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New Orleans

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News Weekly

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A Day of Thanks in NOLA

December 3 - December 9, 2011 46th Year Volume 27 www.ladatanews.com

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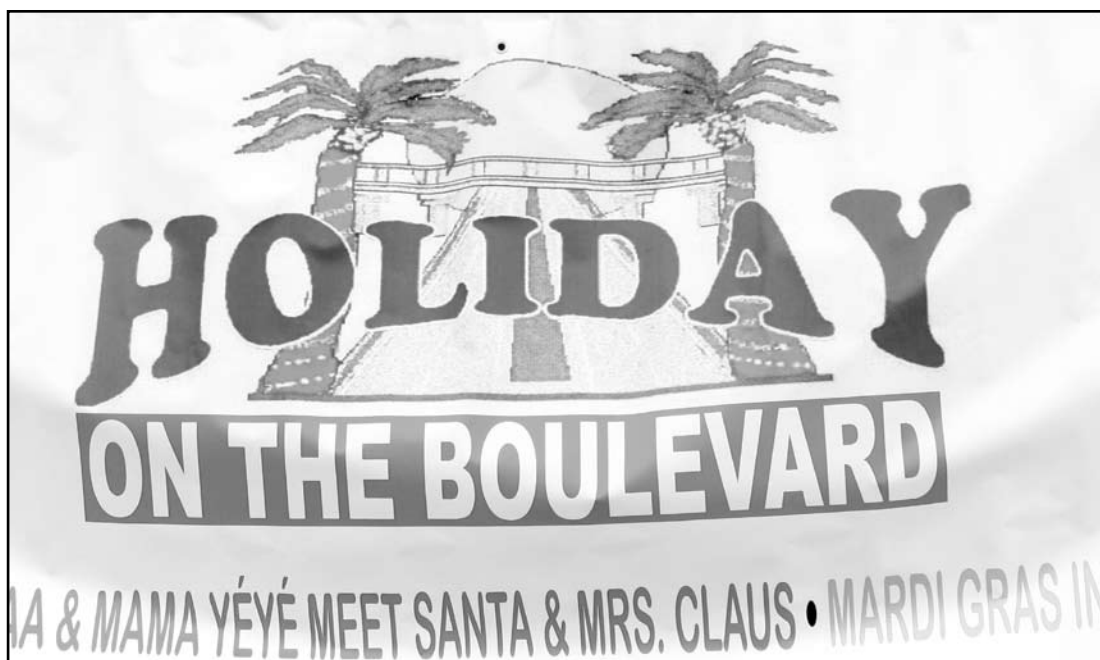


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Celebration on the Boulevard!



Mia Borders by Golden Richard



Holiday on the Boulevard

By Edwin Buggage
Photos by Peter Nakhid

New Orleans is a City known for festivals and people celebrating life. From its earliest days people both slave and free gathered in Congo Square for food, music, and revelry in the continuation of tradi-

tions started in Africa that were transported to the New World. Today this City that lies at the mouth of the Mississippi is still a place where these sacred traditions still live and breathe in the spirit of the people. Carol Bebel and Doug Redd founded Ashe Cultural Center 13 years ago with the goal of it being a place where the community could reflect, celebrate and empower itself through the arts. Today it has grown into a community resource and an example of when

people get together and organize that anything is possible.

Ashe Cultural Center will host its 12th Annual Holiday on the Boulevard from December 9th-11th where people from around the community will come together to celebrate the season of giving. "In 1999 myself and Ashe's co-founder, the legendary community artist and now deceased Douglas Redd had the idea of an end-of-the-year holiday festival in Cen-

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Please call 504-309-9913 for subscription information or to obtain a back issue of the paper ONLY.
Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

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Secondline with Santa and HOB



Sharon Martin



Mama YéYé and Baba Kwanzaa



Donald Harrison

tral City," says Carol Bebel, co-founder of Ashe Cultural Center reflecting on the origins of the event. Continuing she says, "The thought was to wrap Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard (then-named Dryades Street) in the memory of the wrapping of Christmas' past when shopping on Oretha Castle Haley was a natural part of the holiday ritual. It was also an effort to bring the street alive by providing a customer base for artists, small vendors, businesses and audiences for popular performing talents. All of this strategy was aimed at creating an end of the year gathering of friends, family and those seeking a warm nurturing inspiration that the end of the year holidays and festivities bring."

In its dozen years of existence it has grown to be one of the City's premiere events during the holiday season, Bebel is excited and proud and says of its evolution and growth, "This was the vision, and 12 years later, the reality is better than these Ashe dreamers could have expected. The twelfth Holiday on the Boulevard Festival promises to be the best yet. The reigning spirits of Baba

Kwanzaa (John O'Neal) and Mama YeYe (Olayeela Daste) will preside over 3 days full of activity."

It is a celebration like no other done in true New Orleans style with many local artist and vendors in addition to some of the best from the local music scene. On Saturday there will be performances by award winning Bamboula 2000, Songstress Sharon Martin, the smooth sounds of Phillip Manuel and the incomparable Rebirth Brass Band. On Sunday the party continues with Lloyd Daly and Friends, John Mosely and Friends, international star Donald Harrison Jr. performing with his quartet. And not to be denied the ladies will be hitting the stage in grand fashion with the sweet angelic vocals of Michaela Harrison, the soulful and high energy show of Gina Brown and the harmonious sounds of Zion Trinity. These talented performers plus many others will be at Celebration on the Boulevard.

Ashe Cultural Center was a trailblazer in the revitalization of the boulevard that was only a shadow of its former self when

Bebelle and Redd opened its doors thirteen years ago. Today it is a street thriving with new business with many more plans to open their doors in the upcoming year, "Thirteen years ago when Ashe Cultural Arts Center opened its doors on the Boulevard, the view was very different and the task of getting folks to see the possibilities was daunting. Today, the Boulevard is blossoming before our eyes. Ashe Cultural Arts Center, Café Reconcile and Goodwork Network have expanded. We have 75 apartment units currently occupied on the Boulevard, nearly 250 more units in a one block walking area, and another 40 or more slated for completion in 2012. Casa Borrega, the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, a grocery store and Sanjari One (which houses the Asante Foundation, Community Connections Program and NOLA.TV.) have become members of this cultural corridor," says Bebel.

Central City is a part of town with an amazing history where early jazz pioneer Buddy Bolden lived in addition to being the location of the Dew Drop Inn and New

Zion Baptist Church which was seminal in the Civil Rights Movement under the leadership of A.L. Davis. This community is on the verge of a renaissance and Ashe is one of the businesses that is leading the way, Bebel says of these developments, "Over a decade of work by Central City organizations is paying off. The brand of the Central City community is people, culture and commerce. The personality of this community is neighborhoods, schools, diversity, small businesses, creativity and churches. The future of this community is bright and full of opportunity and hope."

As the City moves forward in the spirit of uplift Bebel invites the public to come out and enjoy the 12th Annual Celebration on the Boulevard, "Come and join us to celebrate progress, community, culture, commitment and the rewards of faith at the Holiday on the Boulevard Festival, from December 9-11 at Ashe Cultural Arts Center. You'll enjoy yourself and be inspired by the advances made by a community working together for a greater good."

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and Bristol Myers-Squibb Partner in Raising HIV Awareness

By Edwin Buggage

December 1st is a very important day across the globe. World AIDS Day is a day that gives voice to an epidemic HIV/AIDS and creating awareness. Today while many drugs are on the market and one can live a productive and long life after being diagnosed with the disease. HIV/AIDS was once known as a gay male disease. Today the fastest growing population is African-Americans. While in some regard a culture of silence exists many people who could have their lives prolonged and live with the disease are not getting tested and taking precautions and in this case silence and ignorance kills.

Recently, drug company Bristol Myers-Squibb partnered with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to sponsor the "Fight HIV Your Way" contest. This public awareness campaign is necessary for many reasons. Despite major advances since the early days of the HIV epidemic, and the first diagnosis 30 years ago, the most recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data show that in the US approximately 50,000 new infections occur each year and every nine and a half minutes someone new is infected with the disease.

The contest uses the power of words and visual arts as a platform to help raise awareness and lessen the stigma surrounding HIV. Bristol-Myers Squibb launched the 2011 contest on December 1 – World AIDS Day 2010 and called for people infected with or affected by HIV to illustrate – through a photo and essay – how they fight HIV their way. The ten winning entries will now serve as inspiration for a new Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater work. Ailey will premiere the new work on World AIDS Day 2011, and it will be performed across the country as part of the Company's 2011-2012 season.

Artistic Director Emerita, Judith Jamison told Data News Weekly about the partnership and its goal to raise awareness and call people into action. "I thought working with us would be a great fit because our company's founder Mr. Ailey died of an HIV ailment and he died on Dec. 1 which is World AIDS Day, I thought it



Judith Jamison



Winning Entry in the "Fight HIV Your Way Contest" by La'Nette Buras of Loranger, LA

was quite a hook that we wanted to make a profound statement through our art and through his life and the legacy he left us," she says speaking of what motivated the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to participate.

"There is an ongoing need for public awareness programs, such as the REYATAZ 'Fight HIV Your Way' contest, that brings HIV to the forefront. In its third installment, this contest continues to shed light on the disease and reinforces our longstanding com-

our art is to create, but I feel it is up to the people to connect the art form and open the door about what they should do to create change. Whether you are a writer, singer or whatever it is about telling your truth and making your statement," Jamison said speaking to Data News Weekly.

"With his unique and contemporary perspective, Choreographer Rennie Harris will bring to the stage these stories that must be told and ought to be recognized," shared Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater's Artistic Director Robert Battle. "The world premiere of this new work, entitled 'Home', will take place on a day of major significance, December 1, both World AIDS Day and the day we lost our founder Alvin Ailey to the disease 22 years ago. The collaboration will be a celebration of many lives, and a driver of understanding and acceptance for those touched by HIV."

More than 1,300 photos and essays from across the country were narrowed down to ten exceptional first place winners. These stories stem from geographically diverse

communities and illustrate the impact and breadth of the HIV epidemic in the United States. The winners include: David Fairman (Fort Myers, FL), Michael Gomez (Van Nuys, CA), Jack R. Miller (Perth Amboy, NJ), James R. Dustin (Atlanta, GA), John Perkins (Huntsville, AL), Chace C. (Akron, OH), Sherry Meltz (Roswell, GA), Kurt Weston (Huntington Beach, CA), and La'Nette Buras (Loranger, LA).

The winners were selected by a distinguished panel of judges, including Judith Jamison, Artistic Director Emerita of Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, Frank Oldham, Executive Director of the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US), and Regan Hofmann, Editor-in-Chief of POZ Magazine. The contest entries were evaluated based on the impact of the photographs' and essays' visual and verbal expression of the fight against HIV, creativity, originality and overall artistic quality. Visit www.fightHIVyourway.com to see the winning photos and essays.

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View Pics from Events Around Town

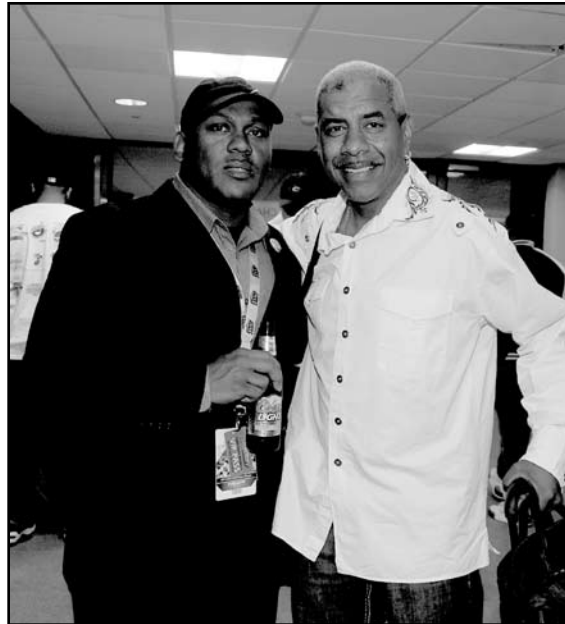
Sound Off on Stories Covered in Data

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Bayou Classic

Fun, Festivities and Family: The sights and highlights of the 2011 State Farm Bayou Classic, and of course, Data was there!

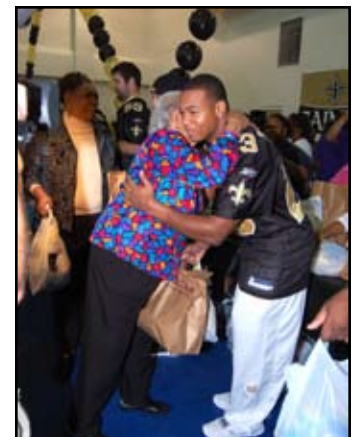
Photos courtesy of Ray Bonnee of Bonnefied Images, LLC



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

New Orleanians Thank the Community Many Ways

This year, several organizations showed their appreciation for the community with Thanksgiving Food and Turkey Giveaways, lending a helping hand to those who needed it. Highlights from the Saints' Turkey Giveaway at the YMCA, Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge Morell's Thanksgiving Luncheon for the elderly at Zulu and of course the Thanksgiving Parade all made it a festive Thanksgiving. Photos courtesy of Ray Bonnee of Bonnefied Images, LLC



Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Bayou Classic

Photos courtesy of Ray Bonnee of Bonnefied Images, LLC

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12TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY ON THE BOULEVARD

presented by

Ashé Cultural Arts Center



Mia Borders Rebirth Brass Band Donald Harrison



ASHÉ CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

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Festival Sponsors: Ashé Cultural Arts Center, bp, New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation, Oretha Castle Haley Merchants and Business Association, Hope Community Credit Union, Central City Renaissance Alliance, Brown's Dairy, Arts Council of New Orleans, City of New Orleans, The Office of the Lt. Governor of Louisiana, Ford Foundation.
*By ACAC.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

10:00 a **Kwanzaa Ceremony** with Mama YéYé
Imagination Tour (dance & drum workshop) with Bamboula 2000
Noon **Community Leaders Luncheon and Open House**
6-9 p **Reception** Featuring Dorise & Tanya, Monica McIntyre and Mia Borders

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011

10:00 a – 8:00 p.m. -- Vendor Marketplace
Noon Kuumba Institute Showcase
12:30 p Ujima Project
1:00 p College Unbound
1:30 p Health Nutz
2:00 p Knowledge is Born
2:15 p Lucky Lou Bounce Extravaganza
3:00 p The Jones Sisters
3:45 p Phillip Manuel
4:45 p Sharon Martin
5:45 p Bamboula 2000
7:15 p Rebirth Brass Band
Sistahs Making a Change

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

1:00 p – 8:30 p Vendor Marketplace
1:00 p Golden Voices Gospel Choir
2:00 p John Mosley & Friends
3:00 p Lloyd Daly & Friends
4:15 p Michaela Harrison
5:15 p Gina Brown
6:30 p Donald Harrison Jr. Quartet
7:15 p Ayana Molina
7:30 p Zion Trinity

Catch the N.O. Saints Game at Ashé!

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Efforts of Grace, Inc./Ashé Cultural Arts Center is funded in part by the Ford Foundation; the Open Society Foundations; the Nathan Cummings Foundation; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; the Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; the Kresge Foundation; the JPMorgan Chase Foundation; the Edward Wisner Donation; HBO/Spike Lee; the Greater New Orleans Foundation IMPACT Fund; the RosaMary Foundation; the Transform New Orleans Fund; Cox Charities; the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation; the Webb Connect Foundation Fund; the International House of Blues Foundation; a Community Arts Grant made possible by the City of New Orleans as administered by the Arts Council of New Orleans; the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans; the National Performance Network; and other foundations, corporations and individuals. Efforts of Grace/Ashé Cultural Arts Center is also supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. The grant is administered through the Arts Council of New Orleans.

Did So-Called Black Friday Trump Thanksgiving?



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

First of all, I never understood why they called it “Black” Friday. I never saw any red, black and green adorning the shopping mall sales. Yes, I know that theoretically this is the day that puts stores in the black, out of the red they’ve been managing all year. Nearly 40 percent of jewelry sales happen between Thanksgiving and Christmas, and other sales are up in the weeks that end the year. But I’m enough of a nationalist to resent the day after Thanksgiving being called “black” for commercial purposes.

Call it what you will, though, it was a rousing success for retailers. Record breaking, according to the National Retail Federation. More than 226 million shoppers spent \$52.4 billion during Thanksgiving weekend. (There are 312 million Americans, which means that at least a few of us sat this drama out). At least 50 million of these folks hit the stores before midnight. They spent an average of nearly \$400 per person, undaunted by crowds, pepper spray and long lines. When did they find time to give thanks? And whatever happened to the recession?

I am frankly puzzled by the hype of post-Thanksgiving shopping and the way so many people have shrugged off their concerns of economic survival to crowd the stores. At the same time, it underlies the way that consumerism so drives our society, our need for more, more, more of things, things, things. To be sure, it would make no economic sense to put retailers out of busi-

ness, and we know that consumer spending drives 70 percent of the gross domestic product. But there is something sad about the crowds, the energy, and the profligate spending that drives people to spend part of Thanksgiving Day standing in line waiting for a chance to buy stuff, something tragic about some fool pepper spraying folks for a chance at an X-Box (I suppose I show my own ignorance by wondering what an X-Box is).

Retailers are touting their successful weekend – with spending up by more than 6 percent from last year – as a good sign that economic recovery is on the way. I’m not so sure – unemployment rates remain high and there are more than 14 million officially unemployed people, and probably an equal number marginally connected to the labor market. Wages have been stagnant for quite some time, and the Occupy Wall Street movement has only gained momentum because of the enor-

mity of economic misery.

But the Occupy Wall Street movement has attracted curiosity but hardly the interest of 226 million people. I can’t think of ANYTHING that gets 226 million people together. Imagine that as many people cared about the environment, economic justice, or anything else. We don’t even get that many people voting in so-called close elections. Pointing to the 99 percent at the bottom.

So how is it that we spend Thursday counting our blessings, surrounded by friends, family, and other loved ones, and thanking the Lord, and then collectively spend Friday swarming the stores? How is it that some of us actually get up from the dinner table and make it to the stores? And how is it that retailers force employees to come to work to sell “stuff” to the rest of us in the name of post-Thanksgiving sales?

According to those who study spending the post-Thanksgiving sales aren’t actually the best ones.

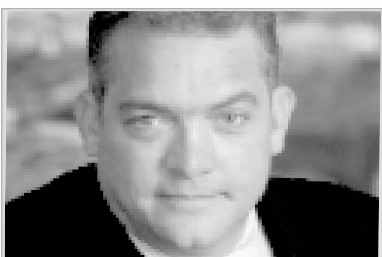
Prices next week, according to some experts, are actually going to be better. And the quality of the merchandise that was put out there on sale wasn’t “all that” either. Still, we swarmed the stores.

I realize that I have Grinch-like tendencies when it comes to holidays, but the economist in me is more puzzled than anything else at this holiday behavior (especially the pepper spray wielding fool). I’m also wondering if the energies of 226 million people could ever be harnessed for good.

I surely hope that “Black Friday” did not trump Thanksgiving, but it surely got a lot more ink than Thanksgiving. Shopping may well be both the great American pastime and our substitute for religion, for industry, and maybe even for morality. No wonder the Chinese are planning to eat our lunch in 20 years or so. We’ll probably buy new place settings for them at a holiday sale!

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women.

BP Admits to New Activity at Deepwater Horizon Site



Stuart H. Smith

Finally, some answers. After months of trying to make the fresh oil surfacing at the Deepwater Horizon site a “non-issue,” BP has finally copped to what’s really happening at ground zero of last year’s massive oil spill – where just last week, flyover surveillance footage captured a small fleet of large “oil-related” vessels working the waters. It’s hard to hide those ships the size of football fields, even in the Gulf of Mexico.

In a bombshell revelation that’s going viral, BP has admitted to conducting a study to “track oil from seabed to surface” in the Macondo Prospect, sounds to me like they’ve found a leak.

Not so fast. A leak would suggest BP is to blame (perish the thought), but a “natural seep” would imply an act of God, conveniently out of the hands of mere mortals. Here’s how Sabrina Canfield covered the BP disclosure for Courthouse News Service on Nov. 21:

In an emailed statement late Friday, a representative from BP verified that several vessels are in the vicinity of the Macondo well: “There are several vessels there participating in a study of natural oil seeps. This study has been ongoing for the past month or so. Data continues being collected and we provided an update on the natural oil seeps at the SETAC

[Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry] conference in Boston this week. ... The study is documenting the specific locations of these seeps and is seeking to track oil flow from seabed to surface,” BP wrote.

If there are seeps in the area, they are not natural. I can assure you of that. BP was required to conduct a seafloor survey prior to applying for a permit to drill. If these seeps were not discovered during the survey – which they apparently weren’t – they must be related to the disaster and the heavy-handed methods used to attempt to seal the well. Consider this from my Oct. 13, 2011, post:

As you may recall, back in late August, BP lowered an ROV down to inspect the Macondo wellhead. The video feed, viewed by federal officials in New Orleans, confirmed that the well itself isn’t leaking. Although I’d like to see

that video released to the public (to assuage the cynics), for now I’ll take the feds at their word.

If the riser, the rig and the wellhead aren’t leaking oil, where is it all coming from? As I and others have suggested before, the oil may be seeping through cracks and fissures on the seafloor. Remember, BP was banging around down there with heavy machinery and massive pieces of equipment during its many unsuccessful attempts to stem the flow of oil. One of the containment domes BP lowered over the top the gushing well last year was four stories high and weighed more than 70 tons. That’s a lot of weight and stress being applied.

Back in August, I called for a full survey of the seafloor surrounding the Macondo wellhead. And today I am renewing that call. It’s not enough to say the wellhead itself isn’t leaking. As noted above,

my guess is the heavy stress BP applied to the seafloor created cracks and fissures around the wellhead, and they are the source of all this fresh oil we’re seeing at the site and coming ashore more than 100 miles away.

The truly devastating part of the “seafloor crack” scenario is that kind of leakage can’t be stopped. You can’t plug a crack or a fissure, all you can do is try to contain and recover the oil.

So although BP has confessed to conducting a study at the epicenter of last year’s 200-million-gallon spill, its disclosed focus is just another example of the oil giant’s inability to tell the whole truth.

Stay tuned, we’ll be bringing you updates as details emerge.

Stuart H. Smith is a New Orleans Attorney, fighting major oil companies and other polluters. For more information visit <http://www.stuarthsmith.com>.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu Disrespects the Presidential Office of the NAACP



Parnell Herbert

At 2:30 PM on this brisk and cool Monday afternoon in late November, the warmth of unity was in the room. Even as organizers differed on strategies, all agreed to disagree and move forward in unison as Facilitator NAACP

President Danatus King urged "Let's not box ourselves in. We don't have to take anything off the table."

Stepping forward as good leaders sometimes must do, Mr. King allocated assignments. As good leaders/followers others in the room graciously accepted their rolls.

Some expressed that New Orleans Mayor Mitchell Joseph Landrieu is to be commended for galvanizing the African-American community by snubbing the Presidential Office of the oldest Black organization in the nation.

Mitchell's snub caused Black people throughout the City to come together under the mantra

"We don't have to see eye-to-eye to stand shoulder-to-shoulder."

This all began as King and several other organizers held a press conference outside of Gallier Hall to discuss the discrepancy in the dates Police Chief Ronal Serpas was hired and the date he actually became employed by the NOPD.

Documents Notarized by Landrieu's office indicate that Serpas' start date was May 6th but he was not sworn in until May 11th. Detractors feel that this was an attempt to defraud the public by showing Serpas pension eligible prior to his May 10th fiftieth birthday.

Immediately following the press conference Landrieu and his entourage arrived for a meeting on

Criminal Justice. To the organizers dismay Landrieu instructed his people to deny access to King and the community leaders.

When questioned about his actions Landrieu attempted to marginalize the organizers he denied access to as a few people who always complain.

Landrieu apparently discriminated against King and his cohorts because he was displeased with the questions King raised at the earlier press conference about Serpas' paperwork.

Some say other ministers who are in good stead with "Master Landrieu" were allowed access to the meeting. They told the approaching ministers of Landrieu's

biased actions against King. They entered anyway.

The meeting ended with a plan to hold a press conference later this week to address Landrieu's arrogance, to call for Serpas' resignation/termination and an investigation into improprieties of Landrieu's office.

Several organization representatives committed to send letters to DA Leon Cannizzaro, State Attorney General James D. Caldwell, US Attorney General Eric Holder and others.

Parnell Herbert is a New Orleanian. He is active on many social justice causes, including the right of return for New Orleanians, and freedom for the Angola Three. He is the Playwright of the play, "Angola Three".

Dillard Choir to Host 75th Annual Holiday Concert



The Dillard University Choir will perform its 75th Annual Holiday Concert on Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. The concert, entitled "A Child Is Born," will be held in Lawless Chapel on the Dillard University campus. As always, the Holiday Concert will be free and open to the public.

"The choir has endured many long hours in preparation for this concert," said Choir Director S. Carver Davenport. "We will perform selections with orchestra that

will portray this wonderful time of the year, such as "Hallelujah Chorus," arguably the most celebrated musical selection ever written. In addition, we will perform selections such as "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" by Felix Mendelssohn, "You Raise Me Up" as sung by Josh Groban, and Kurt Carr's "For Every Mountain," on which Jonte Landrum Thomas ("Sunday's Best" finalist on BET) will be the Lead Singer with the choir."

Just three days later, on Dec. 7,

the Dillard University Choir will travel to Washington, D.C. and sing at the White House. They will perform in the East Wing from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for guests touring the White House and viewing its holiday decorations.

"I am truly blessed to be the Choir Director for such wonderful young people who are passionate about cultivating their voices and their performances," said Davenport.

WE➤AIDS
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Associate Director Job Description

Employment: Full-time
Salary: \$50,000
Status: Exempt
Supervise: Operations Manager, Program Manager
Reports To: Executive Director

SUMMARY

The purpose of this position is to support the Executive Director in the management of an emerging non-profit organization over a two year period of growth and development.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide leadership and direction for middle managers in setting an effective agency agenda and ensuring performance goals are set and met
- Serve as a mentor, coach and guide to staff, particularly with operations, programs and EOG relationships with the community, art, cultural, and activist allies
- 5+ years of experience in a non-profit organization, public or private sectors

EDUCATION

Bachelor Degree required
Masters Degree preferred

City Urges Citizen Involvement In 5th "Fight The Blight" Volunteer Day

Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced plans for the City's fifth "Fight the Blight" Volunteer Day, to be held Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. This effort is being coordinated through ServeNOLA, the Mayor's service and volunteerism initiative.

"With the holiday season upon us and a slate of big events coming to the City, this is a great time for the community to once again take a few hours to assist in cleaning our neighborhoods, improving parks and playgrounds, and litter abatement," said Mayor Landrieu. "We have seen progress in the past year addressing our City's pressing blight and cleanliness problem, but the battle continues. And again, to be successful, this must be a partnership between

the City, local neighborhood organizations, local non-profits and volunteers from throughout New Orleans."

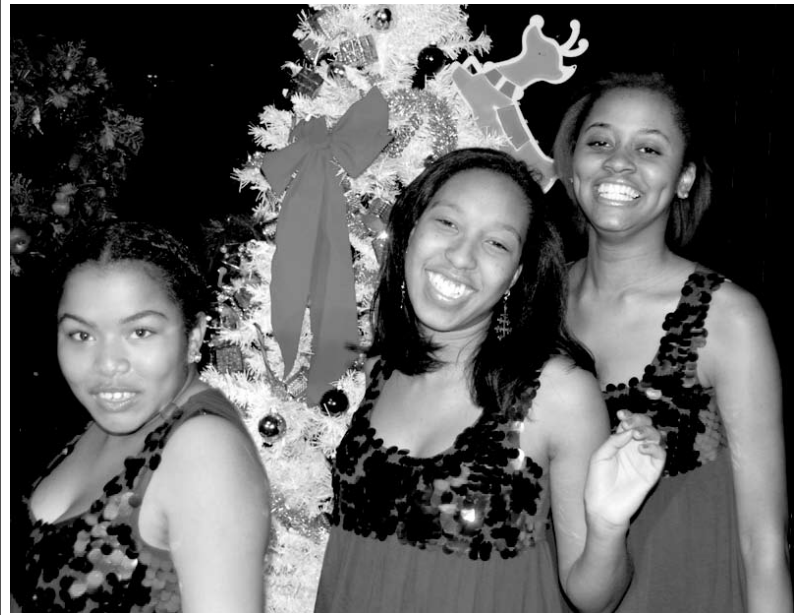
Volunteer efforts will be targeted within a five-block radius of open schools, playgrounds, and high-traffic commercial corridors. The sites selected for events on Saturday, December 10 are:

- St. Patrick Playground, 4700 Baudin Street (District A)
- Broadmoor Playspot, 4325 S. Broad Street (District B)
- McDonough Playground, 1540 Teche Street, Algiers (District C)
- Pontchartrain Park Playground, Press Drive at Prentiss Avenue (District D)
- Sam Bonart Playground, 1200 Forstall Street (District E)

In addition to volunteers, the effort will include beautification efforts from City departments and agencies including Code Enforcement & Hearings Bureau, NOPD (Quality of Life officers), Sanitation, NORDC, Public Works, Parks & Parkways, Sheriff's Office, Office of Neighborhood Engagement and Mosquito & Termite Control. Partners with the City in the effort include Beacon of Hope, Hike for KaTREEena, HandsOn New Orleans, Youth Rebuilding New Orleans and Rebuilding Together New Orleans.

ServeNOLA is working to create a detailed scope of work for each location. To volunteer or for more information, please call 504-658-4974.

Anthony Bean Community Theater Presents "The Blood"



Pictured: Left to Right, Tia Teamer, Gia Weber & Asia Nelson in Anthony Bean Community Theater's production of "The Blood".

St. Aug's Rj Daniels Signs Scholarship With Gold Rush



RJ Daniels signed a men's basketball scholarship with Xavier University of Louisiana at the St. Augustine High School library Tuesday. In attendance were, from left: XU Athletics Director Dennis Cousin, XU Head Coach Dannton Jackson, family members Marcel Daniels, Angerean Taylor, Connie Daniels, Roland Daniels, Caleb Daniels and XU Assistant Coach Alfred Williams.

RJ Daniels, a 6-foot-4 shooting guard from New Orleans and St. Augustine High School, signed a men's basketball scholarship Tuesday with Xavier University of Louisiana.

Daniels averaged 8.9 points, six rebounds and two steals per game this past season for the Purple Knights, who were 31-6 and won the Class 5A State Championship and the District 10-5A Championship. Daniels scored

nine points Monday in St. Aug's season-opening 63-43 victory at Brother Martin.

"We are excited to bring RJ into the Xavier family," ninth-year Gold Rush Coach Dannton Jackson said. "He is a great addition to our program. He brings a winning attitude and academic excellence to our university. He knows how to win. He's a tough player. He can shoot the ball and take it to the rim."

Daniels, Xavier's first signee for 2012-13, will be a biology/pre-medical major.

The Gold Rush are 4-0 and ranked 21st in NAIA Division I. The XU men were 27-6 in 2010-11 and qualified for the Buffalo Funds-NAIA Division I National Championship for the fifth time in seven seasons. Xavier's 26 seasons of 20 or more victories are the most in the history of Louisiana men's college basketball.

The Anthony Bean Community Theater Presents an original Christmas drama called, "The Blood". It's a Gospel youth play about Jesus Christ and faith. Written and directed by Anthony Bean, choreographed by MaQue Hollins, vocal directions by Steve Burke, costumes by Wanda (Ms. B) Bryant and starring former Councilman Oliver Thomas, Yolanda Cephus, Alvin Green and ABCT young actors, ages 8 thru 17. Two weekend performances

only! Performances are December 9, 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18. Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday matinee at 3:00 p.m... Tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$16.00 for students and seniors, and are available by calling Box Office at (504) 862-7529. (Box Office hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 6p.m.-8p.m. and two hours before performances.) You can also charge by phone or charge online at www.anthonysbeantheater.com



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BMOL Health Fair

The history of Social Aid and Pleasure Clubs were founded on the principles of giving back to the community. The Black Men of Labor continues in this tradition. Recently they held a Health Fair where people from the community came out to receive health screenings and information related to their health. Photos by Renard Thomas



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