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Zulu

and the History of African-American Mardi Gras



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Zulu and the History of African-American Mardi Gras



Written and Edited by Edwin Buggage

Carnival in New Orleans

It is again as the great Al Johnson said in his great recording that has become a New Orleans staple, "It's Carnival Time." It is a time of year full of fun, frolic and festivities leading up to Mardi Gras Day. It is a time where people from across the globe converge on the Crescent City to revel in the great spectacle of a City that's mastered the art of putting on grand events. During this time many

of the Carnival Clubs or Krewes hold parades and ball. These events are a delight to experience and have become part of the unique lore that is New Orleans. One of the Krewes that have become synonymous with Mardi Gras is the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. That for over a century paraded the streets of New Orleans and done so much more to uplift those in need in the City.

"It is an honor to represent the oldest African-American Carnival organization in the City, In June it will be twenty years since I've joined and it has been a great experience to be part of an organization of such importance to this City, and again it

is an honor to have been chosen King Zulu," says Elroy A. James, who is 2012 King Zulu. Continuing he says "In my time as King I have attended many ceremonies as well as civic events, my role as King I would say is to be a goodwill ambassador for our organization and to promote Carnival in New Orleans."

This year Elroy A. James is King Zulu and Queen Zulu is Tanyanika Phillips. There are other posts or offices in the court that includes "Big Shot" "Witch Doctor" and "Ambassador" just to name a few. Both the king and queen outside of their Zulu roles in the court are extraordinary individuals. James is

On the Cover: Official 2012 Zulu Poster by local artist J. Renee, the first African-American female to design the annual poster.

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

a successful Attorney and Phillips in an Oncologist; both are great examples of excellence in the African-American community and true to the tradition of helping and serving to better their community. Showing a face of positivity, progressive thinking and community uplift.

Zulu More than Just A Carnival Club

The organization has a rich and storied history. The origins of this organizations came from the fact that the majority of these men belonged to a Benevolent Aid Society. Benevolent Societies were the first forms of insurance in the Black community where, for a small amount of dues, members received financial help when sick or financial aid when burying deceased members.

“Zulu is not simply an organization that just does things around Mardi Gras, we are visible year



round doing positive things in the community,” says James. “One of the founding principals of the organization was centered on giving

and giving back,” remarks James on the Mission of Zulu. Continuing he says, “In the spirit of us giving is how we started and we



continue today on those founding principles; today we give college scholarships to our Zulu Maids, during the holidays we

feed needy families and give toys

Cover Story,
Continued on page 9.

ZULU’S LUNDI GRAS VENDORS LIST

- Babineaux’s Cajun Catering
- BaiRou Catering Service
- Georgia’s Soul Food
- Gloria’s
- Dee’s Catering
- Pearl’s Catering
- People Of Substance, Inc. / POS
- Team Funnel Cake
- Rainey’s Restaurant & Catering
- Cool Fruit Sensations
- Daddy Turkey Leg Jones—2 booths
- Fleury Beef Poboy’s & Hot Tamales
- Alexis’ Fried Chicken & Italian Ice
- Catering Connection
- Audubon Nature Institute—4 booths
- C & J Catering
- Down Home Creole Cooking
- 4 of Us
- Catering Unlimited—2 booths
- LuLu’s Cajun Burgers
- Deep Fried What??
- Nelson’s Creole Cuisine
- Vaucresson’s Sausage Company
- Miss Linda’s Soul Food Catering
- Crepes a la Cart
- Westwego Food Bank
- Sensational Tony’s
- Dunbar’s Restaurant

Zulu 2012 Lundi Gras Festivities, Woldenberg Park RAMP SCHEDULE

Monday, February 20, 2012

Frito Lay Stage

- Pin Stripe Jazz Band.....11:00am-12:00pm
- Ed Perkins Jazz Band.....12:00-1:00pm
- Battle of the Bands Judged by Grammy winner Phil Frazier.....1:15-2:15pm
- The Real Jakarpa Band.....2:30-3:30pm
- Claude Bryant & the All-Star.....3:45-4:45pm
- Battle of the Band5:00-6:00pm
- Judged by Grammy winner Phil Frazier5:00pm-6:00pm
- MGM Presents.....6:00-6:45pm
- Big Al Carson.....6:45-8:00pm

Liberty Bank Stage

- Monteco Turner.....11:00-11:20am
- Me Me Monk.....11:25-11:50am
- Team Kozmo.....12:00-12:50pm
- Charmaine Neville W/R. Houston & Amasa Miller Band.....1:00-2:00pm
- Mrz. Crowley Band.....2:15-4:00pm
- Ronnie Be.....4:15-5:15pm
- Buzy5:25-5:45pm
- Heat -N-Dex Band.....5:45-8:00pm

King Zulu Stage

- Charmaine Neville W/R. Houston & M. Miller Band.....11:00am-12:00pm
- Bag of Donuts.....12:15-1:30pm
- DEE-1 with special guest Mannie Fresh.....1:45-2:45pm
- Jeff Floyd.....3:00-4:00pm
- James Andrews Band4:15-5:15pm
- Parker Shy & Shy Town.....5:20-6:20pm
- Rockin Dopsie.....6:45-8:00pm



Endymion's First African-American King - George LaFargue

By Edwin Buggage

George LaFargue is a man who throughout his life growing up in the Lower 9th Ward always believed that with the power of God all things are possible. Today as a successful business owner of George's Produce, he is making history as the first African-American King of a majority White Carnival Krewe, the super Krewe of Endymion. "I am excited and overwhelmed by the privilege of being selected as King of Endymion, and this is not only about me it is about people moving forward and an example of positive progress for our organization and our City," says LaFargue.

Less than two decades ago the City was embroiled in a bat-

tle over integrating Mardi Gras Krewes, today has ushered in a new age with an African-American King of a super krewe. "With so many problems in the City and especially with our young people I feel this is something that can give them hope," remarks LaFargue. Continuing he says, "I have built my business and developed relationships that have helped me both socially and economically and I feel if people see me do this they could be inspired by my example."

LaFargue, in addition to being the King of Endymion is also a member of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, "My father was a longshoreman and many of the people he worked with were



2012 King of Endymion, George LaFargue

members and so many of the men were mentors to me and I eventually joined the organization in 1994, and I feel the work we do is very important in the community, so I am proud to be part of two organizations that show the best of what the City is when people decide to put their best foot forward and work together to help others."

He says this historical moment is important to the City as it rebuilds, "I feel this event can be the beginning of something that can spread not just in New Orleans, but everywhere, and prove that when people can learn to love, help and respect one another that any and everything is possible."

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Whitney Houston's Final Days, Cause of Death Not Released

Reports released on Whitney Houston's final days, cause of death not released In the wake of Music Icon Whitney Houston's death, several details chronicling the singer's final appearances in Los Angeles while taking in the pre-Grammy Awards festivities have come to light.

Earlier on Thursday, Houston dropped by rehearsals for Clive Davis' pre-Grammy party. Several members of the press were there doing a junket. Though Houston greeted people with a warm smile, she "appeared disheveled in mismatched clothes and hair that was dripping wet with either sweat or water," reports The Los Angeles Times.

Describing her as "visibly bloated," the Times says Houston "displayed erratic behavior



throughout the afternoon — flailing her hands frenetically as she spoke to Brandy and Monica, skipping around the ballroom in a child-like fashion and wandering aimlessly about the lobby. It was mentioned by

a Grammy staffer that security personnel received calls of the singer doing handstands by the pool."

On Friday, TMZ reported "partied heavily" at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, "drinking and chat-

ting loudly" with friends in the bar.

On Saturday, a Reporter for the Daily Beast was taping a segment for VH1's Behind the Music about the Rapper Akon. VH1 was supposed to interview Houston about her upcoming movie, Sparkle. Writes Allison Samuels:

Someone kept banging on the door as we taped, so we stopped. The woman at the door, who it turned out was Houston's Personal Assistant, Lynn Volkman, said, "Whitney's not coming, Whitney's not coming." And then finally said, "She's dead." Volkman was in a daze.

TMZ reports that Houston's body was discovered by her Aunt, Mary Jones, who had laid out the star's dress for the eve-

ning on the bed and then left the hotel room for about a half hour. When she didn't come out of the bathroom, Jones entered, pulled Houston out of the tub and began administering CPR.

The autopsy for Houston is complete, but results will not be released, pending toxicology reports, which could take up to six to eight weeks.

"I know there are reports that she maybe was drowned, or did she overdose, but we won't make a final determination until all the tests are in," said Ed Winter of the Los Angeles coroner's office at a news conference on Sunday. He added that "there are no signs of foul play."

Information from The LA Times, USA Today and the Daily Beast contributed to this report.

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LeRoux's Valentine's Show and Dinner

Le Roux Supper Club & Banquet Hall held its Fourth Annual Valentine's Day Show and Dinner featuring the local R&B Singing Group BRW with a special guest appearance by NAYO JONES. Featured are some of the attendees and Data News Weekly was there! Data was also one of the sponsors the event.



If you have photos of parties or events you would like to run in DATA, please send to datanewsad@bellsouth.net for inclusion.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

2012 Big Shot Krewe Ball

The Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club held its Big Shot Krewe Ball at the New Orleans Museum of Art (NOMA). This year's Zulu's Big Shot is Terry Williams. People from across the city came to this great Carnival event, and Data News Weekly was there.



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Black Women and Organizations



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

During Black History Month, the focus is often on individuals. The founder of the month (once Negro History Week) was Dr. Carter G. Woodson, and he chose the week that encompassed both the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. When other luminaries are mentioned, they are mostly men, but this year, the Association for the Study of African-American Life and His-

tory (ASALH) has declared that women will anchor the month. It is great to lift up the many Black women luminaries, including Dr. Dorothy Irene Height, Elizabeth Keckley, Cathy Hughes, and so many others.

Yet the real untold story of Black History Month is the story of the organizations that have made a real difference in the advancement of African-American people. The NAACP, founded in 1909, and the National Urban League, founded in 1920 are the most visible organizations, but in 1935 both the National Council of Negro Women (led by Dr. Height from 1957 to her death in 2010) and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs were founded. Even earlier, in 1896, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs was established. Mary Church Terrell was the

organization's first President and this group, still operating, is the oldest organization that works for the benefit of Black women and families.

Until 1960, most African-American women worked as maids, domestics, or private household workers. The National Domestic Workers Union was founded in 1968 by Dorothy Lee Bolden, who started working at age 12 for about \$1.50 a week. The organization was dedicated to professionalize domestic work, providing training and advocating for fair working conditions. This was yet another example of African-American women coming together to improve their lives and those of their families.

There is a rich history of African-American sororities and fraternities. Among the sororities, Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded at Howard University in 1908.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated was also founded at Howard in 1913 by women who broke off from AKA to emphasize their commitment to scholarship, service, and sisterhood. Delta women marched in the Women's Suffrage March in 1913, despite discouragement from White women who did not want to mix race matters with suffrage issues. (Full disclosure – I'm a Delta). Two other Black women's sororities, Zeta Phi Beta and Sigma Gamma Rho, are organizations that also focus on service. All of the Black women's sororities are committed to uplifting the community and to providing scholarship assistance to students.

In so many ways, the history of organizations is a tribute to the human spirit that transcends stories of individual accomplishment. Organizational development reminds of the ways and the reasons

that people come together for uplift and for good, to improve lives, to pay it forward, to pass good things on. Black History Month is often the story of accomplished individuals but the story of organizations is equally compelling. As a nation and a world, we are better off for the efforts of the National Council of Negro Women, now led by Dr. Avis Jones DeWeever, for Delta Sigma Theta, led by Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre, by the Children's Defense Fund, led by Marian Wright Edelman, and by the National Mentoring Cares Movement, led by former Essence Editor Susan Taylor. As we cheer on individuals, we must also cheer on the enduring legacy of organizations founded and led by African-American women.

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women and Author of *Surviving and Thriving: 365 Facts in Black Economic History*.

The Incomparable Whitney Houston



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

To Be Equal #7

"To me Whitney was THE VOICE. We got to hear a part of God every time she sang." Oprah Winfrey on the death of Whitney Houston

Billie Holiday was 44. Judy Garland was 47. Dinah Washington was 39. Michael Jackson was 51. Jimi Hendrix was 28. Janis Joplin was 27. Amy Winehouse was 28. And Whitney Houston lived only 48 years on this earth. I was one of millions of people around the world who were stunned to learn

of the untimely death of pop-music queen, Whitney Houston last Saturday. Like so many other entertainers who died too young, Whitney was blessed with a divine talent but also haunted by a heavy load of troubles.

Throughout much of the 1980's and 90's, Whitney Houston reigned as the undisputed "Queen of Pop". With songs like "The Greatest Love of All," and "I Will Always Love You," she set a standard as an octave-shattering virtuoso who brought both elegance and a gospel-tinged intensity to her work in the studio and on stage. That was surely a natural outgrowth of her church choir roots and being the daughter of classy Gospel Legend, Cissy Houston.

Whitney got her start singing in the junior choir of Newark, New Jersey's New Hope Baptist Church, where her mother has served as Minister of Music for decades. Whitney also undoubt-



edly benefited from the influences of other great musical talents in her family. Dionne Warwick was her cousin. And Aretha Franklin was her Godmother. But, Whitney was a pure original.

In addition to setting the music world on fire and influencing such performers as Mariah Carey, Beyoncé and Jennifer Hudson, Whitney also excelled as an

Actress, and had starring roles in such movies as "The Bodyguard," "Waiting to Exhale" and "The Preacher's Wife." Her final film, "Sparkle," a remake of the 1976 movie about three sisters from Harlem, who form a singing group, is set to be released in August.

It is a sad irony that Whitney Houston died on the eve of this year's Grammy Awards. The winner of six Grammys herself, Whitney was preparing to attend a pre-Grammy party given by her mentor, the legendary Music Producer, Clive Davis. Her body was found Saturday afternoon in the bath tub of her room at the Bev-

erly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. As of this writing, the exact cause of her death is still unknown.

In her 2009 interview with Oprah Winfrey, Whitney revealed for the first time, some of the most intimate details about her troubled marriage to Bobby Brown, the deep feelings she had for her mother and her daughter, Bobbie Kristina, and her struggles with drugs. She candidly admitted to Oprah that at times "It was too much. So much to try to live up to, to try to be, and I wanted out." Through it all, Whitney said she was constantly reading her bible and trying to get back to God. While we are all shocked and saddened by her death, I am hopeful that Whitney Houston's life and incomparable musical gifts will inspire others to let nothing stand in the way of the full and healthy expression of their God-given talents. Our thoughts and prayers are with Cissy, Bobbie Kristina and the entire Houston family.

Close Ties Wins Awards at Texas Black Film Festival Inspires New Film by Wilbert "Mr. Chill" Wilson

By Eric Connerly

Recently, the film "Close Ties: Tying A New Tradition," a documentary set in New Orleans that centers on a group of men from New Orleans that come together in a local barbershop to mentor young men recently was a big winner at the Texas Black Film Festival. The film executively produced by Gemal Woods took Best Overall Film and Best Documentary. "I am excited and humbled by how the film has been received and grateful for the awards it's won," says Woods on the film's impact.

"Close Ties" is a gripping story that was a critical and ratings success when it aired on WDSU-TV 6 in New Orleans. It is a story that's inspired a City into collective action to save a generation of youth.



One of the film's producer's Wilbert "Mr. Chill" Wilson who has been working to uplift his community and shop is the setting for the film is also the Executive Producer of a new project that expands on the theme of saving and

inspiring the next generation.

The new project is scheduled for release in the spring of 2011 and is tentatively entitled "Mr. Chill's Tie Tying: Tying on a New Tradition." "It has been a great experience taking part in the mak-

ing of this film, so much so that I felt that I needed to continue taking steps by moving forward and producing another film that brings men and youth together in the spirit of giving," says Wilson on this project that he has taken

the reigns as the Executive Producer. "I feel the first film was a great starting point in creating awareness, but I feel we are on the verge of a movement where we can help one young man at a time and inspire them to reach higher and reach their full potential."

Wilson says the barbershop is a place that continues to be a place of importance in the African-American community, "The barbershop is where people come together to discuss all types of issues, and people from all backgrounds come into my shop, and all I want to do is show that my business can serve as a center of community organizing and I hope this film can impact people and move them into knowing that anybody can contribute to the betterment of society."

Cover Story / Continued from page 3.

to children, we simply want to do positive things in the community and that is a year round mission for our organization."

Zulu: A Brief History

According to published reports on the history of Zulu that are based on conversations and interviews with older members indicate that at the turn of the 20th Century the City's organizations were divided into wards, and each ward had its own group or "Club." One of the groups that would merge with others to become the Zulu's was the Tramps. After seeing the skit, they retired to their meeting place (a room in the rear of a restaurant/bar in the 1100 block of Perdido Street), and emerged as Zulus. This group was probably made up of members from the Tramps, the Benevolent Aid Society and other ward-based groups. While the "Group" marched in Mardi Gras as early as 1901, their first appearance as Zulus came in 1909, with William Story as King.

1915 heralded the first use of floats, constructed on a spring wagon, using dry good boxes. The float was decorated with palmetto leaves and moss and carried four Dukes along with the King. That

humble beginning gave rise to the lavish floats we see in the Zulu parade today.

In 1968, Zulu's route took them on two major streets; namely, St. Charles Avenue and Canal Street, for the first time in the modern era. Heretofore, to see the Zulu parade, you had to travel the so-called "back streets" of the Black neighborhoods. The segregation laws of this period contributed to this, and Zulu tradition also played a part. In those days, neighborhood bars sponsored certain floats and, consequently, the floats were obligated to pass those bars. Passing meant stopping, as the bars advertised that the "Zulus will stop here!" Once stopped at a sponsoring bar, it was often difficult to get the riders out of the establishment, so the other floats took off in different directions to fulfill their obligations.

Of all the throws to rain down from the many floats in the parades during carnival, the Zulu coconut or "Golden Nugget" is the most sought after. The earliest reference to the coconut appears to be about 1910 when the coconuts were given from the floats in their natural "hairy" state. Some years later there is a reference to Lloyd

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100+ African American Ministers to Announce Support of Cynthia Willard-Lewis for Council-at-Large

According to published reports, on Thursday, February 9, 2012, Ministers of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of New Orleans and the New Orleans Baptist Pastors Conference voted unanimously to support former State Senator Cynthia Willard-Lewis for the At-Large seat on the New Orleans City Council. Over 100 ministers (representing over 30,000 parishioners) from all areas of the City representing a cross section of religious denominations attended the meeting held in the A.L. Davis Multipurpose Center within the New Zion Baptist Church Complex on Third Street.

The three-hour session included individual presentations from State Representative Austin Badon and former State Senator Willard-Lewis, followed by questions from the audience of ministers.

Dr. C.S. Gordon, President of the Louisiana Missionary Baptist State Convention, detailed the

reasons why Willard-Lewis was chosen. "It was a historic meeting of ministers across denomination lines who came together because of Cynthia's work with ministers throughout the years of her public service. She has a proven track of remaining engaged even after elections are over," Gordon said. "We look forward to supporting her during this campaign and to her eventual election as Councilwoman-At-Large."

Dr. Willie Gable, President of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance and Pastor of Progressive Baptist Church, echoed Dr. Gordon's sentiments. "This is the first time since Hurricane Katrina that we've come together, not just ministers but the leadership of the various denominations," Gable said. "We're united to support this one candidate whom we think is the right person for this time. We're also united in an effort to help shape our community's future."

"Cynthia has been very acces-

sible to the community," said Dr. Louis S. Jones, "she has always been there for the people throughout her time in public life. She has supported our issues; we will reciprocate with our support."

Former State Senator and Council At-Large Candidate Cynthia Willard-Lewis said she was honored to receive the support of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

"This united ecumenical movement with ministerial leadership represents more than 30,000 New Orleanians who are active members of their churches and ministries. I am going to work hard to honor their trust and continue to engage in solutions for the critical problems we face together," Willard-Lewis said.

The group issued a statement which read, "Our community needs jobs and wages that keep pace with inflation. Over the past five years as costs have risen, wages have decreased. Even with the influx of billions of dollars into our City post-Katrina, we see that the base, the community-at-large, the average citizen has not been able to participate. We want to see more people from our community working with better earning potential. We are committed to economic justice and income equality."

Henry Files Legislation To Limit The Use Of Welfare Benefits

Under legislation filed today by State Rep. Cameron Henry, converting electronically issued welfare benefits to cash, would be prohibited. Further, the legislation prohibits the use of such benefits for the purchase of certain goods and services.

House Bill 95 prohibits using Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) benefits in liquor stores, gaming establishments, and sexually oriented businesses.

FITAP is the cash assistance program for needy families of Louisiana established under the Welfare Reform Act of 1996.

Henry said, "This money is supposed to be used for basic necessities and to ensure that families, especially children, are provided for and do not go hungry. It is appalling that taxpayer dollars

can be used to purchase liquor, to gamble, or at any enterprise dealing in sexually oriented services. This legislation will ensure that benefits issued via electronic benefits transfer cards cannot be used for any of these purposes or converted to cash to be used for any purpose. Further, none of these types of businesses would be allowed to participate as a merchant in the electronic issuance system."

The prefilled legislation has been referred to the House Health and Welfare Committee which has jurisdiction over welfare issues. The bill will be scheduled for hearing after the 2012 Regular Session convenes on March 12th.

For additional information, please contact Rep. Henry at (504) 416-2398.

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(Twelve-week course. Subsequent Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.)

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Obama for America Launches The Truth Team

This week, Obama for America announced the launch of the Truth Team, a new national effort by President Obama supporters online and on the ground to promote the President's achievements, respond to attacks on his record and hold the eventual Republican nominee accountable. More than a million people took action as part of the Fight the Smears initiative during the 2008 campaign; the goal of the Truth Team is to double that number, reaching two-million grassroots supporters who will communicate the President's record and fight back against attacks before the Democratic National Convention this fall.

Beginning today with events across the country and continuing through the election, the Truth Team will engage grassroots supporters to spread the truth about the President's record and respond to Republican attacks. The program will be housed at BarackObama.com/TruthTeam, with individual websites - KeepingHisWord.com, KeepingGOPHonest.com, and AttackWatch.com - serving as quick, comprehensive resources to help set the record straight. Designed to put responsibility for



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spreading the truth in the hands of the President's supporters, the websites contain videos and information on the President's record, and fact checks on Republican claims about the President and themselves. The sites also con-

tain tools for sharing materials via Facebook, Twitter and email, and empowers supporters to take further action by volunteering, writing letters to the editor, sending postcards to undecided voters with information about the

President's record, and more. The goal is to ensure that when Republicans attack President Obama's record, grassroots supporters can take ownership of the campaign and share the facts with the undecided voters in their lives.

Republican Super PACs have committed to spend a half billion dollars on negative ads to defeat the President. But from the start, the Obama for America Campaign has relied on grassroots supporters to spread the truth, and today's announcement builds on and expands that effort.

Truth Teams will be announced today in many states including Iowa, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina and Wisconsin with events being held in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio and Virginia. National supporters including the National Education Association (NEA), Service Employees International Union (SEIU), United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) and the United Steelworkers Union (USW) will be participating in this effort.

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Lucas, "the sign painter," scraping and painting the coconuts. This, in all likelihood, was the forerunner to the beautifully decorated coconuts we see today.

Historic Year for Mardi Gras and the Future of Zulu and New Orleans

This is an historic year for African-American Mardi Gras as Endymion, one of the super-krewes have chosen its first African-American King, Business Owner George LaFargue, who is also a member of Zulu. "George is a quiet guy but he is big in stature," says James. On this occurrence and its impact and significance for the City and the Zulu organization he says, "George being chosen is a great accomplishment and has given added attention to Zulu and speaks to the issue of diversity in the City and how we are progressing, and I am honored to be the King of Zulu in a year that is very historical in that there is a Black King reigning over a majority White carnival club."

James says that he sees bright days ahead for the organization, "Our best days are in front of us, we have a great tradition of giving and we will continue to build on that." Continuing he says, "We have a lot of positive, energetic people in our organization and we plan to continue to be at the forefront showing the best of what New Orleans and its citizens have to offer and Zulu wants to be part of showing that it's possible for a diverse group of people working together can accomplish big things and that is key for the City to regain its luster."



Couple Celebrates Mardi Gras Season Birthdays

Ericka Michelle Lassair and her brothers Eric N. St. Amand and Brandon St. Amand (not pictured) threw a joint birthday party for their parents Crystal and Rudy St. Amand on Friday February 10th at The Prime Example. Their birthdays are six days apart and Crystal will be 58 years old on February 16th and Rudy will be 70 years old on February 22nd. Occasionally one of their birthdays will fall on Mardi Gras day, so celebrating their birthdays is always a fun time. Crystal and Rudy have also been together for 31 years and will be married for 10 years on March 26th of this year. Pictured left to right are: Eric St. Amand, Rudy St. Amand, Crystal St. Amand and Ericka Lassair.

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