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**Data Zone**

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**The Best of 2011**

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# The Year in Review

*The Soul of New Orleans*

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# 2011 Year in Review



Newly Elected US Congressman Cedric Richmond was sworn into office in January, 2011.

## Mr. Richmond Goes to Washington

Story by Edwin Buggage

### Big Victory for Richmond

On a night where many Democrats were defeated in congressional races, the race for Louisiana's 2nd Congressional District told another story. State Representative Cedric Richmond, a Democrat, handily defeated Republican incumbent Joseph Cao by a 63 to 35 percent margin due to a heavy Black turnout. During an election that at sometimes became heated and personal Richmond came out the victor.

Surrounded by throngs of family, friends and supporters Richmond said, "The journey to rebuilding we have had progress but there are miles to go before I sleep and promises to keep." He also talked about a host of other problems such as education and the economy and vowed to go to Washington and fight for the people of the Second District. During his speech he gave a special thanks to President Barack Obama, who made his one and only campaign commercial in support of Richmond.



BP paid Gulf Coast governments more than \$754 million for clean up of the Deepwater Horizon accident.

## Gulf Coast Officials Go on Spending Spree with BP Oil Spill Funds

### Data News Weekly Staff Report

Outrage spread throughout the Gulf Coast as reports surfaced in April that officials along the coast went on a spending spree with BP money, dropping tens of millions of dollars on gadgets, vehicles and gear – much of which had little to do with the cleanup, an Associated Press investigation shows.

The April 20, 2010 explosion on the Deepwater Horizon rig killed 11 workers and caused the nation's worst offshore oil spill. As BP spent months trying to cap the well and contain the spill, cities and towns along the coast from Louisiana to Florida worried about the toll on their economies – primarily tourism and the fishing industry – as well as the environmental impact.

The shocking AP investigation showed that BP paid state and local governments more than \$754 million in the year since the Gulf Oil Spill. And many coastal politicians squandered tens of millions of dollars on gadgets, vehicles and gear that had little to do with the cleanup.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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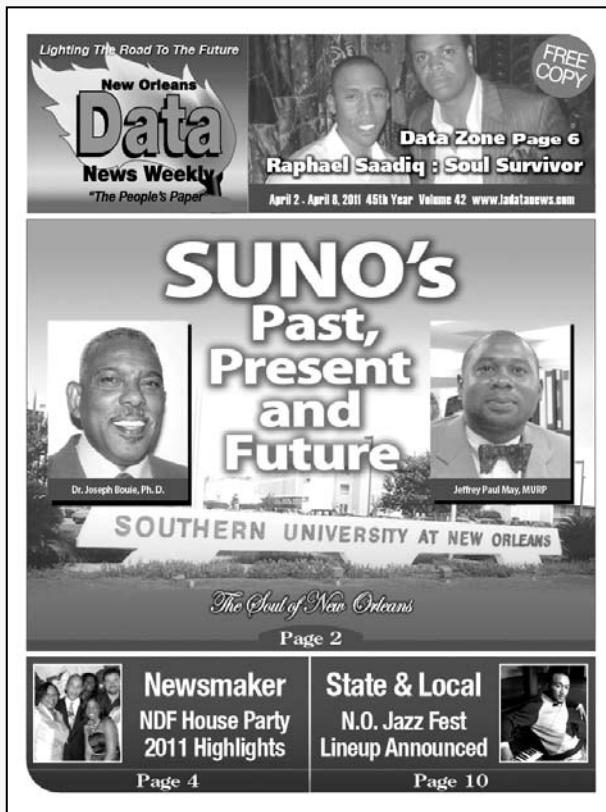
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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

## Citizens Rally Against Possible Merger Between SUNO and UNO



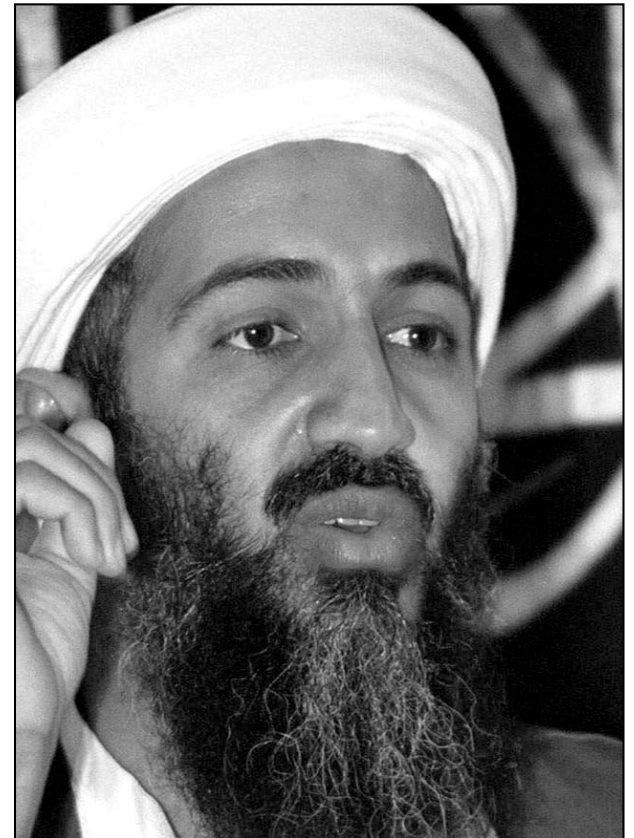
By Micah Boyd

Rev. Jesse Jackson was the guest speaker at a Monday rally held in a gymnasium on the Southern University New Orleans campus to protest the merger of the all Black Southern University at New Orleans and the majority White University of New Orleans.

The rally was donned by many community activists and concerned alumni, as the Save Our Southern Community Rally, was attended by SUNO alumni, current faculty and students, local religious leaders, as well as several local and state officials.

As hundreds of SUNO supporters packed the gymnasium and were rocked by Rev. Jackson words, plans were made for Tuesday for students and faculty to be bussed to the Louisiana Board of Regents Hearing of the proposal. At the hearing, passionate eleventh hour pleas were made to prevent from what many call "nothing more than an example of modern day inequality in the education system." The board, completely divided, passed a proposal by 9:6 margin to merge UNO and SUNO.

## President Obama Deals the Death Blow to Osama Bin Laden



Osama bin Laden, was killed by American Navy Seals at the orders of President Barack Obama in Pakistan on Monday, May 2, 2011.

Story by Tramaine Lee

Osama bin Laden didn't discriminate when it came to the bloody work of terrorism. He was an equal opportunity killer.

And now that he is dead, killed sometime yesterday by a team of Navy SEALs in Pakistan, Americans of all races and religions have taken to the streets and to the blogosphere and airwaves to share in what seems to be a deep and collective exhale. From the gates of the White House in Washington, D.C. to ground zero in New York City, people have come together chanting and waving flags, exhibiting the kind of unity seen last on that terrible day in September almost 10 years earlier.

"Everyone died on 9-11. Blacks, Whites, Muslims, Latinos and working class people," said the Rev. Al Sharpton. "He didn't care who was in those buildings or on that plane. All Americans shared in that pain and all Americans can share in what we are seeing today."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson called bin Laden's death a "huge psychological victory."

"It is a cause for celebration. So many people lost their lives, their family members lost their lives. It was such a traumatic blow," Jackson said. "This might be the first real emotional venting for the pain that came from 9-11, the kind of relief that the plotter had destroyed."

Jackson warned, though, while bin Laden's death marks some closure, the American people must be vigilant. "The chapter on bin Laden ends now, but not the chapter on terrorism," he said.

## Tim Smooth and the Meaning of Life



Story by Edwin Buggage

The world lost an amazing talent in the great wordsmith Timothy Smoot known to the world as "Tim Smooth" who lost a bout with throat cancer passing away at the young age of thirty-nine. While Tim Smooth has transcended leaving many family, friends and fans behind to mourn he has made an indelible mark on the music industry.

Tim Smooth was a leader who marched to the beat of his own drum, defining himself and his music on his own terms. His music will always stand-out head and shoulders above the rest for its lyrical content that was way ahead of his time. Today many hang the title of genius on so many who are underserving, but lyrically Smooth was a gifted genius creating memorable lines that will never be forgotten.

New Orleans own Timothy Smoot known to the world as "Tim Smooth" who lost a bout with throat cancer passing away at the age of 39.

Cover Story, Continued on page 7.



# From the Publisher



Terry B. Jones  
Publisher

## Happy New Year!

We have come to the end of another year, and as we all know these are trying times we are living in, but we are a resilient people who have come through the

storms of Hurricane Katrina and we will come through these tough economic times as well. Over the course of 2011, Data News Weekly has worked hard to give people news they could use. And staying true to our motto as "The People's Paper," next year we plan to take this a step further by giving our website a fresh new look in addition to engaging readers, so we encourage you to blog, email and send us your concerns or people you feel deserve recognition.

This year we have covered stories that have dealt with a wide array of issues, and one of those issues that has affected many Americans is the economy. Individuals and businesses both large and small are feeling its effects.

At Data News Weekly in 2012 we plan on working with small businesses to help them advertise at affordable rates in the our publication, in the hopes to help them reach more people and partner with a publication the people of this City has come to trust over its 45 years of existence.

2012 is an important year both locally and nationally with a presidential race and other key races for elected offices. And we at Data News Weekly want people in the community to become civically involved. The future is in your hands and you can chart the course for

the future by simply participating, so I encourage you to vote. To take it a step further, I encourage you to go to PTA meetings, contact your elected officials, get abreast of things going on with economic development, and let's fight the battle against crime in our streets.

It is time for us to take our City back and it will take a unified effort of all New Orleanians of all races and income levels. We are all in this thing together and it is important that we have all strong links on this chain if we are to survive the tough days ahead and weather these storms. I believe we can and Data News Weekly is

committed to being the paper that will give all the people of the City a voice.

In closing I would like to thank my staff for all their support for helping me continue the vision started by my father Joseph "Scoop" Jones forty-five years ago, to give those whose voices are sometimes not heard a voice. Also my advertisers who in tough economic times continue to support our mission, as being "The People's Paper," and finally, thank you the people of this great City. And we at Data News Weekly wish you a safe holiday season and wish you a prosperous New Year.

## Shoot Ya Best Shot!

As 2011 draws to its close, we would like to show some of the best times of 2011 by New Orleanians. Festivals, concerts, parades, galas, birthday parties, all over the City, people found reason to celebrate. And all along the way, as always, Data was there! Happy New Year New Orleans!



January 2011, Cast of "Reflections: A Man and His Time" presented by Anthony Bean Community Theater



February, 2011 Valentine's Day at LeRoux Restaurant & Bar



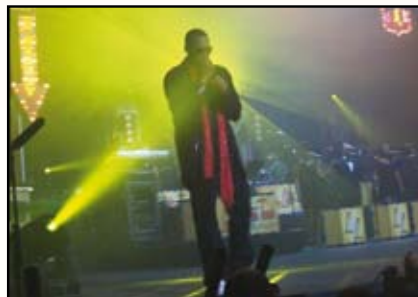
March 2011, Zulu Club Honors George Rainey



April 2011, Local kids enjoying the French Quarter Fest



May 2011, Attendees enjoy a Jazz Set at The Prime Example



June 2011, R Kelly Tour stops in New Orleans



July 2011, Annual Urban League Gala



August 2011, ABCT's Production of CATS



September 2011, Data News Weekly Honors Trailblazer of the Year Carol BeBelle



October 2011, Big Easy Kiwanis Club introduces new members



November 2011, Black Men of Labor Unveiling of Freedom Riders Mural



December 2011, Big T saved the day proving one man makes a difference!





# attend

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# Eusi Phillips

## *The Laws of Giving*

by: Edwin Buggage



He is a young man who has seen much success in his young life and is committed to giving back. Eusi Phillips is a man on a mission to save the City of his birth. "I have been afforded a good life in this City, my parents made many sacrifices for me laying a sound foundation so I could be the best I could be and now my goal is to give back," says Phillips.

Throughout his life he has been committed to service, "I remember being a young person while still in high school I worked with kids at Joe Brown Park in a summer camp and the feeling it gave me stuck with me; and since then I have made my life commitment to serve others," remarks Phillips on the beginnings of a life dedicated to service.

As an Attorney, he's worked in the D.A.'s office and is now in private practice as a founding partner at Guillory, Johnson, Phillips and Thompson. He is active in rebuilding the City and his community. In October of 2005 he was elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Broadmoor Improvement Association. "I grew up in this community and after Hurricane Katrina it was important that we took a stand and preserved our neighborhood moving forward and I am honored to be part of an organization that has been a model for the City coming back," says Phillips.

Phillips also spearheaded the "Be Heard Campaign" that helped displaced citizens cast ballots following Hurricane Katrina, "I thought it was an important time for our City and so many people were not being heard in the dialog that was going on in regards to the future of the City," says Phillips of what prompted his involvement and the eventual creation of his getting out the vote effort. "I am glad that we were able to get people involved, but the key now is to stay engaged and have a hand in shaping the kind of City that benefits all the people and not a few."

He is a young man who feels that giving young people hope and guidance is important in build-

ing strong leaders for tomorrow, so he has been involved as a mentor in several projects. Over the years he has worked with the Allan Houston Project as a mentor, and worked with Mr. Chill with his Walk a Mile for a Child, and served as a mentor and his firm was one of the sponsors of Mr. Chill's Tying on a New Tradition. "These types of projects that connects young people with men who can give them the things they need to succeed in life is an important piece for our community to thrive," says Eusi. Continuing he says, "This is especially the case for our young males, because as an attorney I see so many of our young people falling prey to crime and drugs, and I am trying to do whatever I can to make sure that doesn't happen to our youth."

Eusi Phillips is a new type of activist armed with business savvy, dedicated to high achievement and the will to give, he has been recognized and for his work being selected in 2008 to participate in "Leadership in the 21st Century: Chaos, Conflict and Courage," a program held at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. On what defines a leader of the 21st Century Phillips says, "To lead today is no different than at any other time in our history, I feel anyone can lead, all they have to do is take the steps forward and be willing to do their small part to contribute something positive to make the world a better place." He is a young man that has given so much in his short life and continues to work to make his City a better place, and for his efforts Data News Weekly is proud to name Eusi Phillips its monthly Trailblazer for the month of December 2011.

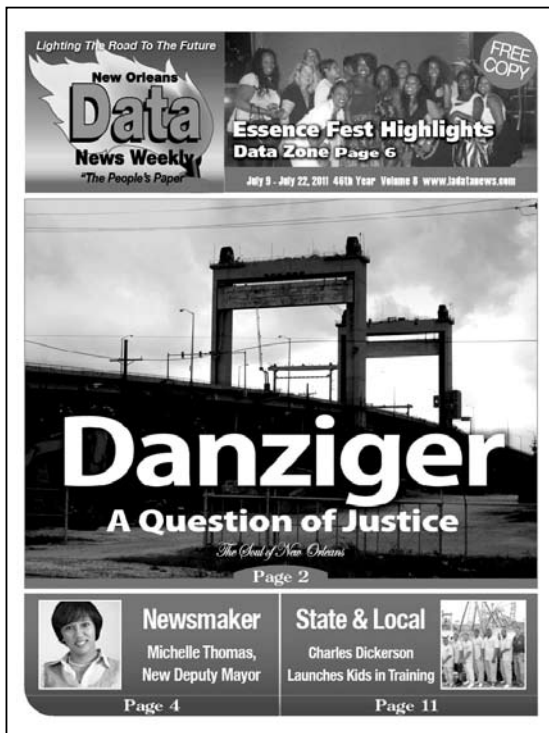
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## From Heroes to Villains: NOPD Verdict Reveals Post-Katrina History



Story by Jordan Flaherty

In an historic verdict with national implications, five New Orleans police officers were convicted on Friday of Civil Rights violations for killing unarmed African-Americans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and could face life in prison when sentenced later this year. The case, involving a grisly encounter on the Danziger Bridge, was the most high-profile of a number of prosecutions that seek to hold police accountable for violence in the storm's wake.

The officers' conviction on all 25 counts (on two counts, the jury found the men guilty but with partial disagreements on the nature of the crime, which could slightly affect sentencing) comes nearly six years after the City was devastated by floodwaters and government inaction. The verdict helps rewrite the history of what happened in the chaotic days after the levees broke. And the story of how these convictions happened is important for anyone around the U.S. seeking to combat law enforcement violence.

The results of this trial also have national implications for those seeking federal support in challenges to police abuses in other cities. New Orleans is one of four major cities in which the Department of Justice has stepped in to look at police departments. Any success here has far reaching implications for federal investigations in Denver, Seattle, Newark, and other cities.

## Redistricting and the New Reconstruction

Story By Edwin Buggage

### New Orleans...A City Divided

The City found itself embroiled in a conflict with race and class collides threatening the City's future. It is a time of polarization and division pitting Blacks against Whites and rich against poor. The issue at hand is as the 2010 Census Data has come in and amidst Hurricane Katrina's aftermath the City's footprint has shrunk dramatically with a smaller number of African-Americans. As a result several political districts that previously had Black officeholders have been redrawn. This plan has its critics citing that this will dilute Black political strength in the City.

"Many of the things that are going on in the redrawing of certain districts will have adverse impact on Black political power in the City because the legislation that will be proposed and possibly passed because our decreased presence our interest and concerns may not be a high priority," says Vincent Sylvain, a Political Consultant. Continuing he says, "On the state level the City has always not had a great relationship with Baton Rouge and because of that much needed resource we continue to need in rebuilding certain communities may not get to us."

## First Lady Swings by New Orleans

First Lady Michelle Obama visited New Orleans stopping at the Royal Castle Child Development Center, where she spent time with children discussing ways to eat healthy and get essential exercise.

Beforehand, Ms. Obama swung by uptown New Orleans to visit with campaign supporters and to deliver the President's message about getting America back to work and passing the American Jobs Act.

## Data News Weekly Celebrates 45 Years of being "The People's Paper"



Story By Edwin Buggage

It was an evening of music, food and fun; it was a stellar event hosted by Glenn Jones and Susan Eddington. The evening featured Violinist Michael Ward, Singer Ed Perkins, and performances by BRW and Sharon Martin.

"It is a pleasure to be honored by the community and I am glad Data News Weekly takes time to recognize people in the community with their annual event" said David Johnson one of the honorees.

While all those honored are great assets to the community; Ashe Cultural Arts Center Co-Founder Carol BeBelle was chosen as the "Trailblazer of the Year" by the Staff of Data News Weekly, "It is because of her overall commitment to people from all walks of life that tonight we give her tonight's highest honor" said Data News Weekly's Publisher Terry Jones.

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