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# The Evolution of Chris Tucker

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# The Evolution of Chris Tucker



Chris Tucker

By Edwin Buggage

## Chris Tucker...Superstar

In two decades Chris Tucker has grown from a young kid from Georgia with a dream of doing stand-up to become an international superstar. He is a man whose unique brand of comedy has led him to domi-

nate both the small stage as a stand-up comic as well as the silver screen in many films including the Rush Hour Franchise with the last installment netting him 25 million dollars. Today he is recognized from Los Angeles to Shanghai. And while he was at the top of his game Tucker could have easily cashed in on his stardom raking in millions more. But in an instant in a move reminiscent of *Catcher in the Rye* Author J.D. Salinger, Chris Tucker chose to sway away from

the bright lights of Hollywood and disappeared from the spotlight for several years. Now he has returned renewed and reinvigorate ready to revive and reclaim his place as one of the greats.

"I took a break because I felt there was not a lot of quality work out there for me that would challenge me as an actor," says Tucker of his time away from Hollywood. "Also I have been working developing my own projects; also I have just been traveling and living life." Recently, he's returned to where his career started and his first love, the world of stand-up comedy.

## Chris Tucker...The Definition of Greatness

Tucker is presently touring cities across America with one of his stops being New Orleans. He says of his return to stand-up, "I started doing stand-up again because for me I feel it is kind of like going back to Broadway, it is just a way to sharpen my skills, stay current and connect with my fans." In his years in the business Tucker is now a stage veteran who has sealed his place among the legends of comedy, "When I was growing up I saw so many of the great comics, for me Richard Pryor was the complete package, he was a great stand-up comic as well as outstanding in movies." Continuing he says of his influences, "But there were many others I admire and respect the work of Bill Cosby, Dick Gregory and Eddie Murphy and I want to continue in the tradition started by them."

Recently, to much hoopla it was reported that Tucker would stop cussing in his act, of this he says this is half truth, half fiction, "There was a period when I saw a lot of comics just being raunchy and I wanted to get better, so I decided I did

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not weather fairly or unfairly being grouped with comedians who cussed a lot and weren't funny, so I decided to be less vulgar." Continuing he says, "The goal was to make myself funnier and less vulgar; it wasn't that I was going to completely stop cussing. I just wanted to get to a point where if I didn't have to cuss I wouldn't. And I just wanted to get to a point where if I didn't have to cuss I wouldn't cuss and it has made me a better comedian."

### Chris Tucker...The Meaning of Life

Outside of the stage Chris Tucker says he does not cuss much and is deeply spiritual and family oriented. Much of his time away from the spotlight has been dedicated to raising his son. He says that being a dad has transformed his life, "Before I was a father I didn't have a care in the world, but now that I do I think about things differently because I have to be an example. It made me grow up and change me for the better."

During his hiatus from the business Tucker has also grown as a person and as a man, "I traveled the world and lived life, I went all over the world. I went to several countries in Africa, I saw a lot of poverty and I saw a lot of beautiful things. It opened me up to want to contribute to the betterment of humanity and broadened my horizons." In that time he has renewed in his faith and spirituality, "My spirituality is something that is very important because it is what sustains me, in knowing that my life is more than just being an entertainer, it is about being rooted in something that is real and that is what my spirituality does for me."

### Chris Tucker...The Game of Fame

During his time away the world lost an icon, but Tucker lost a friend in the King of Pop Michael Jackson with his untimely death in 2009. He says of the life lessons learned from his dear friend, "Michael was an extremely caring person, he cared about people and the world, and what I learned from Michael Jackson is to have a work ethic and stay focused because that's what he did, he always worked on bettering the world, bettering himself and to be the best at his craft." Like Jackson, Chris Tucker is an easily recognizable international superstar. When asked if there is a



downside to fame he says, "There are more ups than downs, you lose your anonymity and people want to say hello but it feels good that they respect you for the work you've done."

While Tucker is a superstar he is a very down to earth and grounded in his approach to life. He says of what gives his life meaning and purpose, "My family and my son are very important, and I am glad I realized that at an early age. I think the rest of the stuff it comes and it goes, in life you have your highs and your lows and that's the way it is for everybody and you got to put the most important things first and appreciate those things and the rest will just come into place."

### Chris Tucker...New Orleans, A City of Hope and Optimism

As he returns to New Orleans, he says he has a lot of love for the city and as New Orleans becomes a place where many films are shot the Crescent City may see Tucker in the future bringing one of his projects to the city. He came down to New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina with his son in-tow and said he was overwhelmed by what happened to the city, "I came to New Orleans when the NBA All-Star Game was there in 2008 and I brought my son, and it was a very eye opening experience." "I wanted to see the devastation with my own eyes how this changed people's lives," says Tucker.

But being the eternal optimist he says of the people in the city praising the uniqueness and resilience of the citizens, "We all love the city and its people and I hope wherever they are they bring that



Chris Tucker with Jackie Chan in Rush Hour 3

great New Orleans culture with them, and hopefully they can enhance those places until they are able to return home." They say that laughter is therapy and yes yesterday the city saw its darkest times, but the sky is opening up again and

the light is shining brightly and tears are being replaced by laughter and Chris Tucker is bringing his gifts to the city to put smiles on the faces of the people of New Orleans.

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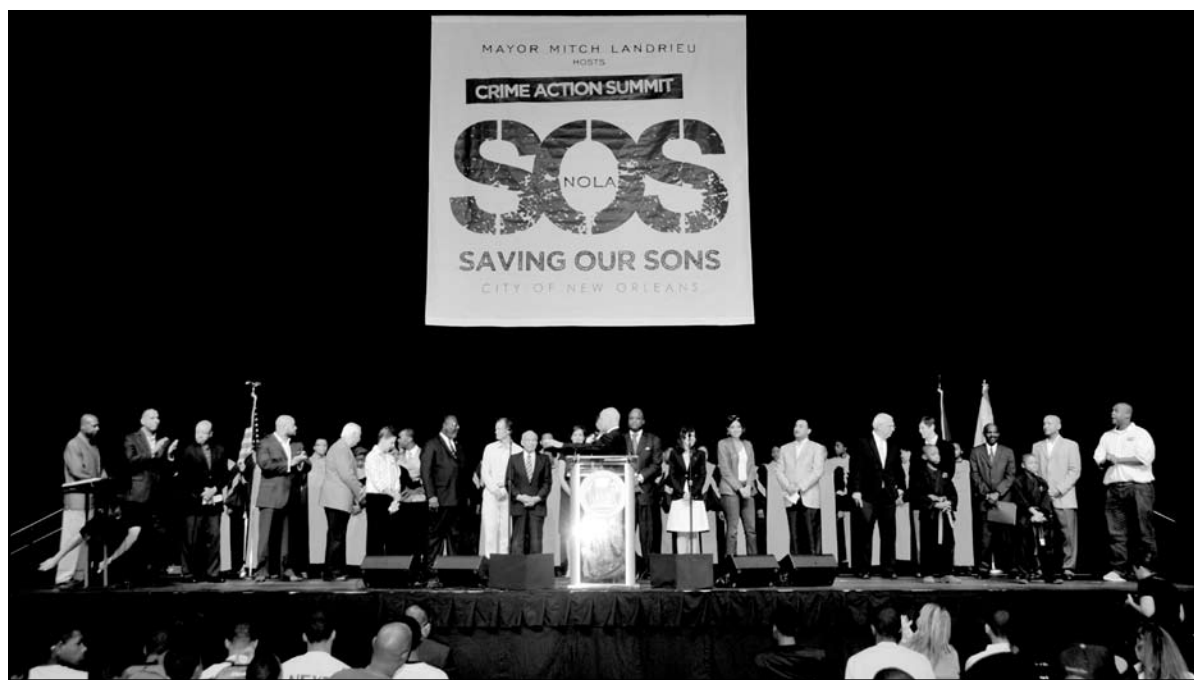
## Mayor Launches "S.O.S. NOLA: Saving Our Sons" Campaign:

### *Corporate and Community Partners Make Commitments*

In keeping with his commitment to improve public safety and reform the criminal justice system, Mayor Landrieu hosted a crime action summit on Saturday, Sept 17, officially launching the "S.O.S. NOLA: Saving Our Sons" campaign. Over 2000 residents, students, community and business leaders, and City officials gathered at the UNO Lakefront Arena to address the City's most pressing issue.

Regarding the challenge the City faces with the crime rate, in his keynote address Mayor Landrieu began by stating, "Quite frankly, right now on our streets there is a war being waged for the heart and soul of New Orleans and we are leaving our brothers and sisters behind. New Orleans, this is the most difficult and important challenge that we will face. This is about changing the culture of death and violence that has held us back for generations. This is about coming together to triumph over yet another challenge."

Mayor Landrieu addressed the murder issue extensively in his 2011 State of the City address in April. The Mayor appointed former City Councilmember James Carter as the City's Criminal Justice Commissioner. Carter has worked hand-in-hand with NOPD Superintendent Ronal Serpas and City Health Commissioner Dr.



The City of New Orleans officially launched the "S.O.S. NOLA: Saving Our Sons" campaign. Over 2000 residents, students, community and business leaders attended.

Karen DeSalvo to analyze murder trends and demographics in New Orleans and address the crime issue from a holistic perspective. Long-term and short-term strategies are being developed to target both reactive and proactive, preventative approaches to reducing murder and violence.

The City committed \$250,000 towards the "Ceasefire" violence-interruption initiative for the remainder of 2011. Additionally, the City is committing to reinvigorate Neighborhood Watch across New

Orleans. The Mayor's office and NOPD will conduct a community training session in the coming weeks to help build capacity for that effort.

At the summit, Mayor Landrieu personally asked each resident to commit to at least one action item in his remarks. He stated, "We all have a role to play. First, you can take a role in your own neighborhood by reinvigorating a neighborhood watch program. Second, you can be a mentor or a volunteer. Third, you can open your

checkbook to an organization that works hard to provide services to our youth. And fourth, you, your employer or your business can provide job opportunities for our young people and ex-offenders."

The City collected commitment cards and will follow up to ensure there is follow-through on the commitments made across those four areas.

Additionally, business, higher education, and community leaders made commitments to help end the cycle of violence and mur-

der in our city. Among those was Hugh Weber of the New Orleans Hornets who committed to re-launching the successful midnight basketball program that gives youth an opportunity to do something productive late at night. Other organizations that made commitments include the New Orleans Saints, Tulane University, Xavier University, Southern University at New Orleans, Recovery School District, Orleans Parish School Board, Urban League of Greater New Orleans, New Orleans Aviation Board, Business Council of New Orleans and the River Region, First NBC, Royal Engineering, Veolia Transportation/RTA, Coaxum Enterprises, BMG Enterprises, Gmc Advertising, Ti Martin of Commander's Palace and Café Adelaide, Wild Wayne of Reconnect NOLA and Q93, and the New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation.

Mayor Landrieu concluded, "New Orleans cannot be the City that care forgot. It in fact has to be a City with purpose. We have to resolve to turn the tide. It is our responsibility, mine and yours. Enough is enough, New Orleans. Our sons are worth saving. Our City is worth saving. So let's all pull together and get to work."

For more information and to stay connected, please visit [www.nola.gov/sosnola](http://www.nola.gov/sosnola).

## State & Local News

### State Sen. Morrell Favors University Medical Center Decision

District 3 State Senator Jean-Paul "J.P." Morrell (D- New Orleans) applauds members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget for the approval of a business plan for the new University Medical Center (UMC) in New Orleans. Since the devastation of old Charity Hospital by Hurricane Katrina six years ago, there has been an on-going debate on how to best meet the health-care needs

of the area and the state. Today, the committee cleared the way for the new UMC to begin construction.

"Today's vote marks the end of a four year legislative battle over the fate of UMC," Sen. Morrell said. "In this environment, in this economy, today marks the State's commitment to deliver on two things desperately needed in the Greater New Orleans Area, jobs

and healthcare."

The \$1.1 billion, 424-bed research and teaching hospital is scheduled to open in 2015 and expected to bring 5,500 permanent jobs to the area in the first five years of operation. Sen. Morrell says that the business plan is more than just a plan for a new hospital, it's also a plan for jobs, not just for Orleans Parish, but for the entire Greater New Orleans Area.

"We aren't waiting on the Federal government to ride to our rescue when it comes to job creation in our region," said Sen. Morrell. "We're moving on a project with billions of dollars of direct economic impact that will create thousands of new jobs, both directly and indirectly."

The business plan commissioned by the University Medical Center Management Corporation

Board prepared by Verité Healthcare Consulting, LLC states that the 5,500 direct jobs will lead to nearly 9,700 total jobs and annual personal earnings totaling over \$350 million.

"St. Bernard, Jefferson and Orleans, get ready. Jobs are coming," said Sen. Morrell.

# Calvin Johnson

## *Justice for All*

by: Edwin Buggage

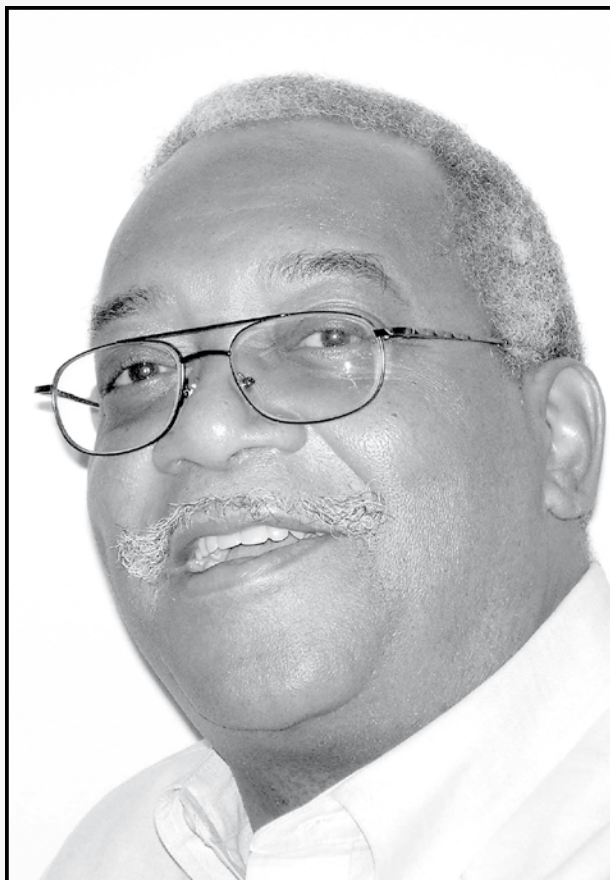
He is a man who has dedicated his life to service. Calvin Johnson is a man who in his professional as well as civic life strives to enrich the lives of others. He says that the greatest influence on his life is his father, "My father use to always say 'to those who much is given much is expected' and these are words I continue to live by and try to instill in others."

Johnson is a retired Criminal District Court Judge and he is also a Law Professor at Loyola University. He says that education is important in uplifting the youth of today and thinks a more holistic approach to dealing with young people is essential to making them productive citizens. "In my years as a judge I saw a revolving door where I would see some of the same people in my courtroom; I feel that many of the problems that led to them being there was the failure in other areas due to larger societal issues that included: lack of education, substance abuse and mental illness just to name a few."

As many simply diagnose problems, Johnson is someone who is on the frontlines offering solutions. He serves on several boards and works to help eradicate some of the things that lead people to lives of crime and vice. He runs a company called Metropolitan Human Service District that offers a variety of services in Orleans and neighboring parishes. "We are hands-on and anytime someone calls they can speak to someone, we offer mental health counseling, help with substance abuse, transitional housing and a host of other services."

Johnson also sits on several other boards, one of which is Liberty's Kitchen, a social entrepreneurship program aimed at steering youth in the right direction. He also is the Board President of Youth Empowerment Project (YEP). Speaking proudly of the success of both he says, "These programs are great places for young people to start to develop the tools and foundation to lead productive lives." "Our YEP Program graduate more kids than any in the state, we have 700 to 800 kids every nine months who receive their GED this is a great accomplishment and we are committed in our effort to give the kids the confidence to go out a be a success in life."

Ever the advocate of education he harkens back to his father, "My father was well established in his work life, but he decided when he was 50 years old he would get his high school equivalency diploma because that's how important he felt education was to him." Johnson continues telling his life story with sage like wisdom speaking of the shortfalls in today's education and society. "I grew up during the time of segregation and there was an emphasis on education and achievement and we were encour-



aged to strive for excellence despite the odds." He also says, it is important to instill character in young people and not simply measure kid's development by grades. Johnson feels that young people developing a sense of self-worth is an important trait to have and believes the world will open up with endless possibilities to them thereafter.

As a judge he was often distressed about what he felt was the misplaced priorities of a criminal justice system and a society that spent less money on preventive measures. As he talks about the loss to society when people pursue careers of crime he says, "On Friday I use to calculate how much it is costing society in its failure to effectively deal with young people. We need to begin to look at other ways to ensure we get a return

on our investment because the way its structured right now, it is not working to build better citizens.

Many days Judge Johnson sat in his courtroom with young Black men who made bad decisions and became another one of society's negative statistics. He says but in certain instances some of the men he sentenced have made 180 degree turns in their lives and nothing makes him happier to witness someone turning their lives around. Speaking of one of those instances he says, "I was coming out of the barbershop and a young man runs towards me and says you may not remember me but you sentenced me to nine years in jail." He then said that it was the best thing that ever happened to me and when I got to prison I was told I could have received a life sentence." "It was at that time I decided I would do something different with my life. I went through some programs, I got training I now have a business I bought a house, I got married, I have two children, one of them in private school, I am living good and I want to say thank you." After telling the story of this young man's transformation he says, "I was speechless and it made everything I do worthwhile."

Calvin Johnson is a man who is committed to making his city and the world a better place. Continuing to give he is a man on a mission, "The true joy in life and prosperity is about being able to share yourself with other people and in turn gain from that sharing," remarks Johnson on what constitutes a good life. He is a man that is at a stage in his life he calls the third thirty and he looks at it as an opportunity to do what he loves, and that is to serve and work for Justice for All. And today we honor Calvin Johnson as the Data News Weekly Trailblazer for September of 2011.

**JMJ**  
Joseph M. Jones  
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# Cirque Du Soleil's Dralion

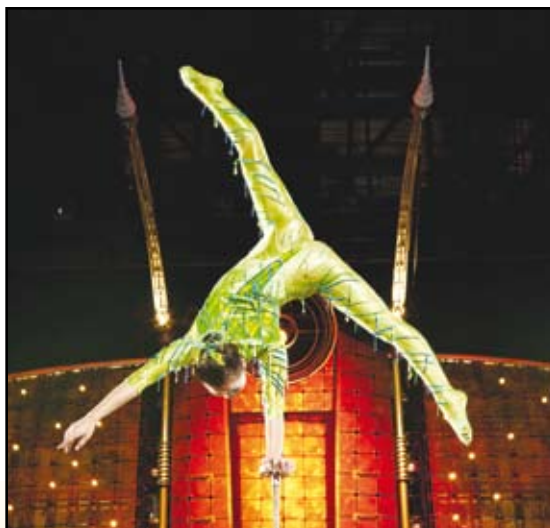
Dralion™ is a signature Cirque du Soleil® production acclaimed by more than seven million people worldwide since it premiered in 1999 in Montreal, Canada. After many years performing under the big top for a limited engagement at the New Orleans Arena, and will be in arenas throughout the

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humans and nature.

Bearing the unmistakable signature of Cirque du Soleil and featuring 50 international acrobats, gymnasts, musicians and singers, Dralion soars to new heights. The Show was awe-inspiring and left the audience breathless, and Data was There!



Photos By Daniel Desmarais



# K.D. Brosia

## Man On A Mission



**Lynesia Carson**  
Data News Contributor

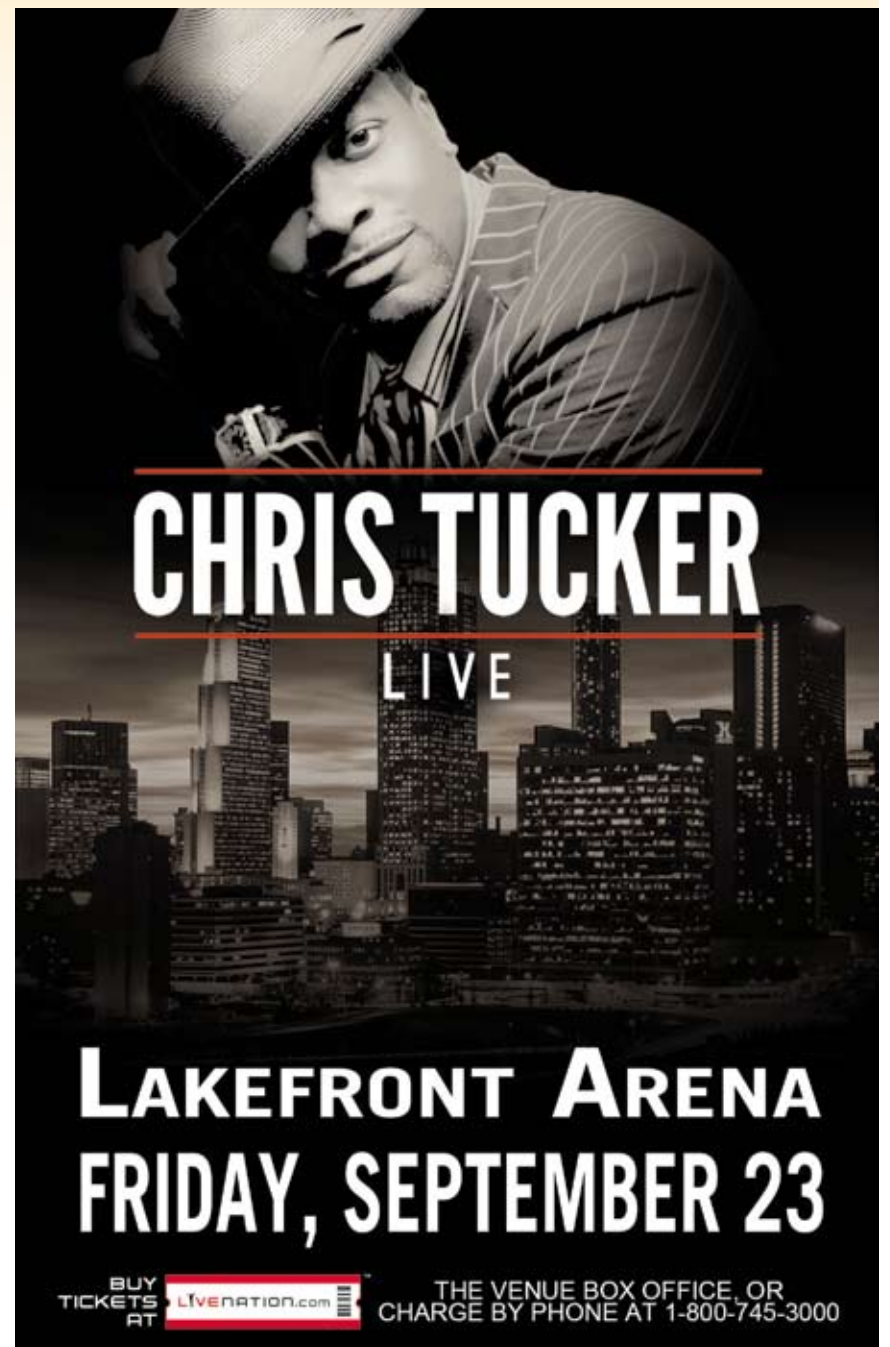
K.D. Brosia loves a challenge. The Mississippi-bred soul singer challenges dissatisfied music fans to listen to his music and not fall in love with music again. He also challenged himself to refocus and rekindle his passion for the art form by relocating from the west coast to the Gulf Coast where his musical journey began.

Upon returning to Florence, Mississippi, the Singer/Songwriter, whose real name Kobie means "prince of war" in Swahili, reacquainted himself with instruments and rhythms in an attempt to create an alternative to the culprit that leaves music fans displeased. Brosia believes R&B music has taken a considerable turn saying, "It's become so commercial," and continued, "There's no longer the chord structure like early Motown."

"Technically, my music is soul/neo-soul, but personally I like to call my music soul-ternative," said the crooner. "It's progressive soul," he continued. His latest effort, Love Is, is a melting pot of sultry ballads and mid-tempo tracks with topics ranging from love and relationships to political innuendo.

His latest challenge is to increase the number of Brosiacs (a collective nickname for his fans) worldwide. So far, there isn't a challenge he hasn't met.

For more information, you can visit: [www.facebook.com/kdbrosia](http://www.facebook.com/kdbrosia), [www.twitter.com/kdbrosia](http://www.twitter.com/kdbrosia), [www.youtube.com/kdbrosia](http://www.youtube.com/kdbrosia)



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# Republicans Contradict Themselves on Taxes



George C. Curry  
NNPA

By George E. Curry  
NNPA Columnist

If there was ever any lingering doubt that Republicans favor the rich over poor and middle-class Americans, it should be removed by the GOP's opposition to President Obama's proposal to extend the payroll tax cut for another year.

Let's face it: Republicans oppose almost everything advocated by the nation's first Black

President. And Republican leaders have made it clear that their top priority is defeating Obama in 2012, even if that means wrecking the country in the process.

Whether it was coming up with a budget compromise last December or the most recent round of deficit haggling, Republicans have adamantly refused to roll back the tax rate for the wealthiest 2 percent of Americans to the pre-George W. Bush level. That move alone would cut the federal deficit by half. GOP leaders also refuse to close tax loopholes that allow some U.S. companies to pay little or no federal taxes.

Last year, Congress approved President Obama's 1-year plan to reduce the share of payroll taxes designated for Social Security from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent. Now, Obama is proposing adding another year, a move that would affect 46 percent of all taxpayers,

saving the average family \$1,000.

But Republicans, who, until now, had never met a tax cut they didn't like, are balking.

Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee said: "We don't need short-term gestures. We need long-term fundamental changes in our tax structure and our regulatory structure that people who create jobs can rely on."

A spokesman for another Republican, Eric Cantor, told the Associated Press, that the House majority leader "has never believed that this temporary tax relief is the best way to grow the economy."

Republicans are conveniently ignoring the fact that the Bush tax cuts, enacted in 2001 and 2003, were supposed to be temporary. When they were set to expire, both Republicans and President Obama extended them.

When he was a candidate,

Obama pledged to end the Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent of taxpayers – individuals earning at least \$200,000 a year and couples making \$250,000 or more. Under pressure from Republicans, however, Obama agreed last December to extend the cuts.

According to Citizens for Tax Justice, 52.5 percent of the Bush tax cuts benefit the richest 5 percent of taxpayers.

David Stockman, the Budget Director in the Reagan administration, called for letting the Bush tax cuts expire and said the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer. In an interview with 60 Minutes, he said: "In 1985, the top 5 percent of the households, the wealthiest 5 percent, had a net worth of 8 trillion dollars, which is a lot. Today, after serial bubble after serial bubble, the top 5 percent have a net worth of 40 trillion."

Republican National Chairman Ed Gillespie defends the GOP's defense of the wealthy by contending that 80 percent of the tax relief to the rich goes to job-creating small businesses. FactCheck.org debunks that myth.

"It may be true that 79% of upper-income taxpayers have some income from business, but Gillespie's definition of 'small' business actually includes big accounting firms, law firms and real-estate partnerships, and 'businesses' that are really only sidelines – such as occasional rental income from a corporate chief's condo," it said. "In fact, tax statistics show that upper-income taxpayers get more of their income from salaries, capital gains, stock dividends and interest than they do from small business."

Republicans, Continued  
on page 11.

## The Obama Jobs Bill – A Step In The Right Direction



Julianne Malveaux  
NNPA Columnist

I was among the millions who eagerly looked forward to President Obama's speech on jobs last week, among the millions who hoped our President would finally get his arms around the issue that plagues millions of Americans. The official unemployment rates, after all, are nothing more than a pleasant fiction. The 9.1 percent unemployment rate for August is actually a whopping 16.2 percent. For African-Americans, the unemployment rate, reported at 16.7 percent, looks more like 29.3 percent. For African-American men,

the unemployment rate, reported at 18 percent, is more like 32 percent when discouraged workers, people who have dropped out of the labor force, and those who work part-time but need full-time work are added into the equation. The average unemployed American has been out of work for 10 months! Some have not been working for as many as two years! Debt ceiling notwithstanding, the unemployment situation is our nation's greatest challenge at this time.

I was pleasantly surprised by President Obama's speech. He showed an amazing firmness, and reminded Congress that those who are unemployed have no time to wait for our legislators to get their act together. He called for a \$457 billion stimulus package that included, money to repair at least 35,000 schools, Teachers in every state will be put back to work. The President paid special attention to young people, veterans, the long-term unemployed, and construction workers. There

are provisions for infrastructure repair. And there are tax benefits for those employers who hire the long-term unemployed.

Of course, the last time we did stimulus, money did not trickle down to the African-American community. This time, money will be distributed through mayors, not governors, and targeting cities implicitly targets the African-American community. Money is also targeted to communities with high levels of poverty, high unemployment, and high foreclosure rates, again, more likely to be communities with large numbers of African-Americans. At the same time, civil rights laws must be enforced so that African-American contractors have the same change as others to benefit from this stimulus. According to some estimates, only three percent of the money from the first stimulus trickled down to African-Americans. That can't be repeated with this second stimulus.

While the President's speech was quite effective, the American

Jobs Act has yet to be drafted. Further, the political gamesmanship around the speech, and the disrespectful scorn of some Republicans, do not bode well for this jobs bill. Republicans will have to cooperate in passing some form of a jobs bill, or they will be labeled obstructionist and bear the weight of high unemployment rates moving into the 2012 election. But the President's proposal, if watered down, may not generate enough jobs to make a difference.

If Congress works quickly, legislation can be passed within the month, and some provisions implemented before the end of the year. If they work more slowly, it is not likely that we'll see change in the employment situation before Spring. Already, there have been both positive and negative signs. Some have pledged to cooperate with President Obama, but others have dug their heels in and opposed any stimulus.

While stimulus is much needed, it may well simply put a band aid on the festering sore that our

economy has become. To be sure, President Obama said all of the right things, speaking of education, competitiveness, small business growth and development, and job creation. As he indicated, South Korea is hiring teachers while we are laying them off. China and India are investing in education, while we are divesting. This legislation moves us in the right direction, but it does not deal with some of the structural problems that plague our economy, nor does it deal with the misplaced priorities that our nation has embraced.

I don't expect a single piece of legislation to address all of these challenges. Indeed, I am heartened to see the legislation that has been proposed. This legislation is an absolute step in the right direction, but much more must be done before our upside down economy is turned right side up.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina.



## Smart Bodies: Fighting Childhood Obesity Through Awareness

The LSU AgCenter is helping youngsters become healthier and more physically active, and children's health is the focus during Childhood Obesity Awareness Month in September.

The number of overweight and obese children is alarming, says Anne Kean, who manages the LSU AgCenter's Body Walk Program.

"We're seeing children have diabetes, cardiovascular issues, anxiety and depression – diseases that were typically adult diseases, but we're seeing them in children as well," Kean said.

By being physically active, children can reduce their risk of developing these diseases while also building strong bones and muscles, she explained.

LSU AgCenter's Smart Bodies program helps teach elementary school children healthy habits in an interactive way. It includes in-



Third-graders from the LSU Lab School participate in the Smart Bodies kickoff event at the LSU Lod Cook Alumni Center. (File Photo)

class education with a group of characters called the OrganWise Guys. The "Take 10!" component helps incorporate physical activity into daily lessons. The third part of Smart Bodies is the Body Walk, a gymnasium-sized exhibit that allows children to walk through a

representation of the body while learning ways to keep their bodies healthy.

"We teach them healthy habits, healthy nutrition, how to be physically active in order to reduce the likelihood they'll become overweight or obese as children or as

adults," Kean said.

The Body Walk has been traveling to schools across the state for six years and reaches more than 50 schools a year, according to Kean.

Evaluations of the program reveal that children increase their knowledge of health and nutrition. Kean said a reason to target children is that it is easier to change the habits of a child, and children tend to be more enthusiastic about the message and take that information back to their families.

Families can find many ways to incorporate physical activities into their daily routines, she said. Formal exercise routines that adults are more likely to participate in aren't necessarily what children need.

"Make it more like a game," Kean said. "It can be something as simple as a playing tag, jump-

ing rope or dancing."

Kean added that children should participate in activities that are aerobic, muscle-strengthening and bone-strengthening.

"Bone-strengthening activities are particularly important for children and promote bone growth by producing a force on the bones, usually by some sort of impact like jumping or hopping," Kean explained.

An example of a muscle-strengthening activity would include climbing a tree, Kean said.

"The key is for children to be active in a variety of ways doing activities they enjoy," she said.

Childhood obesity rates range from 9.6 percent to 21.9 percent in states throughout the country. States with the highest adult and childhood obesity rates tend to be located in the South.

## Regina Bartholomew Earns Two Major Endorsements

*Greater New Orleans Republicans and the Regular Democratic Organization*

Regina Bartholomew, Candidate for Judge for Civil District Court, Division B, has earned the endorsements of the Greater New Orleans Republicans and the Regular Democratic Organization. Brett Bonin, Republican member of the Orleans Parish School Board, said, "Regina is the most qualified and experienced candidate. She has all of the personal and professional qualities we look for in a first-rate judge."

Reacting to her endorsements, Bartholomew said, "I am truly humbled by the broad base of bipartisan support I have received. I think it reflects my record of hard work and my commitment to treat every person who comes before the court with respect."

The GNOR and RDO endorsements add to the long list of New Orleans leaders supporting Bartholomew. She was earlier endorsed by Congressman Cedric Richmond, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Clerk of Court Dale Atkins, State Senator Karen Carter Peterson, New Orleans City Council Member Kristin Gisleson Palmer,



Former Orleans Parish School Board Member Phyllis Landrieu, and many others.

Bartholomew is an Attorney with Boykin, Ehret, and Utley, PLC. She is the daughter of retired educators, Reginald and Merle Harris and is the mother of three sons.

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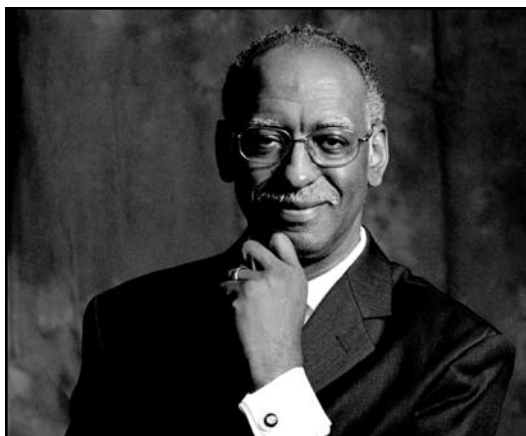


# Louisiana Native Lends Hand to Design of Multi-Million Dollar State of the Art Sanctuary

"I went to the origin of the church's name and remembered what transpired in the life of Jesus on the Mount of Olives," said the Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson a Southern University alumni, who tapped into his training as an expert architect for the federal government and his theological knowledge to contribute to the design of the new 52,000-square foot Mount Olive Baptist Church and to the stained glass windows that adorn the worship center. The new worship facility is set to open here Sept. 18.

When new church construction began in May 2009, Johnson, the Architect, didn't pass up the opportunity to contribute his skills to the design of the contemporary state-of-the art sanctuary and to its traditional architectural exterior. Johnson, who has served as pastor of the more than 2,000-member congregation since 1992, earned his Bachelor of Architecture Degree from Southern University, Baton Rouge and his Master of Divinity Degree from Howard University School of Divinity. In 2008, the Divinity School honored him with the James F. Jenkins Pillars of Faith Award, its top honor, "for contributions to spiritual community."

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Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson served as Pastor, Architect, and Designer for the new Mount Olive Baptist Church and its stained glass windows. Credit: Mount Olive Baptist Church

Working by phone and online with a local window artist in Lynchburg, VA, Johnson helped take six stained glass windows, located in the church's chapel and Narthex or vestibule, from concept, to design, to fabrication. The windows, titled Creation, Nativity, Ministry, Agony, Resurrection, and Rapture, tell the story of Christ's experience in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount

of Olives in Jerusalem.

Pastor Johnson, the recent past moderator of the Northern Virginia Baptist Association, credits prayer, faith, and stewardship for guiding the multi-million-dollar church building project from vision to reality. Despite a rocky recession, construction stayed on track. The light-filled, eco-friendly worship center includes space for a daycare center, an expansive banquet and fellowship hall, classrooms, and room for family-centered programs and ministries to support, engage, and sustain its members and the community it serves.

## Sports

# A Sigh of Relief!!!!

By: Kingfish  
Data News Columnist

AHHHHHHHHH, I'm not in time warp. I haven't been sent back ten years to the era of the "AINT'S". The Saints are "who we thought they were", to coin a phrase from Coach Dennis Green. Ok maybe that was a bit of an exaggeration, but listening to national media, Monday morning quarterbacks and fair-weather fans, you would think that's what we were headed for after our season opener loss to the Green Bay Packers.

The Bears beat down was just what the doctor ordered. Brees was on fire going 26 of 37 for 270 yards and three touchdowns. I'm happy to say that's the norm for our field general. What was missing in Green Bay was the needed prescription; a physical domination by our defense. The six sacks of Bears QB Jay Cutler and slew of hits, pressures and all out harassment from the defense was the cure, as Cutler said, "it was a long day". Yes, it's only one week and the Bears were without running

back Marion Barber but running back Matt Forte more than made up for his absence. What also is true is that the first half had most Saints' fans still on the edge of our seats. The game was still close at the end of the half 16 to 10 in the Saints favor.

The second half truly kicked off when Turk McBride made the sack and forced the fumble and from there the flood gates opened (no pun intended). The defense seemed to pin their ears back and Defensive Coordinator Gregg Williams said "go get 'em." It reminded me of pants on the ground from the famed NFC Championship game against Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings. Even though I am still concerned about our Linebacker core specifically Scott Shanle who could not keep up with RB Forte who gained 117 yards in pass receptions, The D looked promising. With all that said it was a great win for the Saints and a shot in the arm for the Defense.

Notable impact players were



rookies Mark Ingram with 51 hard rushing yards and Cam Jordan with a forced QB grounding penalty. Both rookies seem to be coming into the system nicely. I was most impressed with Cam Jordan enforcing his will. If he can live up to his draft position The Saints will have a dominant front four after mid-season going into the playoffs. King, the Defensive Tackle, continues to just make plays. Harper may not be the best Cover Safety but as a blitzer he's fierce. Henderson the elderly statesman (lol) is start-

ing to hold on to the ball in short yardage grabs. What can I say about the upgrade Darren Sproles...whoa, beast! Every week he does something that makes the fans compare him to Reggie Bush, if he continues, Bush will be just an afterthought. Last but not least, LB Jonathan Casillas. I know earlier I stated my concern for our linebacker core but he is a bright spot, no disrespect to Jonathan Vilma; Casillas's sack and blitzing capabilities really are the compliments Vilma needs in his LB core. Like I said in reference

to Cam Jordan, if Casillas maturation and health continues we will have a front seven to be reckoned with.

## Next Week:

We will play host to the high-powered offense of the Houston Texans. Yes, another test for the defense. Arian Foster may or may not play but RB Ben Tate is certainly a worthy replacement. Tate averaged 10 yards a carry in our last meeting even though it was pre-season, he had his way with our vanilla defense. As Vilma said our Vanilla D is our base and we should be good at that formation. I know our Offense can keep pace with the Texans. The key to our victory will be our ability to contain their offense with turnovers and getting off the field on third downs. If the defense can do that and put the ball back in Drew Brees's hands we should go 2 and 1. Let's Geaux, Who Dat!!!

Glad to be back for another season!!!



# Black HistoryMakers to Address Students Friday in Classrooms Across the United States

CHICAGO (Special to the NNPA) – Five hundred African-American trailblazers will descend upon classrooms in 107 cities and 34 states across the United States, (including Puerto Rico), on Friday, September 23, 2011 as part of the 2nd Annual Back to School with the HistoryMakers program.

The one-day program, which comes as students are getting settled in classrooms throughout the country, is designed to bring renewed attention to the needs of the nation's educational system and its students. This year's participants include: Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Senior Advisor to the President of the United States Valerie B. Jarrett, former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young, Entertainer and Author Common, Activist and Talk Show Host the Rev. Al Sharpton, Political Commentator and Talk Show Host Roland Martin, Singer/Actress Melba Moore, Broadway Choreographer George Faison, Poet Nikki Giovanni, Actress Marla Gibbs, Actress T'Keyah Crystal Keymáh, Poet/Author Sonia

Sanchez and Author/Filmmaker Antwone Fisher.

Notable African-Americans will recount their own school experiences and the struggles they encountered on their paths to success. The theme of the day is "COMMIT," and the goal of the program is to put Black leaders in direct and sustained contact with young people in schools all across the nation, while encouraging youth to commit to excellence, to learning their history and to achieving beyond what they think is possible.

The HistoryMakers, the nation's largest African-American video oral history archive, consists of 2,000 videotaped personal histories of both well-known and unsung African-Americans. Subjects include President Barack Obama, General Colin Powell, Marion Wright Edelman and the oldest living Black cowboy, Alonzo Pettie, Co-Founder of Colorado's first Black rodeo.

The oldest person interviewed is Louisiana Hines out of Detroit, who is 113, and the youngest is Ayisha McMillan, a prima ballerina from North Carolina,

aged 33. At last year's launch, 200 HistoryMakers spoke at 107 schools in 25 states and 50 cities. Participants included: former Ohio Congressman Louis Stokes, Civil Rights Activist C. T. Vivian and Broadcast Journalist Carole Simpson. In Washington, D.C., Secretary of Education Arne Duncan joined Civil Rights Activists the Rev. Al Sharpton and Roger Wilkins at the Dorothy I. Height Community Charter School. In New York, CNN's Soledad O'Brien spoke with former Mayor of New York David Dinkins at the Harlem Children's Zone. Through the group's efforts more than 25,000 students were reached and many HistoryMakers adopted the schools they addressed.

"Our HistoryMakers embody our commitment to education and are a wonderful example of true service—service that can literally change the course of the lives of thousands of young people," said The HistoryMakers Founder and Executive Director Julieanna Richardson. "This is just the beginning as we are making our digital collection of more

than 8,000 hours of video testimony available, free of charge, to all participating schools."

Organizations that have joined forces with The HistoryMakers for the second annual Back-to-School event include The Faison Firehouse Respect Project, DC-CAP, the Illinois Network of Charter Schools, the National Education Association, the Arnold Family Foundation, the Science, Engineering and Mathematics Link, Inc., the Fernbank Science Center, the Alabama Departments of Education and Archives and History and the Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum. Additionally, Comcast, the Chicago Tribune and TheRoot.com have signed on as media partners, with Comcast contributing between \$250,000 and \$500,000 in public service announcement (PSA) support. Co-chairs of the event include Marty Nesbitt and his wife, Dr. Anita Blanchard.

For more information, visit [www.thehistorymakers.com](http://www.thehistorymakers.com) or The HistoryMakers digital archive at <http://www.idvl.org/thehistorymakers/>. # # #

Republicans/ Continued from page 8.

The Tax Policy Center found that slightly more than 22 percent of income reported by the wealthy will be derived from business income.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, providing tax cuts to the wealthy is the least effective way to stimulate the economy because rich people are more likely to save the money. A more effective way to encourage spending is by placing money in the hands of poor and middle-class citizens, people more likely to spend the funds.

And that's exactly what President Obama seeks to do by extending the payroll tax cut, which would benefit almost half of all Americans. If it is not extended, it will expire Jan. 1.

Social Security payroll taxes apply only to the first \$106,800 of wages. Many people are unaware that the rate was reduced

by 2 percent last year because they pay little attention to their pay stubs. The employer's share was not reduced from its rate of 12.4 percent for each worker.

Many Republicans have put themselves in a box by pledging to never raise taxes. Over the past 25 years, Grover Norquist, President of the Conservative Americans for Tax Reform, has encouraged Republicans to sign a pledge that they won't raise taxes. More than 200 members of Congress have signed that pledge.

Republicans have voted against letting the Bush tax cuts expire because, according to their reasoning, that would amount to a tax increase. Many of those same Republicans, however, object to extending the payroll tax cut proposed by Obama. It shows how far Republicans are willing to go to protect the

wealthy, to oppose Obama, and to be insensitive to the poor and middle-class.

George E. Curry, former Editor-in-Chief of Emerge Magazine and the

NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. He can be reached through his Web site, [www.georgecurry.com](http://www.georgecurry.com). You can also follow him at [www.twitter.com/currygeorge](http://www.twitter.com/currygeorge).

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