

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data around town

FREE
COPY

Page 5

DataZone

July 24 -July 30, 2010 45th Year Volume 09 www.ladatanews.com

Race, Lies & Videotape:

A Lesson in Politics 2010

The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



Trailblazer

Rev. T.J. Smith

Page 4

National News
President Obama
Signs Finance Law

Page 11



Race, Lies & Videotape: A Lesson in Politics 2010

By Gary Estwick

Albert Samuels views the wrongful firing of a Black employee at the U.S. Department of Agriculture as the latest political scheme by conservatives and the media outlets that support their agendas.

Their goal, said Samuels, an Associate Pro-

fessor of Political Science at Southern University in Baton Rouge, is to persuade Americans to believe racism is in the past. It has to be, they claim at campaign rallies and townhall meetings, over the airwaves and on the blog sphere.

The president is Black, right? (Forget that

we still question his birthplace). What more proof do you want?

Because of this, voices like Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly, Glenn Beck, Don Immus and Andrew Breitbart, who uncovered footage which initially cost Shirley Sherrod her job, preach that today's race issues arise for two reasons:

"Either you have Black people who still don't want to be held accountable for what they do so they cry racism or it's trouble stirred up by liberal Whites who feel guilty about the past,"



Shirley Sherrod, the latest near miss of the right wing press, was asked to resign after a doctored tape of her making apparently "racist" comments was aired by a Right wing blogger, and then broadcast by Fox News.



Van Jones, former "Green Czar" in the Obama Administration was forced to resign after a sustained attack from Glenn Beck, accusing Jones of being a communist sympathizer became too much for him to endure and still be effective in his job.

TIMELINE: March 2010 - Shirley Sherrod, a USDA official in Georgia, speaks at an NAACP banquet. Part of her speech includes her saying she didn't initially give a White farmer as much help as she could have

24 years ago when she worked for a farmers' aid group. July 2010 - Conservative journalist/Tea Party Activist Andrew Breitbart receives segments of Sherrod's speech and turns footage over to Fox

News, a conservative cable news station. Soon after, the White House and NAACP condemn her actions, with the administration forcing her to resign. Within days, a full version of

Sherrod's speech is reviewed, clearing her of racism. Also, the farmers in question support Sherrod, a 62-year-old Black woman. The White House apologizes to Sherrod and offers her an-

other job with the Agriculture Department. The NAACP says in a statement the organization was "snookered" by Fox News and Breitbart into believing Sherrod harmed White farmers because of racial bias.

Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Health.	9
Trailblazer	4	State & Local News .	10
Data Zone	5	National News	11
Commentary.	8		

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347
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
Edwin Buggage
Hazel Trice Edney
Gary Estwick
Pharoh Martin
NNPA Newswire
Rev. Al Sharpton

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.

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

Samuels said, explaining their strategy, which is hidden behind a cloak of racism itself.

"They want the problem to go away," Samuels continues. "For those of us who keep bringing it up, they keep saying something must be wrong with us. America is the greatest country in the world. They question your patriotism."

This was the force behind the smearing campaign of Van Jones, who resigned last fall from the Obama administration, the backlash from the president's criticism of Massachusetts' police officers arresting national scholar Henry Louis Gates in front his home last summer and the hidden camera last year that appeared to show ACORN employees offering advice on avoiding detection with illegal activities - since then, footage in the heavy-edited video segments has been discounted.

This week, Sherrod, 62, became the latest prawn in a political gumbo of reactions, resignations and reversals.

She was forced to resign after incomplete footage surfaced of her saying she didn't initially give a White farmer as much help as she could have 24 years ago when she



Former White House Social Secretary resigned under pressure following an uninvited couple's "crashing" of the White House State Dinner. Conservative media pundits, and Fox News personalities called for months for her resignation based on "incompetency".

worked for a farmers' aid group. Full footage of her speaking engagement showed that Sherrod used the mo-



Famed and revered professor Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr, Boston Police Sgt. James Crowley and President Obama during the "beer summit" at the White House, meant to ease racial tensions after Louis' arrest in his own home for questioning Sgt. Crowley's intentions.

ment in her life to promote racial reconciliation at an NAACP event.

What makes this week's controversy even worse: It started because of the NAACP's aggressive stance this month to condemn the Tea Party as a racist movement. So the political group's media supporters found a story to put pressure back on the NAACP.

"It's part of a bigger issue, the right wing's quest to foster hate, fear and distrust," said Deron Synder, a columnist at Root.com.

Now, the White House and NAACP both earlier retractions stances condemning her comments. Sherrod has been offered another job with the USDA. Meanwhile, media outlets - conservative and otherwise - are once again questioning whether they rushed to get the story first and forgot to get it right, or at the very least, explore all options available.

"It also demonstrates the perils of snap decisions in a culture of sound-bite journalism and 24/7 news cycles," Synder said. "Andrew Breitbart played the White House, the NAACP and the media like suckers, and everyone fell for it."

Blacks around the nation took to the Internet to sort out the issues. A few reader comments from Ebony/

Jet's Facebook page:

Why were they listening to Fox News in the first place, as oppose to listening to Sherrod's entire story?

Fox news is doing what they set out to do and that is to divide us and conquer us and we fall into it so quick and so well.

I am appalled that Ben Jealous

fairly maligned."

Breitbart, as of press time, made no such apology.

Perhaps that is because conservatives, more than anyone else in America, believe that outlawing discrimination is enough to end race issues, Samuels said.

"They believe more so than any

“They were born on second base, but insist that they hit a double.”

Albert Samuels, associate professor of political science at Southern University in Baton Rouge, commenting on elite conservatives Race, lies and video tape: A lesson of politics in 2010.

was so quick to respond to these scurrilous charges that were lobbed on to this sister and NEVER thought to check the facts, especially considering the source.

"Having reviewed the full tape, spoken to Ms. Sherrod, and most importantly heard the testimony of the White farmers mentioned in this story, we now believe the organization that edited the documents did so with the intention of deceiving millions of Americans," NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Todd Jealous said this week in a statement.

"I apologized to Ms. Sherrod, clearly a committed and selfless public servant, who had been un-

other Americans what happened in the past is in the past and that the race problem, to the extent it exists, we can deal with that problem without having to change any of the fundamentals of the country.

"I believe in racial equality as long as it doesn't cost me anything. Sure, you guys can live anywhere you want to live; just don't live next to me. You can work anywhere, but if you get a job through Affirmative Action that I thought I could get, I have a problem with that.' They have been convinced that they have no privilege."

Rev. T.J. Smith

Trailblazer Legacy Award

Edited by Edwin Buggage

Rev. T.J. Smith is a person who has made an indelible mark on society coming from a small town in Louisiana during the period of segregation to overcome adverse circumstances to become a great man in his family and community. To commemorate and celebrate his amazing life, Data News Weekly is honoring his life with the special "Legacy Trailblazer Award." For he is gone but not forgotten and is a hero in our community, and Data News Weekly is honored to present Rev. Smith with this award.

Thomas Smith was born to John M. and Ruth Isadore Smith in St. Joe Louisiana. Living during the tumultuous times of segregation he endured many injustices that inspired him later to be a fighter for the rights of the disenfranchised. He often recalled walking 12 long miles to school with other Black children while watching yellow school buses half filled with White children drive right past them. Not deterred he would later hitch rides to school with the laborers. While still a student, Thomas adopted the middle name "Jefferson", and became known and commonly referred to as T.J.

In April 1945, T.J. was drafted into a segregated United States Army serving in the South Pacific. In December 1947, he returned to St. Joe and began working as a farm hand and laborer in the swamps of St. Tammany Parish. Despite always loving his birthplace, St. Joe, he also acknowledged many unpleasant memories of racial segregation and the cruel treatment of Blacks in Slidell and Pearl River. These events, coupled with unforgettable experiences in a segregated army, were the catalysts that motivated him to return to school.



T.J. enrolled in Xavier University In June 1948 and graduated in May 1952 earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Arts with a minor in English. One of his notable contemporaries was Dr. Norman C. Francis, Xavier's President of more than 40 years. T.J. was elected President of the 1st NAACP-St Tammany Chapter in 1951 under Chairman J.W. Wilson, serving under Justice Marshall inspired T.J. on to greater civil rights activities.

During that same period, the Louisiana State

Legislature officially outlawed the NAACP in the State of Louisiana. T.J. and the NAACP local chapter members established the St. Tammany Parish Voters League in order to continue their civil rights activities.

Amid T.J.'s growing civil rights activities, he also began his career as an educator, accepting his first teaching assignment in 1952, at Chata-Ima Jr. High School, located in Lacombe, Louisiana. With C.O.R.E.'s assistance, he sued the St. Tammany Parish School Board to desegregate its schools and the case was won in 1965. He was fired in 1955 along with Leroy Palmer as a result of their civil rights activities. He then taught and studied at Xavier University simultaneously. He later entered the Orleans Parish School system as a long-term substitute teacher, and continued on as a full time teacher of English and Drama at George Washington Carver, John McDonough, McDonough 35, and Booker T. Washington Sr. High Schools, as well as Andrew J. Bell Jr. High School. He also worked with various civil rights organizations, including C.O.R.E., S.N.C.C., the Deacons for Defense and Justice, and S.C.L.C. as follower and supporter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1968, he organized and led a boycott of Slidell merchants seeking and obtaining better job opportunities for minority men and women.

In 1972, he was appointed State Director of Veterans Education and Training for the Louisiana Department of Education. It was during this period

Trailblazer, Continued on p9.

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



at&t

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Lenzie LeBeauf Celebrates her Baby Shower



Fun At the Club



Incarnate Word Head Start Graduation

On Wednesday July 14, 2010 many graduations took place for Head Start Centers across the New Orleans metro area. The graduations held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church were with Catholic Charities of New Orleans Head Start program. Total Community Action is a grantee for the Catholic Charities Head Start programs. The Head Start program is a child and family development program that provides services and experiences to promote the growth and development of the family with special emphasis on a comprehensive range of services to the family's 3 and 4 year old preschool children, including children with disabilities. Many children benefit from these programs giving them a jumpstart into their early education. Some of Incarnate Word's Head Start graduates are featured here.



Incarnate Word Graduates from Julien Lee's Class Room.



June Hazeur's twin great niece and nephew, Julien and Lyric Lee.

Walmart

Save money. Live better.



Grand Re-Opening

Brand new look. Same great savings.

Visit us at **1901 Tchoupitoulas Street in New Orleans.**



See our new
grocery and
fresh produce
market. It's
all 100%
Freshness
Guaranteed.

With our low prices, you save money every day.



1⁵⁰

**Ragu®
Spaghetti Sauce**
• 26 oz.



1⁵⁸
each

**Bush's Best®
Canned Beans**
• Various flavors
• 21 – 28 oz.



2⁹⁸

Cheerios® Cereal
• 18 oz.



2⁵⁰

**Kraft® Macaroni
& Cheese**
• 5-ct., 7.25 oz.



2⁸⁸
each

**Red Baron®
Pepperoni Pizza**
• Variety of flavors
• 14.76 – 22.63 oz.

Walmart
MoneyCenter™

**Check
Cashing**

Payroll and government

Starting at

\$3

Certain check amount limits apply. Not available in NJ, NY, or RI.

Walmart

Pharmacy

\$4

Prescriptions

30-day supply
We accept most major insurance plans
including Medicare and Medicaid.

Restrictions apply. See Walmart.com™ or your Walmart pharmacist for details. Go to walmart.com/pharmacy to see if your medicine is on our list of available \$4 generic prescriptions.



Walmart

Event Dates: Saturday, July 24 – Friday, July 30, 2010. Prices and items available only in the USA (may vary in Alaska, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Puerto Rico, or online at Walmart.com™). For the store location nearest you, please call 1-800-881-9180 or check online at Walmart.com. The "spark" design is a registered trademark of Walmart, and Save money. Live better. are marks and/or registered marks of Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

See our ad online
at Walmart.com™

WALMART'S ADVERTISED MERCHANDISE POLICY – We intend to have every advertised item in stock. However, we may not offer some items in all locations, and quantity or availability may vary due to unexpected demand or other circumstances beyond our control. If an advertised item is out-of-stock at your Walmart, upon your request, we will issue you a Rain Check so that you can purchase the item at the advertised price when it becomes available. In addition, we may offer to sell you a similar item at the advertised price or a comparable price reduction. In all cases, we reserve the right to limit quantities to normal retail purchases or one-per-customer or household, and to exclude dealers. Our advertising circular may vary by geographic region, and any particular regional circular will apply only to stores in that region. Offers and limitations void where prohibited by law. We apologize for, but will not be bound by, any errors in our advertisements. This advertised merchandise policy does not apply to our Prescription Program. ©2010 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Bentonville, AR.



I grew up on the Gulf Coast. I know these waters. And I'm doing everything I can to clean them up. - Fred Lemond, BP Cleanup Operations

Making This Right

Beaches

Claims

Cleanup

Economic Investment

Environmental Restoration

Health and Safety

Wildlife

BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf. And that includes keeping you informed.

Searching For And Cleaning Up The Oil

Every morning, over 50 spotter planes and helicopters search for oil off the coast, heading to areas previously mapped with satellite imagery and infrared photography. Once oil is found, they radio down to the 6,000 ships and boats of all sizes that are supporting the cleanup effort and working to collect the oil. These are thousands of local shrimping and fishing boats organized into task forces and strike teams, plus specialized skimmers mobilized from as far as the Netherlands.

We have recovered more than 27 million gallons of oil-water mixture from the Gulf. Other methods have also helped remove millions of additional gallons of oil from the water. We've deployed more than 8 million feet of boom to protect beaches and sensitive wildlife areas.

Hurricane Preparedness

In the event of a hurricane, our first priority is keeping people safe. In coordination with the Coast Guard and local officials, we may suspend operations temporarily but have organized to resume them as soon as possible.

Our Responsibility

We have already spent more than \$3.2 billion responding to the spill and on the cleanup, and none of this will be paid by taxpayers. We will work in the Gulf as long as it takes to get this done. We may not always be perfect but we will do everything we can to make this right.

For information visit: bp.com/restorethegulf.gov
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



Sherrod Family Wounded by Friendly Fire



Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

of at least three witnesses more than 40 years ago. But, a jury refused to indict him amidst the thick racism during that era.

The civil rights and racial justice work of this couple underscored the irony of the moment this week as she was forced to resign by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack because of a distorted and edited videotaped version of a March 2010 speech to NAACP in which she was made to appear as if she had discriminated against a White farmer.

Sherrod, in just 24 hours became almost a household name across America, criticism surrounding her. At NNPA deadline, the ending could best be described by the war term “friendly fire”, meaning she has been damaged by her own fellow soldiers in the battle against racism in America.

On Wednesday morning, many were still waiting for the ultimate apology, which appeared to be forthcoming – the one from the Obama Administration’s Secretary Vilsack - who fired her without first hearing the context of the remarks that even the NAACP at first condemned as shameful. But, as the truth slowly unfolded with the release of the full video in context, rapid back-peddling took place and apologies were rampant.

“We have come to the conclusion we were snookered by Fox News and Tea Party Activist Andrew Breitbart into believing she had harmed white farmers because of racial bias,” said an NAACP release from President Ben Jealous Tuesday night. “Having reviewed the full tape, spoken to Ms. Sherrod, and most importantly heard the testimony of the White farmer mentioned in this story, we now believe the

organization that edited the documents did so with the intention of deceiving millions of Americans.”

The story was first reported by FOX News based on the tape released by Breitbart.

More important even than the NAACP statement of apology were the statements made by the White farmer himself, 88-year-old Roger Spooner, and his wife Eloise live on CNN:

“I couldn’t believe it. She was unbelievably helpful in every way. She saved our farm,” he said. “This all here is a bunch of hogwash in my opinion. She was as nice to us as anyone could have been. As far as racism and all, that’s just ridiculous.”

In the complete NAACP video, viewed by the NNPA News Service, Sherrod tells the story of working for a local agency 24 years ago, long before she ever went to work for the USDA. She tells how her helping the White farmer even after her father’s murder and amidst a climate where Black farmers were disparately suffering because of their race, ultimately helped her to realize that it’s not really about Black or White, but about the poor - “those who have and do not have.”

She told how she decided then to give her life to helping the poor of all races. The tape had been edited and distorted to make her appear to say that she intentionally withheld help from the White farmer – later proven to be blatantly false.

The Sherrods could not be reached by deadline as their voice mail was constantly full.

As the saga of Shirley Sherrod continued, the NNPA News Service sought to

learn more about her and her family. A simple Google search pulled up the New York Times story quoting her husband. And a simple phone call to sources in South West Georgia brought testimonies of the sparkling – even heroic - reputation of Shirley Sherrod and her family.

Juanita Wright of Albany recalls that she was a teenager when she used to hold Shirley Sherrod in her arms as a baby as their families were friends.

Wright, who actually attended the funeral of Sherrod’s father, also remembers the family’s suffering. She recalls that Sherrod’s mother, Grace, was pregnant when her husband was murdered. She even visited her home after the funeral.

“She was about full term with the baby. She wasn’t able to go to the funeral. I’ll never forget how she was crying,” Wright said. About the false allegations against Mrs. Sherrod, she said, “I never thought anybody would say anything like that. She’s not a racist. Her father fought that and also her aunt and her mother, they fought racism.”

Perhaps a quote that Sherrod recalled from her mother sums up the heart of the matter: “If we’d tried to live with hate in our hearts, we’d probably be dead now.”

She concluded in the CNN interview, “It’s not about race. It’s about poor people and those who have and those who do not. I was encouraging them to get beyond race. ... I tried to use my life to help people to see that if I could move beyond race... if I could move beyond that to a life of service, then we all could do it.”

What the Tea Party Really Stands For



Rev. Al Sharpton
NNPA Columnist

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

We learn of his tireless efforts to achieve equality and justice for all of humanity as we pass on anecdotes of sit-ins, marches and boycotts to our children. Our schools highlight the selfless sacrifice of Dr. King in rooting out the stains of racism and achieving integration across the country. But what we as a collective sometimes forget to impress upon the next generation is the depth to which Dr. King was an advocate for federal government as he knew it was the only effective way to ensure a unified system of equality in every state. Today, the Tea Party stands to break that national stance on justice and in turn, break the crux of what the civil rights movement symbolized and what Dr. King fought and literally died for.

Long observing a consistent pattern of

racist comments and behavior within the Tea Party, the NAACP recently voted on a resolution urging leaders of the Party to denounce such inflammatory elements of their organization. What has ensued is a back-and-forth between the two groups with a national discussion surrounding race and race relations. But in this much needed conversation, we cannot glance over what the Tea Party as a whole stands for: smaller government and states’ rights.

It is a group so ardently focused on state sovereignty that talk of secession and state self-regulation has become as commonplace as the bigoted signs visibly present at their gatherings. And it is an ideology that should raise alarm bells to anyone who believes in true freedom and justice for all.

During the struggle for civil rights in the 1950’s and 1960’s, it was more often than

not, the federal government that intervened when state policies failed us. At Clinton High School in Tennessee, it was National Guard troops that protected Black students as they entered a desegregated educational facility for the first time. And it was the federal Supreme Court that ruled segregation resulted in unfair and unequal practices to begin with in the infamous Brown vs. Board of Education decision. It was federal policies that allowed Blacks and other folks of color to exercise their right to vote and voice their opinion in the politics and social issues of the day. It was national regulation of discriminatory housing and zoning laws that afforded the marginalized a shot at the American dream. And if we take it all the way back to the days of emancipation, it

Sharpton, Continued next page.

(NNPA) - When we study the intense struggle for civil rights in this nation, we quickly – and rightfully so - find ourselves analyzing the life and legacy of the great

Prescription Help Available for the Unemployed

Despite assertions that the recession is ending, many Americans are still out of work and continue to have trouble finding employment. Since 2000, a steady increase in unemployment has contributed to a lack of employer-sponsored insurance coverage. Without health coverage, many have difficulty accessing needed medical care including prescription medicines.

The national unemployment rate is uncharacteristically high at nearly 10%, and has been for more than a year. Minority populations struggle the most, with over 15% of the African-American population and over 12% of the Hispanic population currently unemployed. Data suggest that the high unemployment rate means an increase in uninsured individuals.

Without employer-based insurance coverage, many uninsured patients lack access to a medical home and ultimately forego preventative health care measures, which are critical to maintaining



good health.

Millicent Gorham, Executive Director of the National Black Nurses Association, recommends patient assistance programs as a way for patients to gain access to the medicines they need if they become unemployed and uninsured.

"Without insurance coverage, many people fail to receive the

medical care they need, especially when it comes to their prescription drugs," says Gorham. "African-Americans are particularly at risk. Many pharmaceutical companies offer patient assistance programs to help patients in need get access to prescription medicines. These programs can be a huge help when folks are struggling to make ends meet."

One patient assistance program, the Pfizer MAINTAIN Program, was developed to help eligible, unemployed patients continue to take their Pfizer medicines despite losing their prescription drug coverage. July marks the 1-year anniversary of the MAINTAIN program, which is part of Pfizer's family of patient assistance programs, Pfizer Helpful Answers®. Pfizer Helpful Answers and the Wyeth patient assistance programs have helped nearly 6 million uninsured and underinsured patients get access to more than 48 million prescriptions in the past 5 years (2005-2010) alone.

Last year, Emmanuel Stone was laid off from his job as an IT Engineer in Independence, Missouri and lost his insurance coverage. When he learned of the MAINTAIN program, he applied, his eligibility was verified and he was accepted within only a few weeks.

"The MAINTAIN program has

allowed me to get the Pfizer prescription medicines I could not have gotten otherwise during these difficult times" says Stone. "I wish more programs like this existed."

"We launched our first patient assistance program at Pfizer more than 20 years ago," said Gary Pelletier, Director and Team Leader of Pfizer Helpful Answers. "Since then, we've evolved our programs to meet the changing needs of people who don't have prescription insurance. Our still-struggling economy is evidence that these programs are still highly important, especially to individuals who are recently without their medical coverage."

If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more information about Pfizer's patient assistance programs or to check your eligibility status, call 1-866-706-2400 or visit www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com.

Trailblazer, Continued from p4.

that he recognized that God was calling him to a higher purpose in life. He later acknowledged struggling greatly with God's call to the preaching ministry. After much prayer and self-examination, he accepted the call of God to this spiritual vocation for the rest of his life. On April 19, 1974, he was licensed; On September 14, 1974, he was ordained as a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ; and on March 15, 1975, he was installed as pastor of Salvation Baptist Church in St. Joe, Louisiana, his home church since childhood. Shortly afterwards he studied and received degrees from the Union Baptist Theological Seminary, Christian Bible College and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1979 he travelled to Israel to study biblical archeology. He would later teach and mentor

many aspiring ministers at Union Seminary and Christian Bible College.

In 1981, he was commissioned as a missionary with the Convention. He accepted this call to serve, which led to an appointment as Director of the Baptist Joint Committee of Greater New Orleans. God used him as a mediator between Black and White Christians. This helped him overcome profuse racial biases, which had haunted him since childhood, and he learned to love everybody; in true obedience to God's Holy Word. This also led to a 1986 return trip to the Holy Land, and further mission work in Ghana, Kenya and Zimbabwe in 1986 and 1989, twice fulfilling a lifelong desire to perform mission work in Mother Africa.

Former Mayor C. Ray Nagin, where T.J. youngest son Kenya

served in various posts, says of the elder Smith's life and legacy, Mayor C. Ray Nagin stated, when asked to reflect on Rev. Smith's life "he lived his sermon. Who among us will accept the challenge to step up and continue the work?"

Among his colleagues he was a well-respected leader of great courage and vision. Rev. Fred Luter Jr., Pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church chimes in on the life of this great man saying, "Rev. Smith performed incredible work in building bridges between Christians of all races and backgrounds. I am blessed to continue that work and walk the trail blazed by people like him."

Dr. Smith has received many awards and honors. In 1995, the Louisiana Chapter of the S.C.L.C. awarded him the Dr. Martin Lu-

ther King, Jr. Drum Major for Justice Award for service in the area of human and civil rights. He received one of the most prestigious awards in the year 2001, the Trailblazer for the Black Movement of St. Tammany Parish Award from the All Classes Reunion of St. Tammany Training/High School. This recognition from "home folks" made his many years of labor in the vineyard "seem all so sweet." A lifetime of support in his many endeavors came from many groups and individuals such as: Rev. James Blackmore, Dr. A.P. Fortner, Dr. Otis Campbell, Dr. A.P. Clay, Minister Abdul Haqq, Dr. Joseph Guidry, Dr. Shovie Duce, Attorney Ronald Guth, a host of fellow ministers of the gospel and activists, and all the youth of the boycott during the 60's and 70's. "For tough though the road we trod, I thank God for allowing

one little Black boy from St. Joe to have such a role on His agenda."

Though working hard for his many achievements, Dr. Smith has always been proudest of his children: T.J. Jr. (Marie), Roderick, Elvin (Irmi), Dwight (Gwendolyn), Glynnis (Joseph), Gwendolyn (Earl), Sarita (Leon) and Kenya (Ceeon). Never professing to be a perfect man, Dr. Smith often cited King David in thanking his "God of another chance." He was blessed to have shared matrimony first with Luecreacy Harrison Smith, next with Sherry Hamilton Smith, and lastly with Gwendolyn Ray Smith, who cared for him through some of his greatest physical challenges following a debilitating stroke which he suffered in 2000.

Trailblazer, Continued on p10.

Sharpton, continued from previous page

was a President and a federal government that ended the abhorrent institution of slavery.

On August 28th, 1963, Dr. King went to Washington and held a rally for the precise purpose of

pushing for increased federal action and involvement to nullify all discriminatory state and local practices. As we prepare to mark the 47th anniversary of his 'I Have a Dream' speech on this date, Glenn Beck and others push for an expansion of states' rights – the exact antithesis of the civil rights movement and Dr. King's

legacy.

We can already clearly see the detrimental effects of state regulation with the recent passage of Arizona's immigration bill SB 1070. And when members of the Tea Party like Rand Paul state that it is perfectly permissible for private businesses to discriminate on the basis of race, we have a se-

rious problem. The NAACP was inarguably justified to call out racist elements of the Tea Party, but we must also ensure that we question the legitimacy of the Party's foundation itself. As the chants for states' rights and secession get louder, we must all ask ourselves if we would truly like to return to a period where there was less fed-

eral involvement?

In the tradition of Dr. King and the civil rights movement, I urge for more – not decreased - federal intervention. This is, after all, the United States of America; let's start acting like it.

WYLD-FM's Sunday Journal Awarded Best Talk Show Award Again

52nd Annual Press Club of New Orleans Excellence in Journalism

98.5 WYLD-FM's Sunday Journal with Hal Clark won the first place award in the Best Radio Talk Show category during the 52nd Annual Press Club of New Orleans Excellence in Journalism Awards Gala held Saturday, July 17th at Harrah's Hotel. The show also won the first place award in 2009.

Clark has served as host/producer of the show since 2001. Victims and Citizens Against Crime, at an awards banquet held June 24, 2010 at The Balcony in Metairie, honored him with an award for sensitive coverage of the plight of

crime victims and educating the community about crime. Eddie Francis is the co-producer (he works in a similar capacity, including duties as co-host, with WQUE-FM's Real Talk with Wild Wayne, which airs Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on 93.3) and host of the monthly Education, NOLA 3.0 and Success Series segments. Assistant producers include Theresa Sanchez, who manages audio content for the show's webpage and disseminates the weekly press releases, and Jonathan Nichols, a community news segment producer and editor.

Regular contributors include certified personal fitness practitioner Dianna Beasley; veteran political strategist Vincent Sylvan, who publishes The New Orleans Agenda; political analyst Dr. Gary Clark, chair of the political science department at Dillard University; personal money management consultant and author Dr. Lisa Frye; Dr. Carl Robinson of

Children's Hospital; Lloyd "The Love Doctor" Dennis; journalist, activist and minister Kojo Livingston; and licensed clinical social worker Victor Sims. Sunday Journal's 2010 entry for the Best Radio Talk Show category included Clark and Sims discussing a major spike in suicides in New Orleans post-Katrina, a segment that aired September 27, 2009 (it's still available on the Sunday Journal webpage).

Sunday Journal with Hal Clark airs live from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Central on 98.5, WYLD (FM) and live on the web at www.wyldfm.com. For more details about the show or to hear previous interview segments, visit the Sunday Journal webpage: <http://www.wyldfm.com/pages/sundayjournal.html>.

Due to the live format of Sunday Journal, topics and guests are subject to change without prior notice.



Hal Clark

Interim LSU Public Hospital Will Close Labor and Delivery Services

The Interim LSU Public Hospital (ILH), 2021 Perdido Street, New Orleans, LA, will close its labor and delivery services beginning August 1, 2010, in part due to state budget cuts. It will also close its nurseries, which include its Well Newborn Nursery, Intermediate Care Nursery and Neonatal Intensive Care Nursery.

LSU will move its labor and delivery services to the Family Birthing Center at Touro Infirmary, 1401 Foucher Street, in New Orleans. Tulane will move its labor and delivery services to Tulane Lakeside Hospital, 4700 I-10 Service

Road, in Metairie, LA.

ILH will stop accepting patients on Wednesday, July 28, 2010. Patients arriving that day at the ILH Emergency Department will be evaluated in the Emergency Department and, if stable, will be transferred after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 28, 2010. If they are not stable, they will be taken upstairs for delivery.

In all circumstances, ILH will provide patients with the full array of appropriate services available throughout the length of their stay and in order to minimize any unnecessary transfers.

In 2009, ILH averaged just over two births a day.

"Our plan will provide the best services possible for our patients while addressing state budget cuts," said Dr. Roxane Townsend, ILH Interim CEO. "This plan will also allow the LSU and Tulane residency programs to maintain their high level of training."

LSU and Tulane OB/GYN programs will continue their outpatient clinics at 2100 Perdido Street. Both schools will continue to offer both inpatient and outpatient gynecology services at ILH.

Trailblazer, Continued from p9.

Dr. Smith was preceded in death by his mother and father, John M. and Ruth Isadore Smith, his stepmother, Ada Smith, his siblings, Frank, Annie Mae, Mary, Milton, Grace, Roswell, Ruth, John C., James, Lawrence, one unnamed sibling who died at birth, and his son, Roderick.

Dr. Smith leaves to cherish his memory his widow, Gwendolyn Ray Smith, his children, and a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends whose lives he touched very deeply.

Family was an important part of Dr. Smith's life and gave his life meaning and purpose. His legacy has been handed down as two of his sons reflect on his life; He left the same indelible mark on his children as on the community-at-large. T.J., Jr., eldest son and former St. Tammany Parish Councilman recalled his father explaining his transition from secular civic activity to accepting the call to the ministry with the simple phrase "only what you do for Christ will last." Kenya, his youngest, credits his father with inspiring his work to produce economic and social equity. "Dad inspired our spirit of service and embodied the song 'if I can help somebody as I pass along.'" His life and work issued a challenge that I will spend the rest of my life working to meet so that future generations can enjoy the progress he worked to afford us."



Sweeping Wall Street and Finance Reform Passes Senate, Heads for Obama Signature

By Pharoh Martin
NNPA National
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - The U. S. Congress last week finally passed the most sweeping legislation on bank and Wall Street reform in 70 years. The financial reform bill provides tougher regulations on banks and financial institutions and additional protections for consumers, many of which directly benefit African-Americans.

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act was a response to the severe downturn of the U.S. economy during which "too big to fail" institutions like AIG and Lehman Brothers nearly uprooted America's whole financial system two years ago with underhanded business practices. Under the new legislation, the federal government now has the power to break up large failing financial companies and banks. It establishes an Office of Minority and Women Inclusion to ensure diversity, and introduces a new oversight agency that will regulate the industry and establish consumer safeguards.

The financial reform bill cleared the senate with 60-39 vote two weeks after the House passed the legislation. It now goes to President Obama's desk to be



President Obama signs the landmark Financial Reform Bill into law. This is the greatest financial reform since the Great Depression.

signed into law.

"It's designed to make sure that everyone follows the same set of rules, so that firms compete on price and quality, not on tricks and traps," Obama said at a press conference on the White House south driveway. "It demands accountability and responsibility from everybody. It provides certainty to everyone from bankers to farmers to business owners to consumers. And unless your business model depends on cutting corners or bilking your customers, you have nothing to fear from this reform."

The president called the resolutions in the reform bill the strongest consumer financial protec-

tions in history.

"For all those Americans who are wondering what Wall Street reform means for you, here's what you should expect. If you've ever applied for a credit card, a student loan, a mortgage, you know the feeling of signing your name to pages of barely understandable fine print. It's a big step for most families, and one that's often filled with unnecessary confusion and apprehension. As a result, many Americans are simply duped into hidden fees and loans they just can't afford by companies who know exactly what they're doing."

According to Obama, the bill will crack down on abusive prac-

tices of unscrupulous mortgage lenders and will ensure that consumers who are denied loans and insurance receive a free credit score.

Provisions of the bill also include:

- The creation of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau;

- Additional assistance for homeowners;

- More funding for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, which helps homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure and provides low interest loans to unemployed homeowners who are having a difficult time keeping up with their mortgage payments. Under the legislation, the program will receive an additional \$1 billion in funding and an additional \$2 billion in funding from the Treasury Department;

- Safeguards that ensure fair access, treatment and regulations for racial minorities, women and low-income workers, including ensuring diversity in hiring and job promotions at federal financial regulatory agencies and in their contracting with the creation of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion.

National Urban League President and chief executive officer Marc Morial praised the congress for passing the legislation.

"The bill, passed by the Senate and sent to President Obama, will help protect America's families from predatory lending practices and guard against the risky practices that landed the nation in its current financial crisis," Morial said in a statement.

Communities of color have been disproportionately affected by the financial crisis, and stand to gain the most from provisions like the newly-created Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the additional investments in the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, as well as the creation of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, Morial noted.

Three Republicans voted for the bill. But those that did not held that the legislation represents more government overreach that will lead to less jobs. The House Republican leader John Boehner called for its repeal.

"Obstructionists in the Senate are working overtime to protect the wealthy and influential at the expense of average Americans who are struggling to get by," Morial said. "We desperately need to change the legislative culture and work together to stabilize our economy and support the working class."

Jonathan Griffin: "A friend to many, stranger to none"

On Saturday, July 17th 2010 funeral services were held for Jonathan Griffin, a friend, a husband, a father, a grandfather, a classmate, and a co-worker. He was well-known in the New Orleans community as an employee of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, which he retired from after thirty plus years. He loved his community, his wife, Jo Marie, who was the love of his life, his kids, his family and his friends.

Tributes were made by Kathie Clark and Greg Hamilton from HUD, Burnell Moliere, and Neal Mitchell. Mr. Hamilton said that he has never met a person like Jonathan. They became friend immediately from the moment they met and remained friends for life. He can't remember ever

working at HUD when Jonathan was not there. Mr. Moliere said, "Johnny seemed to know just how to find a rainbow behind every cloud; the one who knew when to offer advice and when to just listen. He could be fun, silly and lighthearted, or serious, caring and sympathetic-whatever the situation called for. He was so attuned to the feelings of others. Quite simply, he was a comfort and a joy to be around." This was Jonathan Griffin.

Everyone who spoke at the service or knew Jonathan Griffin felt this way about him. He was truly a good person, always helping others. He was loved by everyone and he will be truly missed by all.



Jo Marie McNeil Griffin, Jonathan's wife and his son, Adrian Griffin



Pictured from right to left are his daughters and another son. Jamissa Jarmon, Jonathan Griffin, Jr. and Chrissandra Griffin, and a grandson

The Peoples Health Senior Health Series



*“Health is very important.
And everything you do,
it starts with that.”*

– Dale Owens,
Peoples Health member

Knowledge is Power *when it comes to your health.*

Join us for the Senior Health Series. It's an ongoing round of presentations designed to empower you with knowledge and help you lessen the impact of conditions ranging from diabetes to heart disease, asthma to osteoarthritis and much more.

The series is free and open to the public and includes complimentary glucose and blood pressure screenings.

For a list of upcoming events, visit us online at **www.peopleshealth.com** or call toll-free:

1-866-220-0418

TTY/TDD (Telephone Device for the Hearing Impaired) 1-888-631-9979

PEOPLES HEALTH

Your **Medicare Health** Team