captain Charles, his Daughter and a Cafe Patron

stop by and enjoy the free WIFI. A grilling and outdoor cooking area has been added, and soon we will all be able to relish in hot steaks and ribs right off the grill. Captain Charles has big plans for the Saints Fans in all of us, planning to host weekend tailgating festi-

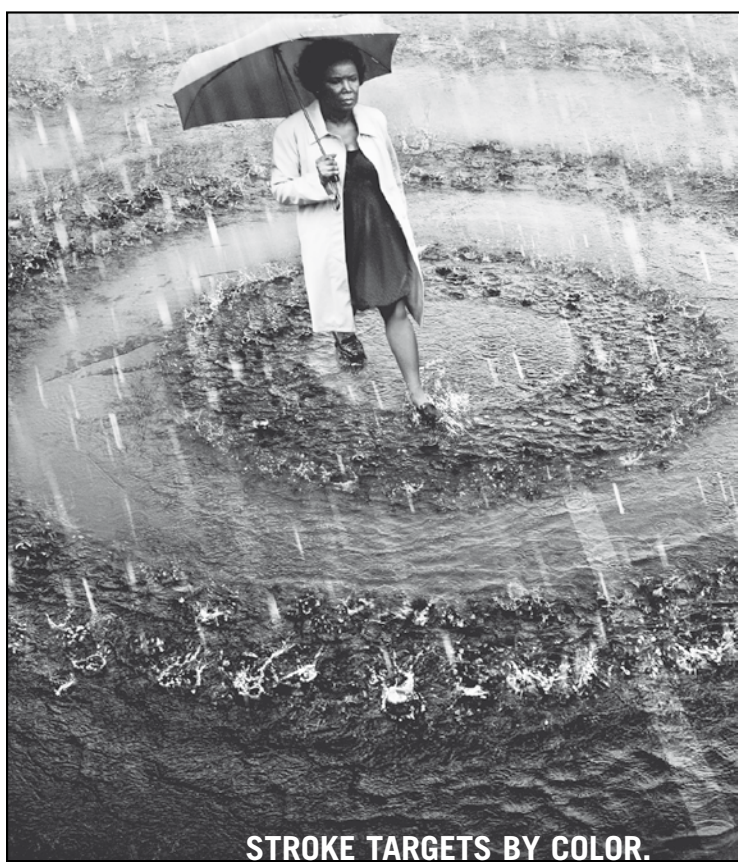
ties and viewings for game day.

Now that the place has you interested, the food will have to seal the deal, right? Not a problem! Their famous gumbo has already made regulars out of new customers. But that's not the only thing good on the menu. Shrimp and

oyster plates, po-boys, wings, jambalaya, red beans and the signature Baby Café Burgers are made to order, and a full breakfast menu is available 7 days a week until 11 a.m. There are also a number of different healthy choices like fresh salads with mixed greens

and tuna and chicken salads. No time to sit and eat? You can always call your order in ahead of time.

So, why would New Orleans' most sought after DJ open a restaurant? After so much success in radio and entertainment and the continuous demand for his presence at events, private parties and ceremonies, the restaurant business seemed to be an odd choice. What we discovered was that it wasn't peculiar in the least. "My daughter told me we should open a restaurant", says Charles, "She Loves to cook, and she told me she was good at it." When he tasted the food, he definitely agreed. He bought the property in 2007, and six months ago started bringing the place to life. Growing up right around the corner from the café, in an area named "Zion City" in Uptown New Orleans, Charles understood the importance of re-investing in the neighborhood he grew up in, and providing a product of quality to the African American community. He also has a strong belief in giving to and supporting other minority-owned businesses, a big reason why the café exists today. For more information on Captain Charles' Café on the Ave, log on to www.cafeontheave.net, or call (504)482.6565.



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Gov. Paterson, Macy's Welcome NNPA With Reminder of Noble History

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

NEW YORK (NNPA) - New York Gov. David Paterson, recalling the principles upon which the historic Black Press was founded, welcomed the National Newspaper Publishers Association upon its 70th anniversary celebration in New York June 16-19.

"We have to stop and think about the purpose of the organization and the credo among those who founded it. And I think that it needs to be stated and restated," the governor said at the kickoff reception hosted by NNPA Chairman Danny Bakewell at Macy's June 16..

"We wish to fulfill the dreams of those African-Americans - men and women - both, the living and the dead, who struggled unrelentingly and courageously and combined the people of other races and religions to build a viable national movement that was directed to achieve economic political and social justice," Paterson said. "This is really what the original newspapers in the 19th Century, this is what John B. Russwurm and Samuel Cornish were dreaming about. And we certainly are approaching the realization of



Macy's representatives and Gov. David Paterson welcome NNPA to New York. They are from left, Bill Hawthorne, Macy's Senior Vice President, Diversity Strategies & Legal Affairs; Peter Sachse, Chief Marketing Officer; Kristyn Page, National Director of Multicultural Marketing for Macy's Department Stores; Ed Goldberg, Vice President of External Affairs for Macy's Department Stores; David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York; Aline Bakewell, Esq., wife of Danny J. Bakewell, Sr., President, CEO and Chairman of the board of the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

that dream."

Paterson's candid speech was repeatedly punctuated with applause and laughter from the audience of newspaper publishers and friends gathered in a reception room at Macy's at 7th Avenue and Broadway. He drove home his point, crediting the Black Press for leading the way for justice across the nation:

"Anyone that does not think that we have come closer to receiving economic political and social justice is clearly not paying attention. And anyone who thinks we have is seriously misguided," he said. Then he noted the racial atrocities, economic inequities and social injustices that still remain.

"The reality is that even though,

for the first time in the last 18 months, we have had two African-American governors in this country at the same time and we've elected the first African-American president," he said, "The reality is that the back-lash to this achievement has been astounding."

He listed issues that must still be dealt with long since the founding of the first Black newspaper, Freedom's Journal, by Cornish and Russwurm 183 years ago in New York City and the formation of NNPA in 1940.

"When you really think about it, there has been a decline in the standard of living. There has been a disproportional increase in unemployment. There have been problems of childhood diabetes and obesity leading to early childhood stroke and heart attack in our communities more than any others. There have been denial of opportunities. And here in New York, every single leading African-American elected official has been associated with some kind of investigation real or imagined," Paterson said to laughs and applause.

Actually the governor's statements were deeply serious as Black politicians across the na-

tion have been disparately investigated, including members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

It has historically been the Black Press which, in its advocacy roll, reports the truth and even expose disparate scrutiny of Black politicians.

Patterson said, "This is really what the founding of Black newspapers was all about. One, it was to spread the news. But, also it was to advocate for opportunities. But, in addition, it was to tell the story the right way."

In a cozy reception area with adjacent rooms and a terrace overlooking the city, Macy's representatives warmly welcomed the Black publishers.

"I believe we've been associated with you for 45 of those 70 years. We are incredibly proud of that association," said Peter Sachse, president and chief executive officer of Macy's Corporate Marketing. We couldn't be more pleased with what it has done for us as a company. And we actually humbly thank you for all of the efforts you have given to us over the years. Thank you very, very much."

Kagan Scrutinized for Confirmation This Week as Black Support Grows

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - Former Harvard Law School Dean Elena Kagan, President Obama's pick for the U. S. Supreme Court, has gained more Black civil rights support as she goes before the U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee this week.

Wade Henderson, president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, who said in May that the LCCR would await decisions from more of its some 200 organizational members before it announces a formal endorsement, has released an updated statement announcing the organization's endorsement of Kagan.

"The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights today announces its support for the nomination of Elena Kagan to be Associate Justice of the United



Elena Kagan

States Supreme Court and urges her speedy confirmation.

"In every step of her career, Elena Kagan has highly distinguished herself through her out-

standing intellectual credentials, her independence of thought, and her strong respect for the rule of law. She is fully qualified and ready to serve on the Supreme Court," Henderson said in the statement.

This adds to a significant list of civil rights organizations, which have chosen to back Kagan, despite deep concerns that Obama failed to continue diversifying the court by nominating a Black woman. The NAACP also endorsed Kagan while the Black Women's Roundtable, led by Melanie Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civil Participation, expressed strong disappointment that the court still has no Black female justice.

The National Bar Association, representing 44,000 lawyers, judges, law professors and law students in 80 affiliate chapters in the U. S. and around the world,

had also recommended a Black woman appointee. NBA President Mavis T. Thompson said the organization hopes to eventually support Kagan, but would wait to learn "more about the nominee's sensitivity to issues of race, gender, class discrimination and to affording equal opportunity to all segments of our society."

The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law has also withheld support of Kagan, noting questions that still remain on her protection and defense of civil rights while the National Urban League this week announced support of Kagan.

Meanwhile, Kagan will be questioned intensely this week by members of the majority Democratic Judiciary Committee, who will decide her fitness as an associate justice for the Supreme Court to replace long-serving Associate Justice John Paul Stevens.

Predictably, Republicans have threatened a possible filibuster if the nomination advances to the entire Senate for vote. They say she is too liberal and has never been a judge. She is ultimately expected to survive all challenges.

Henderson and the LCCR are apparently poised to battle on her behalf:

"We also urge Senators not to be swayed by a small number of ideological extremists who have been grasping at straws to characterize her as having an ideological agenda," he said in his statement. "While the Senate should thoroughly explore her views, it is abundantly clear to us that Elena Kagan is a consensus-builder who will play an important role in healing a fractured Court and in protecting the rights of all Americans."

Congress Honors African-American Slaves Who Built United States Capitol

By Erica Brown

NNPA Special Correspondent
WASHINGTON (NNPA) -

Members of Congress and distinguished guests packed into the Rayburn Room of the U. S. Capitol, anxiously awaiting Congress' first formal commemoration of the African-American slaves who built the capitol.

Rep. John Lewis D-Ga., a renowned leader in the Civil Rights Movement and chairman of the Slave Task Force, an organization dedicated to commemorating the African-American contributions to the capitol, unveiled two plaques on June 16, honoring the slaves whose labor greatly contributed to the alluring framework of the Capitol building.

"With these plaques...we recognize the blood sweat and toil of the enslaved African-Americans that helped construct this embodiment of our democracy", said Lewis. "...We are one step closer to realizing a dream of an all inclusive and more perfect union."

Lewis spoke graciously to the standing room audience and expressed the importance of the inclusion of the countless slave contributions to our nation's history. "The history of the Capitol, like the history of our nation should be complete", mentioned Lewis. "Thousands of visitors walk through our nation's capitol without knowing the true history of its construction. Today that changes".

Along with Lewis, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid further emphasized Congress' responsibility to expose the history of the nation's capitol in its entirety. "In this place, where so much American history is written, it is our duty to ensure that none of it, no matter how foul, is erased from our national memory," said Reid.

Historians have concluded that African-American slaves were rented from their respective owners, and labored for 12-hours a day, six days a week, year round to construct the building. These enslaved Americans were not individually compensated for their labor, but their owners were afforded five dollars per month for



"With these plaques, we recognize the blood sweat and toil of the enslaved African-Americans that helped construct this embodiment of our democracy", said Rep. John Lewis D-Ga., a renowned leader in the Civil Rights Movement and chairman of the Slave Task Force as Members of Congress and other distinguished guests witnessed Congress's first formal commemoration of the African-American slaves who built the capitol.

their services. Lewis challenged the audience to, "Just imagine, the United States government paying your owner, not you, but your owner, five dollars a month for your labor."

Senate Republican Leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, expressed his gratitude to the countless African-American slaves who constructed the capitol and he acknowledged the ingenious efforts of Philip Reid.

After an Italian sculptor refused to dismantle the Statue of Freedom unless compensated more money, it was a slave, Philip Reid, who was the only one who could propose a solution to successfully disassemble the statue.

"It is largely because of him [Reid] that this great symbol of freedom now sits at the top of the capitol dome", says McConnell. He further emphasized the irony relating to the many enslaved Americans of that time. "The story of Philip Reid underscores one of the great ironies of this building's construction, and that's the irony of the workman helping to cast the Statue of Freedom, who was not himself free."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Congressman Lewis carefully unveiled the two plaques

that read: "This original exterior wall was constructed between 1793 and 1800 of sandstone quarried by laborers, including enslaved African-Americans, who were an important part of the workforce that built the United States Capitol". This physical commemoration of African-American slave labor will be placed in "Emancipation Hall", in the Congressional Visitor's Center.

Members of the audience were elated and proud that lawmakers finally acknowledged the monumental efforts of African-American slaves.

"It is a recognition by leaders of our nation that this nation was built by African-Americans", said Michael Steele, Chairman of the Republican National Committee. "It's a good testament that the nation is ready to heal those

wounds...in a way that recognizes sacrifice".

Hilary Shelton, Washington Bureau director of the NAACP says, "Having Congress acknowledge this...is something that every African-American needs to bear and understand." He expressed the importance of our nation's recognition of slavery and its impact on the Capitol. "It's so important that we recognize [slavery] a part of our history", Shelton added.

House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi gave closing remarks acknowledging the slaves whose sacrifices have been overlooked. "These masons, carpenters, painters and others gave us this house of liberty and this beacon of hope for our nation", she mentioned. "Never again will their contribution go unrecognized".

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