

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data Zone

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**It's All
About The Shoe**

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Celebrating Black Families

Parents Making a Difference in Their Homes and Communities

Part 1



Now more than ever, parents are needed at the forefront encouraging and motivating their children so that they are not easily influenced.

By Shaniece B. Bickham

Tell the truth. Follow the Golden Rule. Never give up. These are three key values that Tara Carter Hernandez and her husband D’Juan instill in their three children. Why? Well, a review of results from the Children’s Defense Fund’s recent study *The State of Black Children and Families* will show that the better question is: Why not?

Values such as those stressed in the Hernandez household are needed in the home. The *State of Black Children and Families* reveals that African-American communities face several challenges including, but not limited to, negative media and cultural influences, fractured families and communities and a loss of moral values. Parents who are involved in the day-to-day lives of African-American youth, however, are the most important agents of change. These are the families who are making a difference in

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the lives of African-American children, while also making a difference in their communities.

Leading by Example in the Home

Results from the study show that the majority of participants perceive the media, in general, and the hip-hop culture in particular as having powerful negative influences on African-American children. Now more than ever, parents are needed at the forefront encouraging and motivating their children so that they are not easily influenced.

Tara Carter Hernandez, a Real Estate Developer, is aware of the negative influence media can have on her children, ages 21, 14, and 11. As a result, she tries to lead by example as much as possible by exposing them to things and people who do positive things in the community, she said.

"I personally find it difficult to watch media today. It can be very depressing, especially locally to see our community and kids hurting in so many ways," said Hernandez. "I combat it through communicating with my kids on our commutes to or from school, at dinner, or just when something arises. We talk about the importance of making the right decisions, being a leader, and being considerate and aware of what's happening."

Currita C. Waddy and her husband Dwayne K. Pierce also keep the lines of communication open with their 17-year-old daughter in an effort to minimize neg-

ative influences on her.

"We talk about the stories that we hear about in the news and what motivates individuals to seek a life of crime and destruction. We talk about the meaning of success and what it takes to be a responsible and productive part of society," said Waddy.

Waddy, an Attorney, also said that she talks with her daughter about career paths and how important education is to all aspects of life. She said she also exposes her daughter to other African-American professionals and let her know that all things are attainable with the right preparation and opportunity.

Giving Back to the Community

Hernandez said that she makes sure her children understand the importance of giving back to the community.

"We do some things as a family, but they are also involved in 'service learning' projects with their schools and have helped with working with seniors, kindergarteners, feeding the homeless, raising money for a cure for breast cancer and tutoring in foreign languages," said Hernandez. "My husband and I both participate as volunteers with many organizations throughout the community and the kids are aware of our efforts."

Both Hernandez and Waddy are members of the Pontchartrain Chapter of The Links, Inc., which also provides them with an opportunity to serve the com-

munity. Through their work in the chapter, they are able to reach children through a tutoring program and the organization's newest initiative, a Childhood Obesity Program. Fourth-graders at Schaumburg Elementary in New Orleans East are tutored every Saturday in preparation for the LEAP, and the Childhood Obesity Program is being administered at Craig Elementary in Tremé.

"I have always encouraged my daughter to accompany me to community service activities that I participate in through my various service organizations," said Waddy. "She has helped with the LEAP tutoring at Schaumburg Elementary School, served meals to the homeless at Ozanam Inn, participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Walk and UNCF Walk, and served as a regular volunteer at the Aquarium of the Americas."

In addition, Waddy and her daughter also engage in activities through Jack and Jill of America. Waddy's daughter is teen chapter president.

"She spends several weekends each month volunteering with her teen group or socializing in a family-friendly positive environment. The teens choose their own special projects and serve as role models for the other younger age groups," said Waddy.

Reinforcing Moral Values

The State of Black Children and Families also indicates that African-American communities are suffering

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Rethink Possible



Payton: We've always dreamed of settling in Dallas

The Saints released statements today from their top brass in regard to Sean Payton's decision to move his family to Dallas while still coaching the team.

HEAD COACH SEAN PAYTON

"When my wife and I relocated our family from Dallas, we had always dreamed of someday settling there. We feel that now is the best time to do this. It's a decision that I'm sure many families have to confront, and I don't know if there is any one right or wrong decision – just the best one you can make for your own family."

SAINTS OWNER TOM BENSON

"Sean is our Head Coach. Like we do with everyone in our organization, we support them when they need to make tough personal deci-

sions. Sean is making a decision in the best interest of his family and he needs our support and he will get it. What I do know is that Sean is completely focused on bringing our team back to a championship. We continue to move in that right direction and I look forward to 2011."

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/ GENERAL MANAGER MICKEY LOOMIS

"Sean and I have discussed his decision to move his family to Dallas and like with any personal decision, it is important that he does what is best for his family. This is a personal

family matter for Sean and his family and after discussing it with him, I support his decision. We spoke of numerous other coaches that have done the same thing successfully. I am confident that Sean will continue to be an excellent head coach for the Saints for many years to come and he remains steadfast to get our team back to the Super Bowl and bring the Lombardi Trophy back to New Orleans."

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page

due to a loss of traditional moral and religious values. This problem leads to further issues such as violence, teenage pregnancy and drugs.

Waddy said two moral values that are stressed in her home are the importance of self-respect and honesty. By serving as her daughter's role model, Waddy is able to talk to with her openly about staying out of trouble to avoid issues that many teens are faced with.

"When you have self-respect you can boost your own self-esteem and exude a confidence that can never be taken away from you. You can have a voice to demand to be treated fairly and be given an opportunity to prove yourself," said Waddy. "When you demonstrate that you are honest and trustworthy, more responsibilities are given to you and more meaningful opportunities will be at your disposal."

Hernandez makes it a point to reinforce the importance of telling the truth, following the golden rule, and never giving up in her home.

Telling the truth is important, even when children think they will get in trouble, according to Hernandez. Children should also treat others as they would like to be treated and also realize that even though life does not always

go as planned, they should still give their best, she added.

"At the end of the day, it is all about being respectful to others," said Hernandez. She said she also shares personal stories with her children to show how she overcame certain occurrences and how things would have turned out differently if she would have accepted "no" for an answer or hadn't been persistent.

Making a Difference

Though many of the results presented in The State of Black Families and Children are daunting, the study does highlight the importance of effective parenting inside and outside of the home. Tara Carter Hernandez and Currita C. Waddy are just two examples of parents who are dispelling the perceptions of African-American families and their children. Even in the midst of negative societal influences and unfavorable statistics, these parents are proving that through active involvement in their children's lives and in the community, they can still make a difference.

For more information on The State of Black Families and Children study, visit www.childrensdefense.org.

Vigilante Desegregation: Ohio Mother Jailed for Sending her (Black) Children to a Better (White) School

By TaRessa Stovall
thedefendersonline.com

NNPA Newswire - While various states and the federal government play policy ping-pong on the issue of school desegregation/diversity, the plight of one mother has starkly symbolized the obstacles that often confront less-than-privileged parents who seek quality education for their children.

When Kelley Williams-Bolar, a single Black mother living in public housing in Akron, Ohio, was sentenced to 10 days in jail for sending her daughters to the Copley-Fairlawn School District outside of her educational jurisdiction, the issue of what parents—especially Black, low-income parents—will do to get their children a better education burst into the national consciousness.

"This is not the first time that a family has lied to get their children a better, safer education," writes Lisa Belkin on The New York Times Parenting Blogs. "Throughout the country, financially strapped school districts have been increasing surveillance in the weakened economy ... reluctant to spend money teaching students who are not legally entitled to be there."

Williams-Bolar's father lives in the Copley-Fairlawn District and in November, 2009, she was arrested and charged with two felony counts of tampering with official records for putting her father's address on her daughters' school records. "She was also



Kelley Williams-Bolar, a single Black mother living in public housing in Akron, Ohio, was sentenced to 10 days in jail for sending her daughters to school outside of her educational jurisdiction.

charged with grand theft—the school wanted \$30,000 in tuition for the two girls—but the jury could not reach a unanimous decision," reported Newser.com.

"Williams-Bolar is not even the first parent accused of sneaking into this particular district during the particular years in question," Belkin wrote on the Times blog. "As ... noted in The Beacon Journal during the trial, '...school-district officials testified that some 30 to 40 similar residency issues had arisen with other families during the two years at issue in Williams-Bolar's case. No one else faced criminal prosecution or civil court action, the school officials said.'"

The Superintendent admitted that similar cases are normally re-

solved without legal intervention. Ironically, the beleaguered mother was a semester away from completing an education degree at the University of Akron. She worked as a Special Needs Teaching Assistant at a local high school, but as a convicted felon, could no longer qualify for that position.

For days, the blogosphere was aflame with updates and opinions from all sides. Many debated whether race was an issue. Several wondered why the charges were so harsh but in spite of several pre-trial hearings, "the state would not move, would not budge, and offer Ms. Williams-Bolar to plead to a misdemeanor," the Akron Beacon Journal stated.

The activist blogs Col-

orofchange.org and Change.org gathered more than 100,000 signatures on petitions in support of Williams-Bolar.

On January 27th, the notorious mother was released a day early, facing two years of probation and 80 hours of community service. In early February, Williams-Bolar met with the Reverends Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton about her case. A rally is being planned in Ohio, and Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. "is working to secure a Constitutional Amendment to guarantee all children access to an equal and high-quality education," according to Newser.com.

On February 1st, Ohio Governor John Kasich, a Republican, issued a statement saying he

was "really struck" by the issue. "Karen and I work hard to make a better future for our girls so when I first heard about Ms. Kelley Williams-Bolar's case last week it really struck me, as it has many other people ... Our laws exist for a reason and they must be enforced, but the idea that a woman would become a convicted felon for wanting a better future for her children is something that has rightly raised a lot of concern with people, including me."

From the school district's perspective, it boils down to dollars and cents. The school district spent about \$6,000 to hire a private investigator to follow Williams-Bolar and her children and bring them to trial, according to NewsNet5 in Akron. "Copley-Fairlawn Superintendent Brian Poe said the district has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars because of children illegally enrolled in its schools. 'If you're paying taxes on a home here...those dollars need to stay home with our students,'" Poe reportedly told NewsNet5.

Which raises the question: what about those 30 to 40 other cases?

At the heart of the controversy is a parent's drive to seek the best for their children, and the question of what parents will risk for better opportunities "I did this for them, so there it is," Williams-Bolar told ABC News. "I did this for them."

Black Caucus Confronts GOP on Budget

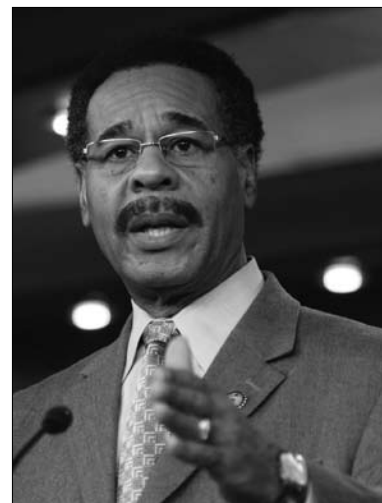
By Charles D. Ellison
Special to the NNPA from The Philadelphia Tribune

WASHINGTON — In sync with what football fanatics expect will be a bruising Super Bowl Sunday, political tensions on Capitol Hill are as hot as an Egyptian street fight with Democrats and Republicans poised for a bloody face-off over the nation's finances. It's the necessary, crucial time of the year lawmakers love to hate, pushing their staffers to sweat over bulky Power Points and black ink in a complicated cage dance over how the federal government spends taxpayer money.

"The budget is a bold declaration of a nation's priorities," argues Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO), the loquacious Methodist Minister and former Kansas City Mayor who barely squeaked past a Republican challenge in his district during the 2010 mid-term election. "I always tell my church that if you want to know who a person is, look at their checkbook and how they handle their finances." Back from what some observers described as near political death, Emmanuel sounds revived and recharged in his new role as two-year Chair of the Caucus,

eager to tussle — and possibly deal — with conservative budget hawks circling over endless rows of line items.

Hill heads were turning and brows raised last week when the Caucus unveiled its budget recommendations for the year in a politico-studded event of the African-American Who's Who in Washington, billing it as the first ever annual "Commission on the Budget Deficit, Economic Crisis and Wealth Creation." Indeed it was a "first," keeping in fashion with the dusty classroom clamor of Black History Month firsts and patronizing accolades.



Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)

Starting this year, Cleaver promises to change all that with an aggressive campaign waged on the Hill and beyond Washington. "You will find that, at least for the next two years, we will dramatize the CBC budget," says Cleaver. "It is useless for us to present a budget that is virtually useless beyond the Beltway."

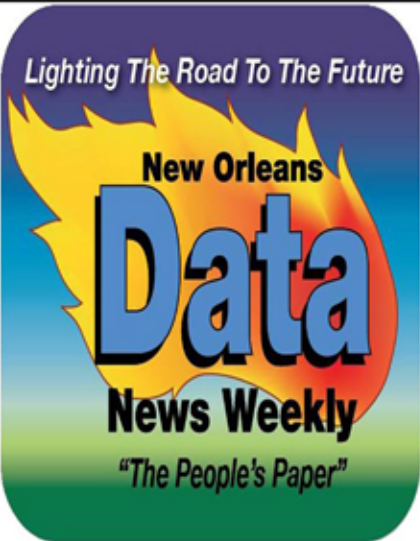
As important to Cleaver is ensuring that the CBC's agenda on national spending priorities resonates loud and clear with a core Black audience disproportionately crushed under the weight of

CBC, Continued on page 10.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data Around Town

At the Broad Street Café, The Prime Example and The McKenna Museum



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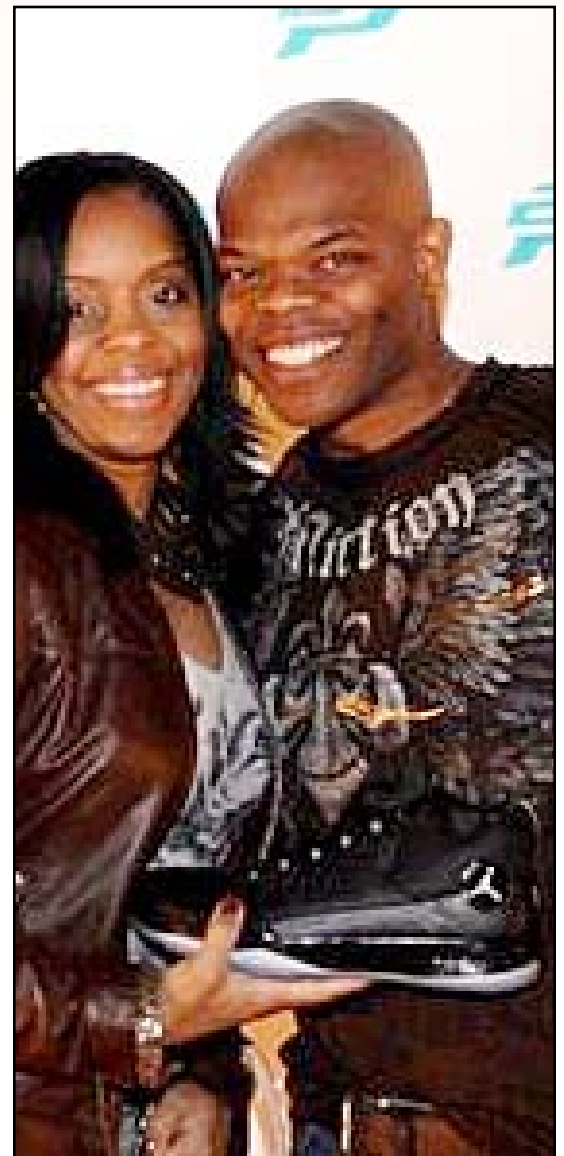
Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Data Around Town

It's All about the Shoe: Chris Paul CP3 IV Debut

Photos by Jafar Pierre

On a cool Saturday night beautiful people came out as camera lights flashed as fabulous folks walked the red carpet. The star was, of course, NBA's Chris Paul who has been named an all-star once again and talks of him as one of the frontrunners as this season's MVP is abuzz. But tonight instead of sinking game winning baskets, Privilege Nola, CJ Paul, Think Tank, Belvedere Vodka and Hennessy came together to host a shoe release party for his CP3 IV line as part of his continuing partnership with Nike and the Jordan Brand. CP3 and friends toasted it up champagne life style at the Eiffel Society for this world class event that was done up with style, class and pizazz.



Don't Mess With the 14th Amendment



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

To Be Equal

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws".

Section I of the 14th Amendment

February 8, 2011 - The immigration debate has taken another ugly turn. First, Arizona passed a law, now under federal challenge, granting unprecedented powers to police to stop and demand proof of citizenship from anyone they suspect of being in the country illegally. Now, two United States Senators, a Congressman and at least 14 states have proposed amending or reinterpreting the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to deny citizenship to U.S. born children of undocumented immigrants.

The 14th amendment effectively overturned the Supreme Court's infamous 1857 Dred Scott decision which ruled that no slave or descendent of a slave could ever be a United States citizen. Since its ratification in 1868, the 14th Amendment's clear statements on birthright citizenship, due process and equal protection, have formed the basis for a large measure of social and economic reforms. In fact, the Supreme Court cited the violation of the 14th amendment's "equal protection" clause as a major factor in its 1954 Brown v Board of Education decision ending segregation in Ameri-

can schools. The 14th Amendment's most famous "birthright" defense came in 1898, when the Supreme Court, in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, upheld the citizenship of a child born in the United States to Chinese immigrant parents who lived in San Francisco but were not legal citizens.

The law is clear: anyone born on American soil, regardless of race or ethnicity is entitled to automatic citizenship. For more than 100 years, that has been a fundamental principle of American democracy. But recently, anti-immigration forces across the country have claimed that large numbers of illegal immigrants are crossing the border simply to have what they derisively call "anchor babies" - children who automatically qualify for the benefits of United States citizenship. Despite the fact that this rarely occurs, Senator David Vitter of Louisiana and Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky, have introduced legislation that would amend the 14th amendment and deny citizenship to the U.S born children of immigrants unless at least one parent has permanent resident status, or is a naturalized citizen or is serving in the U.S. Military.

Last year, in what appeared to be a mid-

term election campaign ploy, a number of conservative Senators said they might call hearings to air their opposition to automatic citizenship for the children of undocumented immigrants. Most observers and scholars think that a push to amend the Constitution is likely to fail given that it would require votes from 67 Senators, 290 Congressmen and ratification by 38 states.

But that has not stopped its supporters. On the first day of the new Congress, Rep. Steve King of Iowa chose what he believes is a less arduous route by introducing legislation that would outlaw birthright citizenship by amending the Immigration and Nationality Act.

While opponents of birthright citizenship contend their intent is to curb illegal immigration, this is clearly another divisive step that would weaken America's tradition and strength as a nation of immigrants.

Our message to anyone attempting to rewrite history and the law for their own political purposes is clear: Don't mess with the 14th Amendment.

Multiracial Census



Judge Greg Mathis

Mathis' Mind

A lot of people are eagerly awaiting the results of the 2010 census information that details how Americans identify themselves racially. The data will be released state by state this month and is expected to show a significant growth in the numbers of people who identify as multiracial. When the data is made public, it is expected the number of Americans identifying as multiracial will have grown by 35 percent in the

last decade.

As interracial marriages become more common, so too has the number of mixed raced people in our society. The 2000 census was the first that allowed these individuals to easily identify all parts of their racial backgrounds, if they so choose. Those who support the classification see it as an important step to breaking down racial barriers and moving toward an America that is free of prejudice.

However, some believe that the designation will only serve to further undermine the political clout and social significance of racial minorities, particularly African-Americans. This line of thinking isn't too far-fetched. Often times, many of our positive, Black public figures with one non-Black parent are claimed by the White majority. The accomplishments of these individuals are so significant that America often likes to ignore the one drop rule it instituted and enforced - to keep tabs on and marginalize anyone with ancestry that was not purely White - and tout the White ancestry of those we in the African-American community are rightfully proud of. President Obama, who

many tried to hail as the first multiracial President, instead of the first Black President, comes to mind.

Indeed, President Obama's mother is White. But, he has publicly identified as a Black man and even checked that box - and nothing else - on his census form. And, isn't that what the census designation is all about? Giving individuals the right to identify with as many or as few ethnic groups in

their background as they choose?

Unlocking the shackles of the one drop rule and allowing individuals to celebrate all of who they are is a positive step toward racial harmony and acceptance in this country. However, the larger society must be careful it does not dilute the voice of groups, like African-Americans, that have fought so hard to be heard, seen, and recognized for their achievements.

DISAPPOINTMENT

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The Census Results, The Legislature, and Frankie Beverly

By Jeff Thomas
Sync504

New Orleans has been the leading city in the State of Louisiana for nearly 300 years. Currently New Orleans has more state assets than any other city in Louisiana. Yet, recent demographic shifts and the current political climate poise to make New Orleans a bit player in affairs of the state. The population loss that started before Hurricane Katrina was only exacerbated by the failure of the government's levees. The city is still a Democratic Party enclave while every elected state official is or has recently become a Republican. The anti-New Orleans sentiment that persists across the state may now have the necessary momentum to sink the city deeper into the murky swampland that is New Orleans.

30,000 people left New Orleans between 2000 and 2005. Claiming a better quality of life including cheaper housing, better schools and fear of violent crime, White citizens left the city and moved primarily to St. Tammany Parish. Claiming a better quality of life including cheaper housing, better schools and fear of police abuse and corruption, African-American citizens left the city and moved primarily to St. John the Baptist and St. Charles parishes. The failure of the government levees created a mass departure from the city, where over 110,000 more people moved out of the city. Driving around New Orleans East, the Lower 9th Ward, Gentilly, and Lakeview, the casual observer is surprised to find a single block where every home has been rebuilt. From the lowest income area in the Lower 9 to the highest income area in New Orleans East vacant, boarded houses are a normal part of the neighborhood. Housing blight is a real and persistent problem for these areas and is the biggest drag on quality of life.

The population loss in these areas threatens the very survival of the city and ultimately the state. The population shift has created political infighting amongst Senators and Legislators. Currently Senate Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4 do not have the population to support a Senate District. New Orleans area Senators Cynthia Willard-Lewis, Jean Paul Morrell, and Ed Mur-

ray are forced to cannibalize population and geographic area. Having to fight for their very political lives, these fine men and women are certainly distracted from the battle to take state resources from the city. So the population loss in

the Lower 9 affects residents of the entire city. The fewer voices and votes the city has in Baton Rouge, the more likely other areas of the state - namely Baton Rouge and Mandeville will strip funds needed for infrastructure,

community clinics, education and all other quality of life resources that help make the city a vibrant place to live and work.

Upcoming Jazz and Heritage Performer and Essence Fest favorite Frankie Beverly and Maze

have a song that New Orleanians are known to sing in harmony. With beauty and accord, crowds of New Orleanians have sung, "We are one." The guy in Algiers, who works in the CBD must un-

Opinion, Continued on page 10.

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Rodney Peete

Holly Robinson Peete


Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Lt. General Russel Honoré (U.S. Army, Ret.)

Rita Mack

What do an Actress, Quarterback, Educator, Entrepreneur and General have in common?

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i'm lovin' it®

What's Love Got To Do with It?

By Phill Wilson
NNPA Columnist

From ordering flowers, buying chocolates, and making Valentine's Day dinner reservations, people all over the country are thinking about love this week. During this time of year, I often marvel at the things we do in the name of love and what we call love.

So what does love got to do with HIV/AIDS? Let's look at some common reasons why, supposedly in the name of love, we don't protect ourselves against HIV.

Why don't we ask our partners about their HIV status? "Because I love him," or "Because she loves me," people often say. Why don't we use condoms? "Because I love him (or her)." While I've heard it all over the past roughly 30 years, here are a few of my favorites:

- "If you really loved me, you wouldn't ask me to use a condom."
- "I love you baby. I wouldn't ever do anything to hurt you."
- "You're the only one. You know

I love you."

- "Get tested for HIV? If you loved me baby, you would trust me."

I get it. Human beings crave intimacy. And, sometimes there seems to be no limit to how far we will go and what we will do in our quest for it. This is particularly true for those of us who have been deprived of intimacy, marginalized within society or convinced that we are not deserving of intimacy, affection or love. Women, men who have sex with men and disenfranchised youth often share this experience. As a result, we confuse a lot of things—lust, loneliness, fear—with love. And, that confusion can sometimes be deadly.

Self-love is the most important kind of love. Looking for love from someone else prior to learning to love ourselves is a very dangerous endeavor. If we love ourselves, we understand the importance of protecting ourselves. We understand that doing so communicates to others that

we are worthy of love. But, most importantly self-love provides a barrier against those who would do us harm.

and, on the rare occasion when it does happen, it is almost impossible to identify.

When we love ourselves, we

when he says, "Come on baby, we don't need a condom; you know I love you," he really doesn't. When we love ourselves, and she says, "I don't need to get tested for HIV; I love you," we know that she doesn't.

Don't get me wrong, I believe in love. I've ordered and received more than my share of flowers and chocolates; I've made more than a few Valentine's Day dinner reservations (and Valentine's dinners for that matter); and my knees still go weak every time I think about the first time I fell in love. But, I've learned over time that the people who really love us want the best for us. They not only respect our decisions to protect ourselves, they insist on it. That's what love really has got to do with it.

Phill Wilson is the President and CEO of the Black AIDS Institute, the only National HIV/AIDS think tank in the United States focused exclusively on Black people. He can be reached at

PhillWilson@BlackAIDS.org .

"I've been thinking of a new direction. But I have to say, I've been thinking about my own protection. It scares me to feel that way."

—Tina Turner

Self-love is also the bridge to being loved by others. If we don't love ourselves, it is very difficult for someone else to truly love us,

are better able to distinguish between true love, fantasies and the desperate longing for intimacy. When we love ourselves, we know

LSU Health Science Center Celebrates Black History Month With Local Hero Who's One Of Its Own

New Orleans, LA – Tessie Prevost Williams, Administrative Assistant in Pediatric Dentistry at the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans School of Dentistry, will share her experiences as one of the "McDonogh 3"—three six-year-old African-American children who were the first students at McDonogh 19 Elementary School, along with Ruby Bridges at William Franz Elementary, to desegregate New Orleans Public Schools in November 1960. LSU

Health Sciences Center will celebrate Black History Month with this special event on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 12:00 noon in Auditorium A at the LSUHSC School of Dentistry, 1100 Florida Avenue. Williams, who played a key role in history as part of the implementation of the Brown vs. the Board of Education decision, has been a member of the staff at the LSUHSC Dental School for 20 years.

Opinion, continued from page 9.

derstand that bridge tolls may rise to \$3.00 without the necessary clout and votes from the New Orleans delegation to fight St. Tammany residents who want more funds for the Causeway but want to reduce their tolls to a dollar. Meanwhile the uptown woman, who fears the young hooded guy might want to steal her new Range Rover will likely be upset that New Orleans' job training money was redirected to Baton Rouge should act now. Despite population losses, the Legislative seats can be redrawn to keep all Districts in New Orleans. The Louisiana legislature will hold meetings across the state to get citizen input on redistricting. The New Orleans area meeting is Thursday, February 17 at 6:00pm at Dillard University. Mark your calendar. That is the first small step toward New Orleansians singing another Frankie Beverly classic, "Happy Feelings."

CBC, continued from page 5.

a seemingly endless recession. While White House officials express cautious jubilation over the latest unemployment figures, with official rates dropping from 9.4 percent in December to an even 9 percent in January, attitudes in CBC offices are more reluctant. Black unemployment, for a multitude of reasons, remains stuck near 20 percent — officially. Many economists observing the situation are a bit more frank about the situation, and Caucus Members seem less inclined to celebrate incremental drops in high unemployment when they head back to districts where countless constituents are underemployed, out of benefits or off the grid.

"In Black America we need to stop the bleeding," warns Cleaver.

As a prescription, the CBC Commission presented a three-prong approach, with prominent Black economists and Caucus Members mingling over topics such as: the balancing act between resource demand and fiscal restraint; getting in recession survival mode while "accelerating the recovery;" and finding ways to responsibly reduce the deficit without hitting damaged communities any harder.

What Census 2010 Reveals about Population and Housing in New Orleans and the Metro Area

By Allison Plyer

Editorial Note:

In 2010, Data News Weekly became a partner with the United State Census Bureau, to emphasize the importance of all residents of New Orleans participating in the 2010 Census. We reiterated the message through editorial content the facts: That the Census determines how and when and where important funding from the Federal Government flows to our community. We also stressed the fact that an undercount, meaning, not getting an accurate count of our residents would have a negative effect on that funding. In an effort to keep our readers informed, we are presenting to you the report on the 2010 Census Data for the Greater New Orleans area issued by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center which highlights the findings of the first Census to be conducted post-Katrina and its effects on our community today.

New Orleans is now a smaller city, having lost 118,526 African-Americans and 24,101 Whites since 2000, while gaining 3,225 Hispanics. Indeed the entire seven-parish metro area is more diverse with an influx of fully 33,500 Hispanics, and 3,000 additional Asian residents. Housing units have decreased in the most heavily flood-damaged parishes and increased in outlying parishes, while vacant housing units have increased in every parish across the metro. Children under 18 were among the least likely to return after Katrina, representing only 23 percent of the total metro population, down from 27 percent in 2000.

The once-every-ten-year head count conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau determines political representation, drives the distribution of billions of dollars in federal funds to states and localities, and helps decision makers and planners understand the distri-



bution of population across cities and suburbs. The results of the decennial census are considered the gold standard of demographic data. They provide critical knowledge about the population of New Orleans and the metro area, five years after the massive displacement caused by Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent levee failures.

New Orleans is now a smaller city with a growing number of Latinos.

The population of New Orleans was counted at 343,829 in April 2010 – indicating that New Orleans lost 140,845 residents since 2000. This suggests that the residential and economic destruction caused by the levee failures resulted in more than twice as much population loss as the oil bust of the 1980s when the city lost 60,577 residents.

All told, the city has lost 283,696 residents since its peak in 1960 when the Census Bureau counted 627,525 New Orleans residents.

The Census 2010 results suggest that African-Americans were the least likely to return after Katrina, followed by Whites. Asians were the most likely to return, and the city has experienced an influx of Hispanics post-Katrina. There are now 118,526 fewer African-Americans living in New Orleans compared to 2000, but there are also 24,101 fewer Whites. Meanwhile, the number of Asians fell by only 1,019, and the number of Hispanics grew by 3,225.

Nonetheless, African-Americans still represent the majority of the city's population at 60 percent, and the majority of the voting age population at 56 percent of all adults 18 years and older.

Having fallen from 67 to 60 percent of the city's population, the share of African-Americans in New Orleans is now more similar to what it was back in 1990. However, as compared to 1990, the share of the White population is somewhat smaller while the shares of Asians, Hispanics and "others" (including American Indians and multi-racial individuals) are larger.

New Orleans now has fewer housing units but more vacant homes among those that remain.

The 2010 Census counted 189,896 housing units in the City of New Orleans, 25,195 fewer than in 2000, and 36,556 fewer than in 1980. However, it is likely that many of these housing units are uninhabitable. To be counted as a housing unit, the Census Bureau requires only that a residential building not be open to the elements. Many New Orleans houses that were destroyed by the massive flooding of 2005 are now boarded up (and, thus, not open to the elements) but are not habitable. Many of these boarded up and uninhabitable housing units were likely counted among the 47,738 vacant units in New Orleans in 2010.

Of the 189,896 housing units counted in New Orleans, 142,158 were counted as occupied. Although the population has declined by 29 percent, the number of occupied housing units has decreased by 24 percent, resulting in a smaller average household size within the city – now 2.4 persons per household down from 2.6 in 2000.

The New Orleans seven-parish metro area is now roughly the same size it was in 1970, but with population shifts to parishes upriver and north of the lake.

The 2010 Census counted 1,167,764 residents in the New Orleans metropolitan area including Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. John the Baptist, and St. Tammany parishes. This is down 148,746 from 2000 when the Census Bureau counted 1,316,510 residents across the metro.

Prior to Katrina, population growth across the New Orleans metro area was sluggish at best. In the 1980s, the metro lost one percent of its population as the oil bust hammered the region's economy. And from 1990 to 2000, the metro area population grew by only four percent while the entire country grew 13 percent. Over the most recent decade, the metro population shrank 11 percent, such that the metro area now has roughly the same population it had back in 1970, but with population shifts to parishes upriver and north of the lake.

Children may have been the least likely demographic group to return following Katrina.

Children represent a disproportionately smaller share of the metro area population. By 2010 the share of the metro's population that was under 18 years old was only 23 percent – down from 27 percent in 2000. And this trend is consistent across all metro area parishes except St. Bernard.

However, it is important to recognize that children were a declining share of the metro area's population before Katrina – falling from 31 percent in 1980 to 27 percent by 2000, and to 23 percent by 2010. Thus, the loss of children post-Katrina may be, to some extent, the acceleration of a trend that was already observable before the massive displacement.

While the most heavily damaged parishes lost housing units, less damaged parishes gained housing units. At the same time vacancies increased across all parishes in the metro.

The 2010 Census counted 16,794 housing units in St. Bernard Parish, 9,996 fewer than in 2000. In Plaquemines, the number of housing units decreased, but by only 885. This is a reversal of the trends from 1990 to 2000 when the number of housing units grew in both of these parishes. At the same time vacancies increased in these parishes, likely an indicator of abandoned flood-damaged housing.

Meanwhile the number of housing units has grown since 2000 in St. Tammany by 20,014, in St. Charles by 2,466, and in St. John by 1,978. Simultaneously, the number of vacant housing units also grew in these parishes, suggesting possible overbuilding in these exurban parts of the metro. Vacant housing units increased in St. Tammany by 1,746, in St. Charles by 331, and in St. John by 296 from 2000 to 2010.

While housing units increased in most parishes, along with vacancies, the average persons per household decreased in every parish across the metro, except St. Bernard—likely reflecting the loss of family with children metro wide.

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