

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data Zone

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Musicians
for Obama**



May 5 - May 11, 2012 47th Year Volume 1 www.ladatanews.com

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The Soul of New Orleans



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The Rebirth of New Orleans

A Reflection of the City Through the Eyes of Its Artists

By Edwin Buggage

New Orleans is a City that is majestic and magical. It is one where the color and splendor of its unique way of life embodies a joie de vivre that makes it a destination for people spanning the globe. It is a place where traditions and heritage is the lifeblood that pumps through the veins giving the City life. It is in the work of its artist that are inspired by a landscape where being creative is as natural as breathing.

In this the second weekend of Jazzfest the City is flooded with people coming to sample the greatness that is, the Crescent City. But while they are at the Fairgrounds and other tourist haunts, there is a City that is still feeling the impact of a City that has been shaken at its foundation. And is changing daily, whether it is for better or worse only time will tell, but there seems to be a renaissance in the arts where they are again at the forefront of giving the City an identity and hope as they spread their wings. These talented artists are similar to homing pigeons, while spreading the New Orleans brand their work and hearts are firmly planted in the Crescent City as they draw inspiration from its past, present and future.

After being honored on music's biggest night Rebirth Brass Band profile has risen as they are a band in demand worldwide. Reflecting on their Grammy nod and on the direction of the City, the band's leader and Founder Phil Frazier says, "The City is back and popping and strong, and winning the Grammy for us is like when the Saints winning the



New Orleans' Artist Terrance Osborne's "Rebirth"

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

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Musical Artist Jason Neville



Phil Frazier and fans



New Orleans Artist Lionel Milton



New Orleans Artist J. Renee is excited about the art scene in New Orleans

superbowl did for New Orleans. It is great to represent our City and it feels good to get the kind of appreciation we get here and everywhere we go and that we can show the best of New Orleans to the world."

J. Renee is a New Orleans Artist, who is presently living in South Carolina, and she is excited about the art scene in New Orleans and because of the City's increased visibility she is now showing her work in galleries the world over. And while she is blossoming into a force to be reckoned with in the world of art she continues to think of New Orleans as home and it continues to be the creative well she drinks from as the inspiration of her work, "I find coming in now that I don't live in the City whether it is doing the Zulu Poster or exhibits around the world that we are bringing a positive light to New Orleans through the things we create. Whether we are there or not we still represent New Orleans, and people get a chance to see who we are and they also get a chance to see that which was lost as we try to create a new and better New Orleans."

Jazzfest is an event that is synonymous with New Orleans and the Neville Brothers are part of that legacy closing out the fest annually. It is part of a storied tradition of a City steeped in a rich heritage. "I am honored to be part of a family that means so much to the City. And people have come to identify so many great things with us and we are part of an amazing tradition," says Jason Neville, the son of Aaron Neville. Continuing he says, "Our name is part of a brand that has come to be identified with the City, its culture and its people and I am excited about the direction of the City as I am trying to carve out a niche for myself to build on what my family has given to the City and to the world."

Nearly seven years ago Hurricane Katrina and the breaching of the levees ravaged the City leaving it a skeleton of its former self. Today the City is a gumbo of revitalization, renaissance and wreckage. One neighborhood that has become the poster child of the storm and its effects before and after is the Lower Ninth Ward. Unlike the images of people stranding on rooftops seeking refuge,

for Milton this neighborhood is one filled with fond memories of his upbringing there. And while his thriving art career has taken him many places he is concerned about the future of the place that gave birth to his talent, "It is a lot of emotion seeing the ninth ward. It is mixed emotions, but I am glad to see any parts of the City grow because so much of it was devastated. There is a long legacy of great creative people from the world of music, art, cooking, dance we are a people of traditions and in spite of what happened they continue and we are building on those and creating new traditions as the City evolves."

New Orleans is a City that is going through many changes and challenges, but the artists are like many in the City resilient soldiers enlisted in the army of bringing a positive spirit back to the City. They through their amazing talent give voice to a City, what it was, it is and what it aspires to be. "What we do as artists are essential to the City, we are part of what gives it its identity and makes it special," says Lionel Milton. Continuing he remarks on the City and its rebuild-

ing efforts, "I did not always feel this way but I am excited about the direction of the City, I see cranes in the sky and so many great things happening; it is only my hope that all the people of the City can feel the impact of the recovery in a positive way."

In a City that loves to celebrate, it seems a part of the people's DNA that have survived in spite of a disaster and is still overcoming overwhelming odds. It is a testament to the will of a people who have inspired a nation and the world. Of the City and its rebirth Frazier says, "I have a great feeling about the City moving forward, every day I see many new things happening; and while some things still have not happened we have still come a long way as a City since Hurricane Katrina."

The City is evolving and so is its artist, and they are a reflection of its people showing them a mirror of who they are to themselves; as well as painting the picture of who and what they City represents and the spirit and ethos of a people. Visual Artist J. Renee talks about this transformation invoked in her work, "I remember doing my Hurricane pieces after the storm, and

I think we should not forget that, but moving forward, just like the Haitians moved forward where they had so much destruction and devastation. But they never let their art be depressing, so you see their work come live with all the color and vibrancy of the Caribbean, and you see some of the same things with New Orleans art. That demonstrates in spite of all that happened and continues to happen it shows the resiliency of a people."

The Crescent City is one where heritage and tradition is the treasured currency that is the true jewel of life in the City that lies at the mouth of the Mississippi. And there is no doubt it is what will sustain it moving forward, Jason Neville who has grown up inside perhaps one of the most well-known artistic families in the City says, "We are a City of neighborhoods, families and communities and these are the things that are important in the City and its people; and I feel they will continue to be the strands that binds us together; and what we create as artist is an important part of reminding people who we are and telling our story."

Perfect Score: 100% college acceptances for New Orleans

African-American all-boys public charter school Miller-McCoy Academy's inaugural graduation class also receives \$420,000 in scholarship offers.

Miller-McCoy Academy for Mathematics and Business, New Orleans' all-boys public charter school, will host its inaugural senior high school graduation, Friday, May 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Southern University at New Orleans.

The Class of 2012 represents the inaugural graduating class of Miller-McCoy Academy, founded in 2008 in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. One hundred percent of the graduating class has been accepted into college.



"From the beginning, we viewed it as our responsibility to make sure that every young man was prepared to go to college," said Keith Sanders, Miller-McCoy Academy co-founder and high school principal. "Four years ago, we told the young men and their families that if they stuck with Miller-McCoy until 12th grade, they would be accepted into college."

Miller-McCoy's seniors have received college acceptances to 27 colleges, including six in Louisiana. The seniors have also been offered \$420,000 in college scholarship offers.

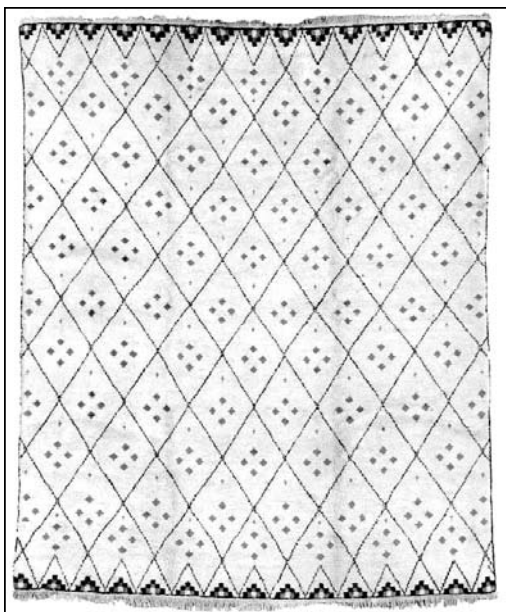
"Many of our young men have received multiple college offers and scholarships," said Dr. Tiffany Hardrick, Miller-McCoy Academy co-founder and middle school principal. "As colleges and universities in the United States struggle to enroll and retain African-American male students, Miller-McCoy Academy's graduating class includes college-prepared urban young men who have embodied our mission to foster critical thinkers, responsible citizens and positive leaders in the community."

Moroccan Carpet Weavers to Present Weaving Workshops at Ashe Cultural Arts Center

The Moroccan Carpet Caravan 2012 brings two Tamazight carpet weavers and their translator from the Valley of the Roses in Morocco to the Ashe Cultural Arts Center in New Orleans from June 25-29, 2012, the first of four stops on a North American tour of carpet art events.

The weavers will teach carpet weaving workshops on traditional wooden looms built especially for the occasion, present a colorful carpet exhibition, and offer a cross-cultural presentation. The workshop will teach basic weaving skills in the indigenous traditions of North Africa not offered anywhere else in the United States. Students will weave their own rag rug with the visiting Moroccan instructors on M-F June 25-29, 9:00 – 4:00, limited enrollment, \$100/per person. Email violatjohnson@gmail.com for more information and to sign up.

A free public presentation about Amazigh culture and tra-



ditions with Moroccan mint tea takes place on Thursday, June 28, 7:00 pm. The carpet exhibition opening and sale begins Thursday, June 28, 8:00 pm. Weavers receive 100% of the sale price of the carpet.

Amazigh culture, often known as Berber to Westerners, refers to the indigenous people living across North Africa for over 3,000 years and is distinct from the Arabic culture and language.

This project directly links African American artists in New Orleans to North African Muslim artists, encouraging dialogue and cross cultural exchange. Though weaving of a European heritage is practiced in New Orleans and elsewhere in the United States, there is little knowledge or materials to weave in the North African and Middle Eastern style on vertical looms. This is an exciting chance to introduce a new art form into New Orleans that expands on the rich textile culture in the city.

Lemonade Day is this Saturday May 5, 2012

Lemonade Day is a FREE, fun, experiential learning program that teaches youth how to start, own and operate their own business using a lemonade stand as well as fundamental lessons about life, success and themselves.

For additional information and to register please visit the website <http://neworleans.lemonadeday.org>

After you register, please pick up your backpack filled with goodies from backpack sites listed on the website and please register your stand site at <http://sites.lemonadeday.org>. You can create your own website promoting your stand in less than a minute! AND, if you check YES, your location will be added to a national map so everyone can find your stand on Lemonade Day including your local Lemonade Day Team, judges, and media.

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Think Like A Man: One Man’s Perspective

By Edwin Buggage

For the second straight week the romantic comedy “Think Like a Man” finished first at the box office. This is a smart heady movie that was very well-produced and it was great to see a movie with progressive well-developed Black characters. In the last few years Tyler Perry, T.D. Jakes and others have shown that movies about Blacks where characters that are multi-dimensional and not the formulaic caricatures that’s degrading and stereotypical, can strike box office gold. And that there is an audience for these stories about Black people, so no longer cans the executives who green light projects say there is not an audience for these types of films.

The topic of the film has sparked many debates and there have even been forums

held in some cities before the viewing of the film. The question for me becomes why have this film resonated with so many women and men? I guess the answer is clear, when you look at the African-American community the number often touted as it relates to marriage numbers are dismal. But the number that is often cited 70% of unmarried women is misleading. In fact the 2009 census data used is the number of women from a small subset of women ages 25-29 who have never been married. When looking deeper at this data you find that by age 55 only 13 percent of Black women have never been married. So with that said 87% of Black women at some point will most likely be married.

What I think continues to be the problem for the African-American community is

that we continue to forecast all the gloom and doom and those things that are not working in our community. It leads one to think and suggest that our community is one that is full of unsolvable pathologies. I would say that this is an unfair inaccurate assessment. We throughout our history have overcome many obstacles. And I propose today what we should begin to do is to become more vigilant in focusing on models of success highlighting those and begin to promote and replicate those things than continue to only shed light on things that are not working.

For example, White America found it hard to believe that the Obama’s were normal for a Black couple, but in truth it was only they do not normally see these images in media. When in fact there are plenty

of Blacks who fit the profile of the Obama’s. As well as many other Black families at every income strata finding ways to make their relationships work. This brings me back to the 1980’s when there were debates centered around the Cosby Show, which at the time was the number 1 rated show on television and it not being a realistic picture of Black life. But my question is why we would question a show that have an upscale Black couple that is functional as not the norm or at the very least something to aspire to? Why in the age of keeping it real that problems, poverty, ignorance and buffoonery are what in some instances authentically Black? I believed then as is now these arguments are ridiculous and even now more so as there is a Black first family in the White House.

I feel it is time for us to continue to widen the lens and tell our stories. It is important that we do it because others will continue to distort who we are as a people. And worse some of us will continue to believe it. So I hope this recent spate of films, can help fuel a trend towards more like them as well as in other areas of the entertainment landscape for images that are more balanced portrayals and show the diversity of the Black experience. And show that no longer are Blacks simply like the nameless faceless protagonist of Ralph Ellison’s classic work of literature “Invisible Man.” That in the 21st Century we have a voice and vibrancy and are part of the family of humanity and want to see reflections of themselves that truly mirror their reality.

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NEW ORLEANS EAST

June	7861 East Rockfort Circle
Walgreen's	4200 Chef Menteur
Express	4301 Chef Menteur
Fuel Zone	4500 Chef Menteur
Winn Dixie	4800 Chef Menteur
Discount Zone	6711 Chef Menteur
Washzone	6711 Chef Menteur
Tex Mart Gas Station	6733 Chef Menteur
Sohana Grocery	9000 Chef Mentuer
Captain Sals	10038 Chef Menteur
St Roch Kitchen	10422 Chef Mentuer
Chevron/textmart	10422 Chef Mentuer
Chef Discount	10833 Chef Menteur
O' Cajun	10844 Chef Menteur
Big E-Z	6501 Morrison
Speed Racer	5200 Read Rd.
E-Z Mart	5901 Read Rd.
Cajun Seafood	7020 Read Rd
Read Supermarket	7045 Read Rd
Read Seafood	7340 Read
Walgreen's	7401 Read
Sam's Mart	8426 I-10 Service Rd
Speed Racer	5200 Crowder
Laundromat	5540 Crowder
Walgreen's	5501 Crowder
Brothers	5701 Crowder
Chicken and Gas	5769 Crowder
Chevron	7000 Crowder
Read Seafood	7045 Crowder
Discount Center	4901 Downman
Downman Center	7200 Downman
South Shore Grill	7929 Downman
Speed Racer	8020 Downman
Super Discount Market	6318 Haynes
Haynes Food	7220 Haynes
Habibi	9530 Haynes
Cast Net	10828 Haynes
Family Ranch	11950 Haynes
Walgreen's	9129 Lake Forest
Rite Aid	5661 Bullard Avenue
Shell	6041 Bullard Avenue

Eastover Market	7050 Bullard Avenue
Chevron	7020 Bullard
Brother's	7001 Bullard
I-Hop	I-10 Service Rd at Bullard

GENTILLY

Walgreen's	1100 Elysian Fields
B Express	3101 Elysian Fields Ave.
Discount Cigarettes	Elysian Fields/Gentilly
Walgreen's	Elysian Fields/Gentilly
Dillard University	(Caf.) Gentilly
The JuJu Bag	5363 Franklin Ave.
Franklin Discount	6100 Franklin Ave
McKenzie's Chicken	3839 Frenchman
Adrian's Bakery	4710 Paris
Maytag Laundry	2107 Caton St.
Palms Barber & Car Wash	2111 Caton St.
Subway	2131 Caton St
UNO's Business Bldg	2000 Lakeshore Dr.
UNO's University Center	2000 Lakeshore Dr.
SUNO's Campus	6400 Press Drive

MID CITY

Discount Gas	3303 S. Broad
Anita's Grill	2122 Tulane
Tulane Courthouse	2700 Tulane Ave.
Traffic Court	727 S. Broad
Broad and Banks Store	Broad and Banks
Liberty Bank	Canal and Broad
Quicky's	Tulane and Broad
Entergy	Canal and Jeff Davis
Neyords	3340 Jeff Davis
Johnson's Tax Service	2642 Tulane Ave
Bank's Meat	Broad and Banks
Zulu Club	722 N. Broad St.
Walgreen's	Broad and St. Bernard
Delta Gas	617 N. Broad St.
Broadview	1468 N. Broad St.
Broad Avenue Market	1901 Broad St.
Showcase Bar	1915 N Broad St.
Manchu	2660 Broad St.
Tastee	Donuts 2549 Esplanade Ave
WBOK	Gentilly Blvd

Circle H meat MKT	1700 St. Bernard
Autocrat Club	1725 St Bernard Ave
The Food Store	2001 St Bernard Ave
Sea Food Deli	2600 St Bernard Ave
Buttermilk Drop Bakery	1800 O'Reilly
Chicken and Seafood	2514 Bayou Rd
Coco Hut	2515 Bayou Rd
Community Bookstore	2523 Bayou Rd.
Little Dizzy's	1500 Esplanade Ave.
Delta Fuel	Esplanade Ave. and Claiborne
Manchu Chicken	1413 N Claiborne Ave
Ocajuns	1479 N. Claiborne
Discount Zone	1533 N Claiborne Ave
Chevron	1600 N Claiborne Ave
Sweet Lorraine's	1921 St. Claude Ave.
Food Store	1941 St. Claude Ave.
Praline Connection	542 Frenchman St.
Wasabi	902 Frenchmen St
Harrah's Casino	1 Canal Street
Post Office	701 Loyola Ave.
City Hall	1300 Perdido St.

CARROLLTON AREA

Public Library	330 Carrollton Ave.
Mona's Café	1120 S Carrollton Ave.
Subway	1332 S Carrollton Ave.
Rue De La Course	Oak and Carrollton Ave.
Chevron	1400 S. Carrollton Ave.
Walgreens	2418 S. Carrollton Ave.
Roberts'	8115 S. Claiborne Ave.
Shell	3101 S. Carrollton Ave.
Magnolia Discount	3415 S. Carrollton Ave. .
Rick's Daiquiris	3415 S. Carrollton Ave.

Washateria	3415 S. Carrollton Ave.
Family Dollar	3612 S. Carrollton Ave.
Exxon	3725 S. Carrollton Ave.
Xavier University (Lib.)	Main Campus
Xavier University (Union)	Main Campus
U.S. Postal Service	3400 Carrollton Ave.
Chevron	Earhart @ Jeff Davis

UPTOWN

Hoshun	1601 St Charles Ave
Walgreens	1801 St Charles
Avenue Café	1907 St Charles
Street Car Sandwich	1923 St Charles Ave
Voodoo	St. Charles
PJ's	Tulane Campus
Chevron/ Tchoup Shop	5600 Tchoupitoulas
Winn Dixie	5300 Tchoupitoulas
Hanson's Snowball Stand	4801 Tchoupitoulas St
Octavia Book Store	515 Octavia St
Pickup and Go	4713 Magazine St
Danny's Food	Magazine and Valence
Magazine Street Laundry	4639 Magazine Street
Eye Glass	4220 Magazine Street
Theo's Pizza	4218 Magazine Street
Mona's Café	4126 Magazine St
Jet Co.	3720 Magazine St
Ace Hardware	3525 Magazine St
A & P	3300 Magazine St
Walgreen's	3227 Magazine St
Liberty Bank	3200 Magazine Street
Starbucks	2801 Magazine Street
Newsstand	2004 Magazine Street
Juan's Flying Burrito	2000 Magazine Street
Magazine Discount Mkt	1600 Magazine Street
Dat's Grocery	1500 Magazine Street
Mojo Coffee House	1302 Magazine Street
Books and Café	1712 Oretha Castle Haley
Ashe Cultural Center	2732 La Salle
Soul's Seafood	1901 Tchoupitoulas
Wal-mart	3434 St Charles Ave
St Charles Discount Gas	4839 Prytania St
Uptown Mart	2136 Louisiana
La. Fresh Meat	2119 Louisiana
Sandpiper Lounge	2900 S Claiborne
Subway	3336 S Claiborne Ave
Smart Wash	3400 S Claiborne Ave
Money Mart	4400 S Claiborne Ave
Walgreens	

WESTBANK

Shell Gas	4600 General De Gaulle
Rite Aid	4350 General De Gaulle
Walgreen's	4110 General De Gaulle
P.J.'s	4100 General De Gaulle
EZ Mart	3622 General De Gaulle
Discount Zone	3600 General De Gaulle
Liberty Bank	3535 General De Gaulle
Shell Station	3054 General De Gaulle
Chevron Gas	2601 General De Gaulle
Sewerage and Water Board	4005 General De Gaulle
Winn Dixie	3008 Holiday Dr
Seafood Zone	3600 McArthur
Cigarette Express	3600 McArthur Suite B2
Subway	3600 McArthur
Magnolia Disc.	109 Terry Parkway
Brothers	200 Terry Parkway
Brothers	502 Terry Parkway
Gerry Barber & hair	443 Terry Parkway
McLaughlin's Books	512 F Terry Parkway
Jack's Discount Cig.	Stumpf and Holmes
Pinoy Food and Goods	2007 Stumpf
Wal-mart	4001 Berhman Hwy
Entergy	4021 Berhman Hwy
Brothers	Gen Meyers/Newton
WYLD	929 Howard Avenue
Airline Service Station	9201 Airline hwy
Fitness center	4115 Carrollton Avenue

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Jazz Fest Highlights!

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

The 2012 Jassfest began last weekend featuring the best entertainment from New Orleans, Louisiana and from around the country and attracting festival goers worldwide. It's a great time to be here, and Data has the highlights.



Thais Clark



Golden Voices Community Choir



Very Young Creole Wild West



Dancers with Seun Kuti n
Egypt 89 of Nigeria



Rev. Al Green

NOLA Musicians for Obama

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

Last Tuesday, an important event took place in the New Orleans music, art, business social and political community as these local groups came together in solidarity to lend support for President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign. An unparalleled array of some of the region's most celebrated talent came together for an amazing night of music and entertainment at the historic Generations Hall venue in downtown New Orleans.



Event MC Actress Alfre Woodard



Local Artist Frenchie Dances



Charles Neville, Dr John, George Porter

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

Master Gardener's Corner

The plant that you cannot kill!



Large Hanging Spanish Moss



Tillandsia



Airplant with hanging crystal

By: MG (Master Gardener) Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly Columnist

Data News Weekly is introducing a new weekly gardening article called "Master Gardener's Corner" to be written by MG Calla Victoria. She is a master gardener certified through the LSU AgCenter of Louisiana, a member of the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society, the Curator of the Bromeliad Exhibit at the New Orleans Botanical Garden in City Park, and Fundraising Chairwoman for the Master Gardeners of Greater New Orleans (MGGNO). The gardening article is designed to give Data's readers the very latest in gardening ideas and techniques, highlight gardening projects happening around the City, and to educate our readers with technical information on horticulture in layman's terms. Upcoming articles will include urban farming, xeriscaping, edible gardens, hydroponic gardening, container gardening and lots more. Also in conjunction with the gardening article Data News Weekly will be featuring "Data's garden of the week" where we will showcase one of our reader's gardens. So get your camera's out and photograph your little garden oasis and we just may select your garden as our "garden of the week." Send your gardening entries to datanewseditor@bellsouth.net, type "Gardening" in the subject line, and be sure to also include a contact phone number with your entry.

To all of you plant "Serial Killers," yes; those of you who just kill every plant that you buy or receive as gifts. Yes, you with the brownest of brown thumbs do I have the perfect plant for you! This plant will survive basically on its own with minimal care and it is the "Air Plant." It is called the "air plant" because it does not require any kind of soil to survive so there is no chance of you over-watering and drowning the plant. I can hear you thinking, "Well how do air plants grow and how do they get their nutrients?"

Growing habits of Air Plants:

Air plants are Bromeliads and the botanical name for air plants is Tillandsia. So the air plant is a bromeliad but the genus (classification) of this bromeliad is a Tillandsia. ALL

Scandal, Continued on page 11.

move. groove. enjoy.

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ALEC Should Support Voter Measures and Repeal of 'Kill at Will'



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

To Be Equal

"We call on your companies to stop supporting ALEC's reckless agenda, which harms the communities in which you do business." – March 26 letter to ALEC's corporate sponsors from United Republic, Rebuild the Dream, Color of Change and the Center for Media and Democracy

Last week, the civil rights

community and Americans of conscience won a major victory against the corporately-funded conservative policy group that supported the "Stand Your Ground" law responsible for delaying the arrest of Trayvon Martin's killer. This same group is behind dozens of voter ID laws that are jeopardizing the voting rights of millions of Americans.

On April 17, after an exodus of major corporate sponsors, prompted by pressure from a coalition of progressive and civil rights organizations, including the National Urban League, the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) officially ended its involvement in these issues, saying in part, "We are eliminating the ALEC public safety and elections task force that dealt with non economic issues..."

Corporate support, which rang-

es from \$7,000 to \$25,000 in annual dues to the organization, began to wither in the wake of the public outcry against Florida's Stand Your Ground law, which shields a gunman from prosecution simply by claiming a suspicion that his or her life was in danger. George Zimmerman made that claim to Sanford, Fla. police officers who incredulously did not arrest him following the February 26 shooting death of the unarmed, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin.

While presenting itself as an organization that promotes legislation that serves the financial interests of its corporate funders, ALEC has used its close ties to conservative state legislators to sponsor similar "Kill at Will" laws in 30 states – and the tragic body count is growing. In Florida alone, since the law was passed in 2005, that state's "justifiable homicide"

rate has jumped 300 percent.

The organization has also supported dozens of unnecessary voter ID laws across the country that may keep as many as 5 million citizens from exercising their right to vote in this all important election year.

In rallies, letters, and social media outreach, the civil rights community reminded ALEC's corporate sponsors, including Coca-Cola, McDonald's, PepsiCo and Kraft, that significant numbers of consumers found their association with the organization's extreme agenda offensive. When a growing number of businesses began severing their ties with ALEC, the group backed away from supporting these "no- economic" issues. But we urge ALEC to go one step further.

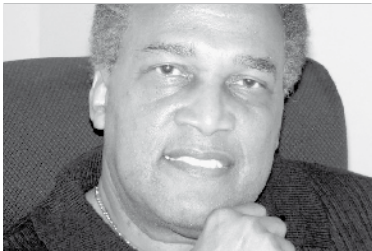
Now that ALEC has acknowledged that its activities led it far

beyond the bounds of reasonable commercial legislative activity, we call upon the group to devote its considerable resources to redress the harms caused by the "Public Safety and Elections" task force – dangerous policies that armed civilian vigilantes and disenfranchised seniors, people of color, and the disabled by the millions.

The full impact of these measures has only begun to be felt. For example, laws that restrict voting access are still in the pipeline in many states. A simple disavowal of its misguided activities will be insufficient to correct the damage that has already been caused. We call upon ALEC to actively support our "Occupy the Vote" campaign to repeal these onerous laws.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

Can We All Get Along?



Parnell Herbert
Data News Contributor

This week marks the 20th Anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles riots. A husband and wife California Highway Patrol team were first to spot the Hyundai speeding on the I-210 in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles, CA. When they began their chase and called it in, the married couple had no idea they were lighting the fuse to ignite the biggest riot in the U.S. since the riots of the sixties and seventies.

Realizing his capture was imminent Rodney King, driver of the speeding vehicle knew what treatment he could expect from the LAPD. He made a conscious decision to seek a well-lighted area with witnesses before he would surrender. In spite of the presence of witnesses officers began to beat him. King was beaten nearly to death. The footage showed seven officers surrounding the solitary King, with several LAPD officers repeatedly striking the helpless man with their batons while the other officers stood by watching, without taking any action to stop the beating. Three surgeons operated on King for five hours that morning to save his life.

One part of King's strategy paid off. Not only were there witnesses present. One of the witnesses videotaped the beating. The footage showed seven officers surround-

ing the solitary King, with several LAPD officers repeatedly striking a helpless King with their batons while the other officers stood by watching, without taking any action to stop the beating. As that video circulated Black People throughout America felt as though someone had "Captured Bigfoot." All the nay sayers, all the people who said "Our police would not do such a thing," would all be forced to face the reality of police brutality, racism and social inequalities in the US. But again as history tends to repeat itself another American city was divided on opposite sides of that infamous racial line. While Black People in America were out raged by the

actions of the Las Angeles police force, Whites seemed to feel. "He broke the law. He deserved what he got."

The officer's attorneys' were successful in their request for a change of venue. The four officers' trials were held in the predominantly White suburb of Simi Valley where an all-White jury freed the officers.

LA literally exploded when word of the acquittal came down; Fires, looting, beatings, massive destruction and chaos. Black people began beating Whites, Asians, Latinos and everything else that was not Black.

I have never been a proponent of rioting - in the Black com-

munity. Today we have Justin Sipp, Wendell Allen and Trayvon Martin. We will continue with our series of non-violent demonstrations, rallies, Facebook post and t-shirt wearing but we will not have a riot in New Orleans. There are no more Mark Essex's around.

King asked "People, I just want to say, can we all get along? Can we just get along?" Rodney King stopped a riot that began in his name and that was his right. Sure we can all get along. As long as we are willing to continue to allow them to murder our brothers and our sons with no accountability.

R.I.P. Justin, Wendell and Trayvon.

ladatanews.com

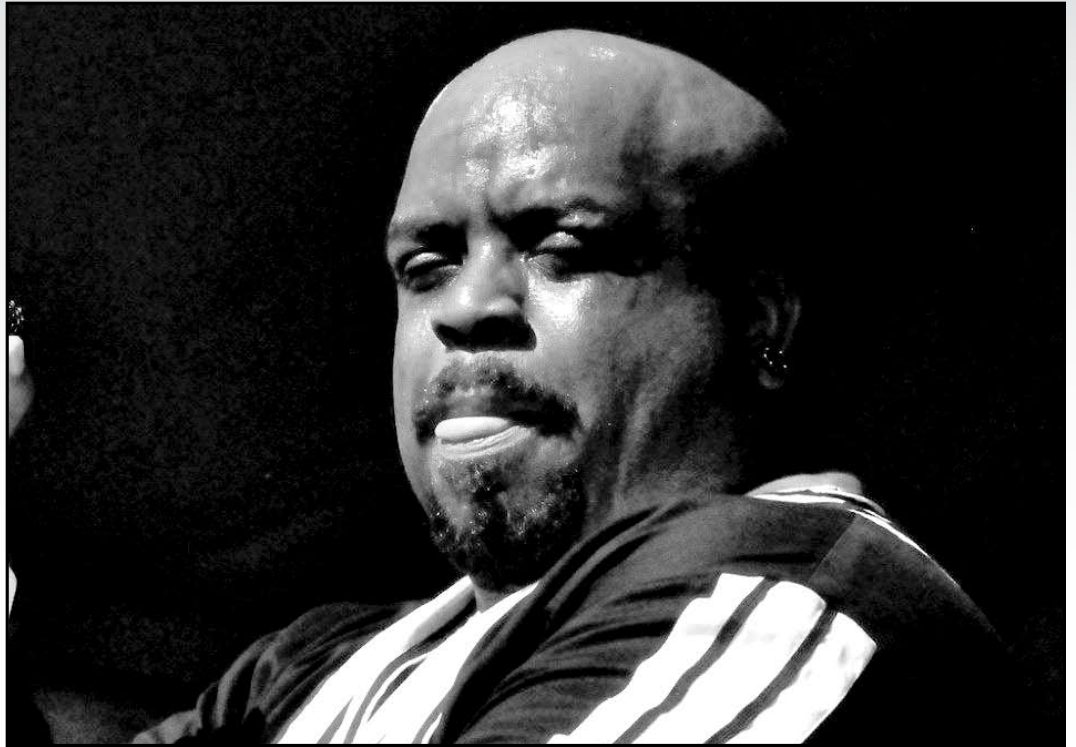
Jazz Fest Highlights!

Photos by Kichea S. Burt

Continued from page 6.



BJ Crosby



Cee Lo Green



Steel Pulse

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Class Reunion

May 25-27, 2012

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Social Justice Leaders Vow to Fight Racial and Ethnic Bias

By Jamaal Young

NEW ORLEANS—The nation's leading social justice and civil rights advocates pledged last Thursday at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's (WKKF) America Healing Grantee Conference to work together for racial healing and racial equity across the country.

Leaders of diverse organizations representing African-Americans, Latinos, Asian-American and Pacific Islanders, Native-Americans and all low-income communities across the U.S. acknowledged they face obstacles ranging from a conservative-leaning Supreme Court to new laws aimed at suppressing the minority vote.

Benjamin Jealous, Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) noted that the NAACP had worked with the Tea Party to get 12 progressive criminal justice reform bills signed by Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Connecticut had enacted a law abolishing the death penalty in the state.

He said, "There are issues out there – and especially within criminal justice – where we can actually get consensus between the left and the right and get great things done in this moment that'll drive down the incarceration rate and reform draconian sentences."

In addition to Jealous, other panelists included Marc Morial, President and CEO of the National Urban League; Janet Murguia, President and CEO of the National Council of La Raza; Jacqueline Johnson Pata, Executive Director of National Congress of American Indians; Rinku Sen, Executive Director of the Applied Research Center; Kathleen Ko, President and CEO of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum; Judith Browne-Dianis, Co-Director of the Advancement Project; Ralph Everett, President and CEO of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies; and Philip Tegeler, President and Executive Director of the Poverty and Race Research Action Council.

The group applauded WKKF's America Healing goal to provide equal opportunities for vulnerable children throughout this country, while promoting racial healing and addressing structural bias in



U.S. Congressman John Lewis, D-Ga., spoke at the "America Healing" initiative launch in Washington, D.C. (photo by Arelis Hernandez)

health care, employment, education, housing, the environment and other factors.

Murguia reminded participants of the enormous opportunity that has been building to bring people together around changing the current trajectory for all our children in this country.

"When we can come together in this modern era and understand that it's not just about our separate struggles, but it's about Dr. King's words – words that he wrote to Cesar Chavez at the height of his fast. He said our separate struggles are really one – the fight for justice, for humanity and for dignity," she said. "We've got to come together. We've got to stay together and understand that together we will move forward and conquer these difficult challenges."

She referenced a recent Washington Post article that quoted the architects of anti-immigrant bills as saying that in crafting the legislation they wanted to find the way to "create the most pain, make people the most uncomfortable and cause people to leave because

they are so afraid, scared and it's so painful."

Murguia continued saying that people have a right to say what they believe, but that we have the right to engage ourselves and place a value filter on those assertions.

"Right now, we're under attack," she said. "I can't sugarcoat it...we held a rally in front of the Supreme Court when they heard the Arizona law, S.B.1070 – a law essentially requiring law enforcement to check the immigration status of anyone they stop in Arizona. There've been other efforts across the country to mimic this law. We've seen pain and suffering in the lives of many families, particularly in Latino and immigrant families. And the civil rights nature of these laws is getting lost. That wasn't an immigration case they heard yesterday. That was a civil rights case."

Morial cited the Arizona law, as well as an array of obstacles to racial equity, calling it "the worst of times" for social justice in the U.S. But he quickly cited the unity of civil rights and social justice lead-

ers, and shifted gears, saying, "But they're the best of times. And one of the reasons why they are the best of times is because I look at this stage, I look at all of you, and I see the seeds of the future."

Everett noted another sign of progress. In 1970, when the Joint Center opened, he said there were less than 1,500 Black elected officials in the country. Today, there are more than 11,000.

"As part of our Place Matters program funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, we are about to release a study that shows how your zip code determines how long you live. In fact, the release will show a 25 to 30 year difference in some cases," said Everett.

Tegeler, meanwhile, reconnected to the theme of working with vulnerable children. He reasoned that segregated communities were preventing integrated schools, which would have dire consequences if not addressed.

"As long as we're keeping White children and children of color apart, I think we're going to perpetuate the divisions in this country," Tegeler said. "You

know, we've heard over and over again at this conference that racial and economic segregation is the driver of racial disparity – racial disparity in health, in education, in employment, in income, in incarceration. It's an underlying structure that feeds disparity and division."

Johnson Pata said, "Policies of empowerment that really make self-determination work can counter paternalism," she said. "We can actually have our tribal leadership help make decisions about our school curriculum and not have the state government guide what cultural activities are acceptable for our communities; then we could actually have the governmental tools like other states and other communities – governments, so that we could have tax-exempt bond financing to stimulate our economic development."

Browne-Dianis steadfastly raised the need to save the children. She cited instances where young minority children were arrested as if they were adults. And she noted the vast differences in resources between her child's school in a predominantly Black county in Prince George's County Md. and the school where the child of a friend attends in a White community of Fairfax County, Va.

"We as a country cannot allow the mistreatment of our babies," she said. "We have got to reform our schools, but not in the way in which we're going. The trajectory of education reform in this country is wrongheaded. We are going down the road of privatization, which means that there will be sorting-out of our children, sorting that will disadvantage children of color for centuries. You may have heard in the past few days, in Philadelphia they have announced the dissolution of their public school system. How are we allowing this to happen?"

The panel concluded with a discussion of what can be done to continue to move the racial equity conversation forward.

Sen said, "I want to suggest that one way we can deal with a range of policies is to establish a pattern or practice in government that requires racial equity impact analysis to be done on any of the policies we are considering putting in place."

Gardening/ Continued from page 7.

bromeliads have very small rooting systems because the roots are only used to anchor the plant, unlike other plants where the root system is how the plant draws in water and nutrients. Like the air plant, most bromeliads can grow epiphytically (growing on another plant or structure for mechanical support only). Epiphytes are not parasites, although they attach themselves to other trees and plants they do not leach off of the host plant. The host plant is only used as a place for the epiphyte to hang out. Air plants are epiphytes that is why they do not need soil. The most common epiphyte in these parts is Spanish Moss which is also bromeliad of the Tillandsia genus and the botanical name for Spanish Moss is Tillandsia usneoides. All bromeliads are not epiphytes some are terrestrial meaning they need to be in soil to live. What we know as the common pineapple is a terrestrial bromeliad that must be planted in soil to survive.

How Air Plants receive moisture and nutrients:

ALL bromeliads have hundreds of tiny scales that cover their foliage. The scales catch dew drops and that is how the plants are hydrated. In the wild the only fertilization air plants receive is from an occasional drop of bird poop, or dropping from tiny tree frogs.

How Air Plants Propagate

When we speak of propagation, we are talking about how a plant reproduces. With most plants you can grow them from seed if you have the patience. Or you can take cuttings and try to root them and that takes time, patience, and a little bit of luck. But what I love about bromeliads is they will just send up little baby plants or "pups." As air plants grow they just keep sending out pups. You may have started with a plant that was about seven inches wide and five inches deep, and you could end up with a huge ball that has tripled in size over time; without planting seeds, trying to root cuttings, and keeping your fingers crossed that the process worked.

Care for the Air Plant

Spritz your plant daily with water and place it near a window and it is happy. If you are going to be away for a week or so, soak the plant in a bucket of water for a couple of hours, take it out and re-hang it and it will be happy to see you when you return. If you keep your air plants outdoors no care required; the morning dew keeps them quite happy. Bromeliads do not like heavy fertilization so whatever fertilizer you chose dilute it down to 1/3 of the recommended mixture.

The "air-plant" in the photo is a part of the new Bromeliad Exhibit that recently opened in the Conservatory at the New Orleans Botanical Garden in City Park, which I installed along with members of the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society, and MG Donna Childress. I forged a partnership with the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society and the New Orleans Botanical Garden to make the exhibit a reality. I chose this creative way of displaying these whimsical plants so that they just seem to be

levitating there in the air.

Air plants are usually green or grayish in color but this one just happens to be blooming.

If I have peeked your interest in bromeliads visit the new Bromeliad Exhibit at the New Orleans Botanical Garden and be sure to check out the "Living Curtain" which is a part of the exhibit and also my creation. If you would like to purchase some wonderful air plants the Bromeliad Show and Sale sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Bromeliad Society will take place at Lakeside Shopping Center on Saturday, May 5, 2012. If you are an avid gardener and would like to get all of the information on how to become a Master Gardener go to www.lsuagcenter.com from the home page click on "Lawn and Garden" and then click on "Master Gardener. Coming soon you will be able to email your gardening questions to me through our website.

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