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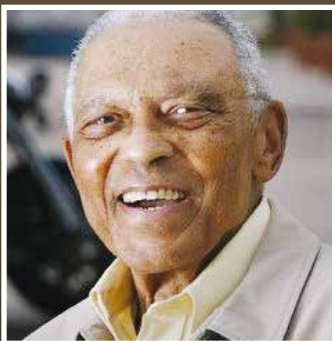
Special Commemorative Issue

# Nelson Mandela

July 18, 1918 - December 5, 2013

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# Nelson Mandela

## Reflections on a Life Dedicated to the Spirit of Freedom, Justice and Equality



Dorian Francis (center) is pictured above during his first trip as part of the New Orleans South African Connection (NOSACONN) earlier this year.

By Edwin Buggage

### Nelson Mandela the Freedom Fighter

When one thinks of those rare individuals who are selfless leaders who fight for a cause bigger than themselves names like Gandhi, Dr. Martin

Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X come to mind. But Nelson Mandela is another name that has come to symbolize the struggle for equality and has become the embodiment of the continued goal of making the world a better place for all. During his amazing life he took on the call to fight against injustice in South Africa's Apartheid Government of

White minority rule. Spending 27 years in prison before being released and becoming the nation's first Black and truly democratically elected President. After choosing to serve only one term, he continued to fulfill his life's work serving humanity and inspiring people around the world in the struggle against injustice.

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622  
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones  
CEO/Publisher  
Glenn Jones  
VP Advertising  
& Marketing  
Edwin Buggage  
Editor  
Cheryl Mainor  
Managing Editor  
Calla Victoria  
Executive Assistant  
June Hazeur  
Accounting

**Contributors**  
Edwin Buggage  
George Curry  
Marc H. Morial  
Julianne Malveaux  
The Bookworm Sez  
MG Calla Victoria  
**Art Direction & Production**  
MainorMedia.com  
**Editorial Submissions**  
datanewseditor@bellsouth.net  
**Advertising Inquiries**  
datanewsad@bellsouth.net

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



For over a decade, Damon Batiste (pictured far left) has been bringing groups of people over to South Africa through the non-profit organization of which he is the Founder, New Orleans South African Connection (NOSACONN). He is pictured with actors Gabrielle Union (center) and Idris Elba (far right) who accompanied the group on one of their many trips.

### Paying Homage to Mandela's Global Impact on the Struggle towards Justice

Recently, the world suffered the loss of this great leader, who passed away on December 5th at the age of 95. Leaders from around the world attended his memorial service including President Barack Obama along with three other living U.S. Presidents. In his remarks Obama spoke about how Mandela inspired him and that one of his first times getting involved in civic activism was when he was a college student speaking out against apartheid. He also spoke of Mandela's larger global impact, "Mandela moved a nation towards justice and in the process moved billions around the world," Obama said during his speech.

Leaders from the national civil rights community also released statements on the passing of Mandela including National Urban League President and former New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial. "There are

few men or women who leave such an indelible imprint and impact on the world that they are remembered, honored and celebrated by nations near and far for centuries after they depart. There are few people for whom even all the words in every language fail to convey the magnitude and meaning of their lives. Without a doubt in mind or heart, I know that Nelson Mandela is one among a very select few."

### Damon Batiste's New Orleans South African Connection (NOSACONN) brings New Orleans and South Africa Together

Mandela's life is one that's impacted people and inspired many. One such person is Damon Batiste, who has for over a decade been bringing groups of people over to South Africa through his New Orleans South African Connection (NOSACONN), that is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization, comprised of business, civic, community and entertainment

industry leaders, both in New Orleans and in the Republic of South Africa. Since 1998 they have produced special events in the City of New Orleans and the Republic of South Africa, these activities have allowed our organization to serve as pioneers of presenting art, culture and tourism as the forefront of economic development. "I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Mandela briefly at his 80th Birthday Celebration when he was then President and although our conversation was brief with him encouraging me to keep doing what I am doing it was something that has stayed with me and keeps me motivated in the work that I am doing especially with young people," says Batiste of his meeting with Mandela.

As he continues his work as one of the Founders of the Batiste Cultural Arts Academy recently receiving a "Turnaround Arts Commission," a grant from President Barack Obama's Committee on Arts and Humanities. Students were invited to a special screening of Beasts

of the Southern Wild with filmmakers, leading actress and the film's star, Quvenzhané Wallis, and First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House. "Mandela always spoke of the children and making things better for the next generation in addition to planting imparting the spirit of activism in them where they too would live to serve others. And what we are doing is looking to groom the next Mandela who would lead the fight in our City for a better life for all our citizens," says Batiste of his work and how Mandela inspired him to work to empower the youth.

### Jerome Smith: The Importance of Knowing Your History and Continuing the Struggle

As Nelson Mandela was fighting against Apartheid in South Africa, in the United States this country was embroiled in a fight against segregation in the southern U.S. and against White repression across the nation. In New Orleans many fought, struggled and died alongside many of those who have come to be part of the lore of American History. One of the people who stood on the frontlines was Jerome Smith, who today is still working with young people through his Treme' Based Tambourine and Fan that teaches young people about culture and working to better their community. "We have always taught our kids about Nelson Mandela and Apartheid, we also taught them what his life and struggle stands for and teaches about him right alongside Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.," says Smith.

Smith has lived through a lot and has many stories that are sometimes not in the history books. He speaks of a time during the Civil Rights Era, that in Chicago a group that included Martin Luther King Jr., Harry Belafonte and others from the U.S. planned to go to South Africa, but the trip was called off," he says speaking of the awareness of those involved in the Civil Rights Movement to the Apartheid regime and seeing the parallel struggle for Blacks in the U.S. and in South Africa. He also spoke of many from New Orleans who went to see Mandela in Atlanta when he was first released from prison, in addition to the kids of Tambourine and Fan meet-

ing Winnie Mandela when she came to visit New Orleans.

### Dorian Francis: Africans Unite

Every year Damon Batiste through his New Orleans South African Connection brings groups to the motherland for what is a life changing experience. This was the case for Dorian Francis, who went earlier this year. "I have to say that since going there the way I look at myself will never be the same," says Francis, a Program Manager and Community Advocate who works with youth. Continuing he says, "As I looked around and saw so many people who looked like me and many of the things they did reminded me so much of New Orleans, it made me feel like I'd returned home and it made me realize that it is true when they say New Orleans is the most African City in the U.S. and that you can take Africans out of Africa, but you cannot take Africa out of the Africans."

Dorian says because of Mandela they were able to do the amazing things as far as cultural exchange and the opening up of South Africa. He also feels that he was able to make valuable connections and feels that some should consider looking at opportunities to do business and get to know more about South Africa and the continent, in general. In a lighter moment he talks about how he learned that one of the poses Black men sometimes do squatting down, the South Africans do the same pose as well. And as a songwriter and performer when doing their song God Bless New Orleans, he brought up some young ladies and changed New Orleans to Soweto and now they have adopted the song as their own.

### Nelson Mandela's Legacy and Life Lessons for Future Generations

Nelson Mandela was a man who inspired so many with his courage and resilience and in his transcending this life his spirit of conviction to a larger cause lives on. And while it takes a unified push to move the mountain of some of the injustices in society. On some level change begins

Cover Story, Continued  
on page 10.

# New Orleans Remembers Larry McKinley

*Legendary Radio Host, Record Producer & Jazz Fest Fixture, Dies at Age 85*

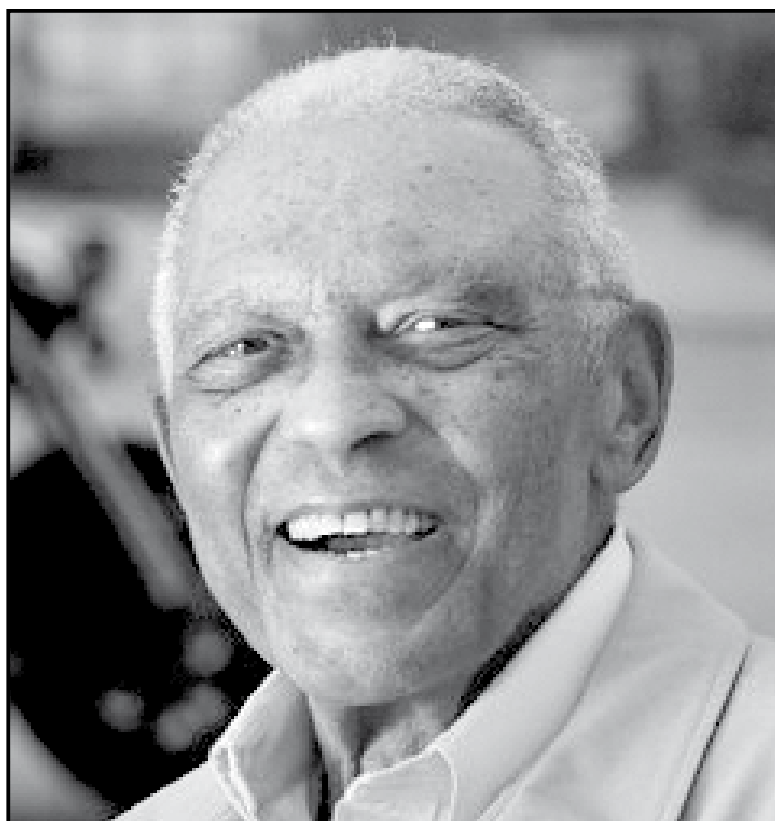
Larry McKinley, a charismatic and beloved radio personality, music promoter, and record business impresario passed away at his home on December 8, 2013, due to complications related to chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). He was 85. Known as "Friendly" Larry McKinley, he was a key figure in the overlapping histories of New Orleans rhythm and blues/rock and roll and the city's radio industry. His sonorous voice was well known in New Orleans from his career as a radio announcer and, later, through his voiceover work on numerous television and radio advertisements, most notably those for the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

McKinley was born in Chicago, Illinois on December 13, 1927. After attending Columbia College of Broadcasting, he moved to New Orleans in September 1954 for an internship at radio station WMRY, which later changed its call letters to WYLD-AM. By the late 1950s, McKinley had emerged as one of the most popular and influential deejays in the city, in part due to the "Larry and Frank" show in which he played two characters using different voices. McKinley earned high respect in national circles for more than just his on-air repartee, as major record-labels came to seek his imprimatur before releasing new songs. The

executives at Atlantic Records, for instance, felt that McKinley played a crucial role in the success of Ray Charles's 1959 hit "What'd I Say," which was the label's best-selling song at the time. As a testament to his standing in the radio industry, McKinley was inducted into the charter class of the Black Radio Hall of Fame, founded in 1998 by legendary deejay Jack "The Rapper" Gibson.

In 1959, McKinley co-founded Minit Records at the behest of Joe Banashak, a local record-business veteran. He also promoted local concerts by national R&B superstars, including James Brown, Sam Cooke, Jackie Wilson, and The Jackson 5. New Orleans musicians often opened the shows, many of which took place at the Municipal Auditorium, giving homegrown performers a prime opportunity to broaden their exposure and ascend in the music business.

In 1970, McKinley embarked on a long and productive relationship with the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, serving on the board of the festival's foundation, recording promos and commercials for the festival, and later presiding as master of ceremonies at the annual Foundation Gala. He returned to radio in 1975 to host a show on WNNR-AM and to serve as the station's program director. He



Pictured above is Larry McKinley, legendary radio host, record producer & Jazz Fest fixture. McKinley, was honored by Data News Weekly as a Trailblazer of the Year prior to Hurricane Katrina and was inducted into the charter class of the Black Radio Hall of Fame.

later became a leader in political and public relations campaigns for various candidates and clients. Along with longtime friend Judge Eddie Sapir, he hosted an interview show on local cable-access television. Many of their guests were former colleagues of McKinley's from his early days in the industry.

In addition to his induction into the Black Radio Hall of Fame, McKinley was awarded an Off-Beat Magazine Best of the Beat Music Business Award in 2005, and he was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

Larry McKinley is survived by his four daughters, Melody McKinley (Edward) Watters of

New Orleans, Joy McKinley (Kenneth) Chancellor of New Orleans, Glenda McKinley English of New Orleans, and Dana McKinley (Lloyd) Landburg of New Bern, North Carolina; six grandchildren, Navis Hill Robinson, Blair Brown Zeigler, Shon Cockerham, Ernest McKinley English, Maya Sophia English, and Catilyn Ann-Marie Kelly; ten great-grandchildren; his long time companion Betty A. McLin; and a host of family, friends, and admiring New Orleanians.

He is preceded in death by his father, the late Jesse McKinley, his mother, the late Ester Fontaine Jordan, and an only brother, the late Kenneth McKinley.

The public is invited to a memorial celebration on Monday, December 16, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Lawless Memorial Chapel at Dillard University, located at 2601 Gentilly Boulevard in New Orleans.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the same location.

A private burial will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Larry McKinley's name to the George and Joyce Wein Jazz and Heritage Education Center, 1205 N. Rampart St., New Orleans, LA 70116, [www.jazzandheritage.org](http://www.jazzandheritage.org).

Services are entrusted to D.W. Rhodes Funeral Home.



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# Rush Extend Poll Streak It's the Longest in NAIA-D



The next top 25 will be announced Jan. 7:

- |                       |                        |                        |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Columbia (Mo.)     | 9. William Carey       | 17. Faulkner           |
| 2. Georgetown (Ky.)   | 10. Rocky Mountain     | 18. Culver-Stockton    |
| 3. (tie) Pikeville    | 11. Talladega          | 19. St. Gregory's      |
| 3. (tie) Southwestern | 12. Concordia (Calif.) | 20. (tie) Life         |
| Assemblies of God     | 13. Benedictine        | 20. (tie) Wiley        |
| 5. Evangel            | (Kan.)                 | 22. Hope International |
| 6. Arizona Christian  | 14. Philander Smith    | 23. Cumberland         |
| 7. John Brown         | 15. Freed-Hardeman     | 24. Martin Methodist   |
| 8. Cal State San      | 16. Montana State      | 25. Xavier             |
| Marcos                | Northern               |                        |

Xavier University of Louisiana is 25th in the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Coaches' Top 25 announced Tuesday.

The Gold Rush (7-3) are in the top 25 for the 26th consecutive time – that's the longest active streak in this division – and the 39th time in the last 40 polls. This is the first poll of the regular season; Xavier ranked 19th in the preseason.

Xavier's most notable victory this season was 90-80 in overtime at home against then-10th-ranked William Carey one week ago. The Gold Rush erased a 16-point second-half deficit to give the Crusaders their first loss of the season.

For the first time since Feb. 15, 2010, there are three Gulf Coast Athletic Conference teams in the top 25. Talladega (11th) and Philander Smith (14th) joined Xavier in the rankings. It's the first time since Jan. 25, 2010, that the GCAC has two teams in the top 14.

Columbia (Mo.) climbed from No. 4 to No. 1 after receiving 8-of-10 first-place votes.

Xavier will conclude final exams of the fall semester on Friday, then play three road games before Christmas – 4 p.m. Saturday at city rival Loyola, Dec. 17 at Spring Hill and Dec. 19 at 17th-ranked Faulkner. The XU men will play six straight on the road before their next home game at 5 p.m. on Jan. 11 against GCAC and city rival SUNO, which received votes in this week's poll and is 31st.

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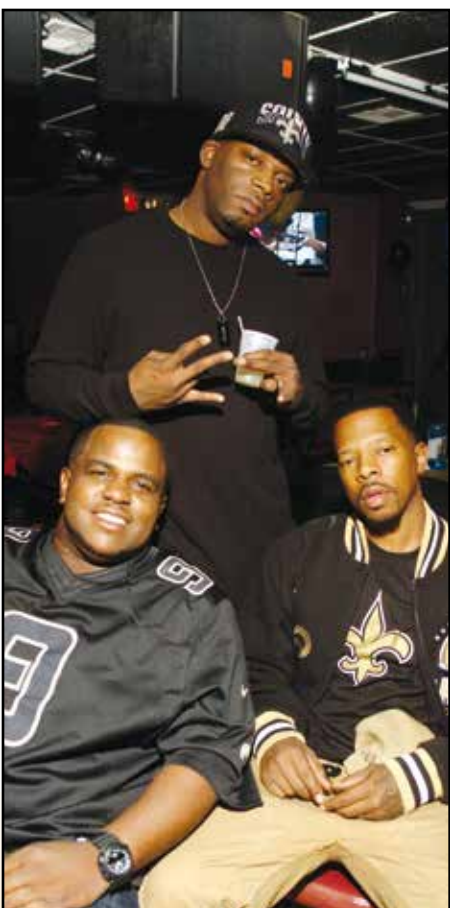


# Shoot Ya Best Shot!

## Club Hawaii's Grand Opening

Photos by Glenn Summers

A new nightspot opened in Gretna on November 21st . Club Hawaii was the place to be. Patrons who came out to celebrate the Grand Opening, had a great night and of course, Data was there too!



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events



# Decking Your Garden for the Holidays

By MG Calla Victoria

You do not have to wait for night-fall, when the holiday lights come on, to make your garden look festive. Colorful plantings for the season

will make your garden look beautiful throughout the daytime hours. Consider planting drifts of chrysanthemums in coordinating colors. If you are not living in a "White Christmas" zone, create the most fragrant

snowdrift around with sweet alyssums. Poinsettias will make a splash anywhere in your garden as well as bromeliads. Also consider planting in geometric shapes with pansies for some whimsy!

Check out my "Gardening Tip of the Week" at [www.thegardeningdiva.com](http://www.thegardeningdiva.com)

Remember, never get too busy to stop and smell the beautiful flowers.



Photos:

**Column 1**  
Poinsettia Tree

**Column 2**  
Top. Sweet Alyssum  
Middle. Chrysanthemum grouping  
Bottom. Magic Garden in Dubai

**Column 3**  
Top. Poinsettia Display  
Bottom. Bromeliad living wall hanging

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# Mandela's Road to Freedom



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

If I close my eyes, I can remember 1984. I am among those running from meeting to meeting working to pass Proposition J, the San Francisco ballot initiative that required the city to divest pension funds from companies doing business in South Africa. The ballot initiative had to get two-thirds of the vote because it dealt with money, and even in progressive San Francisco, some thought get-

ting votes out might be challenging. But a cross section of activists committed to divestment worked our tails off, and prevailed. San Francisco became among the first, and one of the largest, of our nation's cities to divest public pension funds.

I wish I could distill the energy that came from those rallies and community meetings. I can remember, with just one eye shut, the chants and songs, "South Africa will be free, South Africa will be free, Will be free South Africa." Students were among those to put themselves on the line for divestment, confronting their college and university leaders about the status of investments. The Free South Africa Movement was not a student movement, not a grass roots movement. It was simply a movement for justice that succeeded because many elements

of our nation were involved.

Those of us who favored divestment were following the lead of the African National Congress, who asked allies around the world to make South Africa "ungovernable." If massive divestment could stop the flow of dollars to South Africa (dollars that could be used to step up military action against innocent civilians), that would place pressure on the South African economy to make choices with dwindling resources. Would fighting to maintain apartheid be one of those? Divestment might make apartheid too expensive to maintain, or so we hoped. The divestment efforts contrasted sharply with the Sullivan Principles, crafted by the late Leon Sullivan, who asked US companies to stay in South Africa but only under certain conditions that dealt with fair pay and working condi-

tions. Those American corporations doing business with South Africa were getting lots of flack for choosing oppressors as their business partners.

The death of Nelson Mandela causes these memories to rush back, memories of activism, of social change, of the conviction that change was coming. The Free South Africa Movement wasn't a Black movement, or a White one; it was a movement for justice. The Free South Africa Movement, in Washington, D.C. and around the United States, had an uncommonly positive energy, even in the cynical Reagan era.

Nelson Mandela was freed from prison in 2000, went on to be elected president of South Africa, to dismantle apartheid, and to begin the social and economic transition of South Africa. The rest of the story is history. When

people speak of Mandela they will inevitably speak of his spirit of forgiveness, of the fact that even after having been unjustly jailed for 27 years, he was committed to reconciliation in South Africa.

Nelson Mandela projected a humble and forgiving spirit. His appearance of gentility was reassuring to many who expected someone formerly described as a "terrorist" to have little tolerance for the status quo. Still, a spirit of forgiveness is not a spirit that accepts social and economic inequality. President Mandela's gentle spirit was a forgiving one, but not a forgetful one. As president, he managed to juggle competing constituencies, but he never retreated from his demand that justice be served.

It is not clear when the economic gap in South Africa will be closed, or even narrowed. In

**Malveaux, Continued**  
on page 10.

## To Be Equal

# What Mandela Meant to America



**Marc Morial**  
President and CEO  
National Urban League

"Our victory in defeating apartheid was your victory too. We know that our pride in regaining our dignity is shared by you. To you, and to all of the American people who supported the anti-apartheid struggle, we thank you from the bottom of our heart for your solidarity, and for having cared." Nelson Mandela, September 1998, New York City

Nelson Mandela's heroic struggle for a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa inspired

freedom-loving people around the world but was especially intertwined with the spirit of the Civil Rights Movement in America. African Americans felt a special relationship with Mandela, a man who, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., endured years of persecution and discrimination in pursuit of freedom and equal opportunity for his people.

Both Mandela and King were unafraid to agitate for justice and equality, but each ultimately changed the course of history through the power of reconciliation and unity. Though Dr. King was 11 years younger, Mandela often spoke of his admiration for America's fallen civil rights champion. In fact, in his 1993 Nobel Peace Prize speech, Mandela praised King, saying, "It will not be presumptuous of us if we also add, among our predecessors, the name of another outstanding

Nobel Peace Prize winner, the late African-American statesman and internationalist, the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. He, too, grappled with and died in the effort to make a contribution to the just solution of the same great issues of the day which we have had to face as South Africans."

Twenty-nine years earlier, in his own Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Dr. King had related the American civil rights struggle to the freedom movement in South Africa. He said, "So you honor the dedicated pilots of our struggle who have sat at the controls as the freedom movement soared into orbit. You honor, once again, Chief Luthuli [Africa's first Nobel Peace Prize winner and Mandela mentor] of South Africa, whose struggles with and for his people, are still met with the most brutal expression of man's inhumanity to man."

The connections between our struggles did not end there. In the 1970s American youth on college campuses across the country held large anti-apartheid demonstrations, urging the United States to divest its investments in South Africa until the government ended its brutal subjugation of the majority Black population. While I was a student at Georgetown University Law Center in 1981, I co-led an effort to boycott the cafeteria operator because of its investments in South Africa. During this same period, I was a member of the leadership team of the National Black Law Students Association that pushed for divestment of South African investments by U.S. companies. Early in my career, I was arrested at the South African Embassy as part of a mass, peaceful protest led by Congressman Walter

Fauntroy, Mary Frances Berry and Randall Robinson, founder of TransAfrica, in support of U.S. economic sanctions against South Africa.

After years of demonstrations, arrests and political action, the U.S. Congress finally passed the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986. Sponsored by California Congressman Ron Dellums and supported by the Congressional Black Caucus, the Act imposed significant economic sanctions against the government of South Africa and was a major factor in the abolishment of the system of apartheid in 1991.

As the world mourns the passing and celebrates the life of Nelson Mandela, America is especially indebted to the great leader for his inspiration and solidarity in our shared struggle for human freedom, equal opportunity and justice for all.



# Cracking Down on Payday Lenders

By Charlene Crowell  
NNPA Columnist

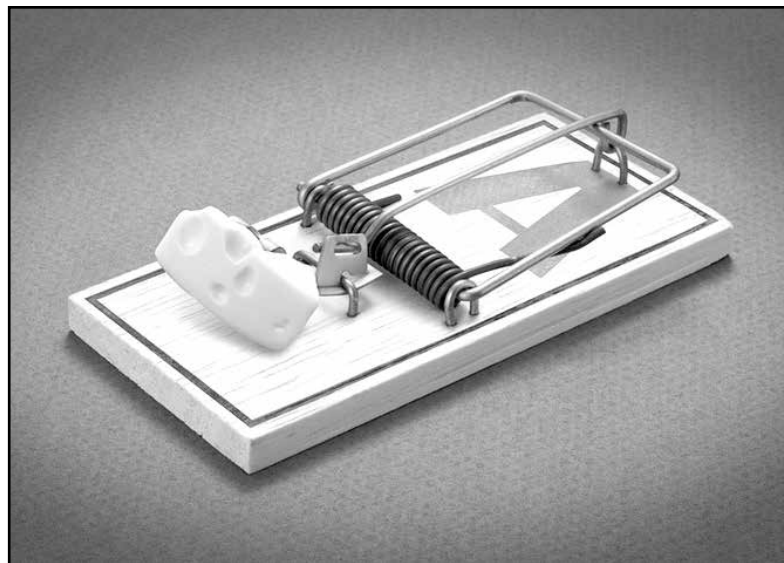
Just in time for the holiday season, three federal regulators have taken two separate actions against payday lending. One seeks to remedy outrageous wrongdoing by refunding money to past customers. The other will protect existing or new borrowers from further financial exploitation. By actively righting wrongs and implementing common-sense reforms, these regulators offer consumers prospects for a happier holiday season.

On November 20, in its first enforcement action against a payday lender, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) secured an agreement from Cash America International, Inc. to reimburse \$14 million to approximately 14,000 consumers. The refunds are a result of "robo-signing" debt collection documents and also overcharging on payday loans given to members

of the military or their families. Affected consumers will receive a full refund. Additionally, Cash America will also pay a \$5 million fine for those violations and other misconduct.

CFPB's regulatory action is particularly significant because Cash America is one of the largest and most influential in the industry. In fact, Dan Feehan, its CEO, said at a 2007 Jeffries Financial Services conference, "[T]he theory in the business is [that] you've got to get that customer in, work to turn him into a repetitive customer, long-term customer, because that's really where the profitability is."

November 21, the next day, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) issued supervisory guidance to rein in payday lending by banks. These two regulators will now require banks making payday loans to assess a borrower's ability to repay the loan and estab-



lish a clear limit on repeat loans.

"Every year, abusive payday loans strip billions of dollars of wealth from African-American families and we applaud the CFPB for the enforcement action taken against Cash America," said Hilary Shelton, who holds the dual roles of director of the NAACP Washington Bureau and its se-

nior vice-president of policy and advocacy. "We also commend the FDIC and the OCC for their guidance on payday loans as we move one more step forward in advancing economic justice for all."

The Center for Responsible Lending (CRL) also commented on the regulatory actions, saying: "We applaud the FDIC and OCC

for recognizing the harms caused by this type of lending and sending a clear message to the banks they supervise. We urge the Federal Reserve to do the same with regard to Fifth Third Bank and Regions Bank, as both of these banks continue to push payday products. And we hope the CFPB will continue its work on payday lending by promulgating a rule that stops any payday lender from trapping borrowers in debt."

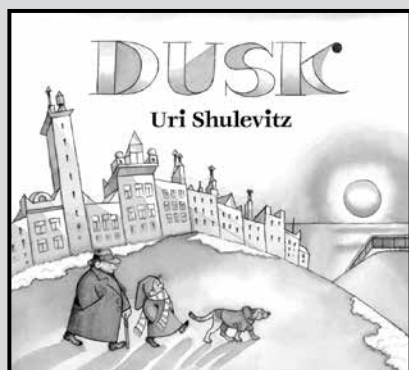
Indeed, further regulatory action is needed. Research has long shown that many payday loan borrowers soon become mired in a turnstile of debt that worsens with every repeat loan.

Earlier this year, Rebecca Borne, CRL's senior policy counsel, testified before the Senate Special Committee on aging, advising how more than 13 million older Americans struggling to live on \$21,800 a year or less are often caught into payday lending's debt

**Pay Day Loans,**  
Continued on page 10.

## Book Review

# Dusk



"Dusk"  
by Uri Shulevitz  
c.2013,  
Farrar Straus Giroux  
\$17.99 / \$19.99  
Canada 32 pages

By The Bookworm Sez

This time of year, one of your favorite things to do is to look at lights.

Your entire neighborhood is filled with all kinds of them. Lights on houses, lights on trees, lights on bushes, wire, decks, and steps. You might see them on boats, in the park, on a statue, or made into shapes in someone's front yard. And you might even have them inside your own house, on a tree or in a window.

They're twinkly. They're bright. And you can't stop looking at all the lights. So let's take a walk to see the lights in "Dusk" by Uri Shulevitz.

It gets dark very early in the winter, sometimes even before you get home from school. On this one winter

afternoon, a boy, his grandfather, and their dog decide to take a walk around the city. By the time they got to the edge of the water, the sun was disappearing beyond the horizon.

"How sad," the boy said, "the day is no more."

But the grandfather (who had a very long beard) wasn't worried. It was only dusk, which is what happens when the sun goes down.

On their way back to the city, they noticed that people were scurrying everywhere. Some were on their way back home at the end of the day. Others were hoping to do a little shopping at the downtown stores.

The grandfather and the boy met a lot of unusual people as they walked. One man was shopping for toys. A woman with a very fancy hat

was looking for gifts for her kitten. People were looking for yummy things and weird things.

But the boy, his grandfather, and their dog kept right on walking. It was starting to get dark. "As nature's lights go out, city's lights come on" and so did the lights on all the downtown stores! The boy saw Christmas lights on the streetlamps and on Christmas trees inside and outside. He saw candles on a menorah, and children celebrating Hanukkah. He saw candles in another window, standing proud on a kinara and surrounded by children celebrating Kwanzaa.

It was beautiful. It was magnificent. It was almost as if the sun was still out.

So your child wants a read-aloud tonight, but there's not much time for it. Grab

"Dusk," then, because this book won't take long.

Author Uri Shulevitz tells a story of an evening stroll on a cold night and he does it with a handful of words; some pages, in fact, hold just a half-sentence. That forces you to take a slower, ambling pace in reading – somewhat like a leisurely walk.

And maybe because those words are so sparse, it's easy to focus on the illustrations here – which are, perhaps, what you should be doing anyhow. Shulevitz' drawings are done in gorgeous color, evoking the night chill and the warmth of the lights.

If you're looking for a Kwanzaa-Christmas-Hanukkah book that will dazzle your 2-to-6-year-old, this one's it. Read it, and "Dusk" could become one of her favorite things.



## Senator JP Morrell Announces Holiday Essay Contest

Dear Friend:

I am excited to announce a holiday essay contest, open to all elementary, middle, and high school students of Orleans, Jefferson, and St. Bernard Parish schools. The holiday season is a time for family, celebration, and joy for people all around the world. I encourage students from across District 3 to submit essays answering the following question:

What makes the holiday season so important to you? In your essay, explain why your holiday traditions, experiences, and/or favorite memories make your holiday season special.

Two contest winners from each parish will be selected, one from Grades 1-6 and one from Grades 7-12. The six winning students will receive a Kindle Fire for their hard work and accomplishments.

Sincerely,

JP Morrell

State Senator, District 3



State Senator JP Morrell

### How to Enter

All entries must be submitted no later than Friday, December 20th. Email your entry as a document attachment to MorrellHolidayContest@gmail.com. With your email submission, please provide the following information in the body of your email:

Date of birth

Telephone number

E-mail address

School name

Grade level

If you are not able to email, call my office for assistance at (504) 284-4794. I look forward to reading about our students' different traditions and celebrations, and I wish you all a very happy holiday season.

### Giving Back Over the Holidays

During the holidays we must remember to give thanks for what we have and give back to those less fortunate. If you're interested in donating time or goods over the holidays, I urge you to check out the charities listed below:

St. Bernard Project  
Santa on the Bayou  
Boys & Girls Clubs of  
Southeast Louisiana  
Ozanam Inn - Forgotten  
Angels Christmas Party

## St. Mary's Academy Pre-K4 Students Celebrate The Life Of Nelson Mandela



Pictured back row left to right: Lindsey Arnold-Pre-K4 Teacher and Barbara Carlton-Pre-k4 Teacher

As people around the globe mourn the passing of Nelson Mandela, St. Mary's Academy's Pre-K4 students celebrated the international icon's life. Donning African garments made by their teacher Barbara Carlton and her sister Annie Williams, students learned about the freedom fighter's life and impact of his work around the world.

"Nelson Mandela was a great man who stood for love, peace and forgiveness," said Carlton adding that it is vitally important to teach children at an early age about the sacrifices that were made by others on their behalf. "Education is the most powerful tool that we can give our youth so that they too can become world changers like Mandela."

### Cover Story/ Continued from page 3.

with self, "When I think of Mandela, although he was part of a movement he had to be a man of courage and look at himself first and what he was willing to sacrifice. The power to change starts with the man in the mirror. One must go through a real self-assessment and know that it will take not just heart, but a bigger heart to become a community servant and advocate," says Dorian Francis.

Living a life with a greater purpose is what Mandela embodied. Jerome Smith is a kindred spirit, giving his life to make the City a better place for the citizens of New Orleans. In his many years of being an activist and advocate of uplift he oftentimes looked to Mandela as inspiration. "I have been involved in the fight for human rights my entire life and there have been times when I have been placed in jail during protesting against injustice and it is the spirit of

Mandela that carried me and many others through."

On his many trips and speaking with many associated with Mandela, the one thing Damon Batiste has heard over and over again is passing on the tradition of fighting for freedom to young people. "Today the struggle is for us to build future leaders from the ranks of our young. But today it is not just about only Black kids, but young people from around the globe to embody the spirit of Nelson Mandela and look at the incredible things he was able to do. And look at the many steps he took in his life in becoming an inspiration for all people, and if we are able to do that we can make the world a better place for all. Today I say the world has suffered a great loss, but we celebrate a man of great courage, resilience and sacrifice, whose life is a lesson for greatness for future generations."

### Malveaux/ Continued from page 8.

many ways, Black South Africans control the political sphere, while the white business establishments control the money, just as is the case in several cities in the U.S. South. People speak of Mandela's "forgiveness" much as they speak of Dr. Martin Luther King's "dream." Can forgiveness be poured from a can of tinned milk to comfort the hungry child in the shanty? Is forgiveness a simple rhetorical term for those South Africans who are moving' on up, and a broken promise for those who remain down here on the ground?

Nelson Mandela left us much to celebrate, and also much to ponder. Where does the movement for freedom and justice go from here, both in South Africa and in the rest of the world? Which young people have ideas innovative enough to get us past freedom to equality of opportunity? How does one ameliorate an imposed inequality from the decades-old system of apartheid, and is there a desire to do so?

And two decades ago, the idealists sang, marched, and chanted – "South Africa will be free. South Africa will be free. Will be free, South Africa."

Ache' Madiba. Thank you for your ferocious forgiveness and for your persistent perusal of justice.

Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C.-based economist and writer. She is President Emerita of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, N.C.

### Pay Day Loans/ Continued from page 9.

trap. In two states – Florida and California – one in five payday borrowers is age 55 or older.

Similarly, other research has shown that more than one-quarter of bank payday borrowers are Social Security recipients and are 2.2 times as likely to have a bank payday loan as other bank customers. Further, to repay bank payday loans, an average of 33 percent of retirees' next Social Security check is taken.

Don't let your holiday season become a financial nightmare. Every day, but particularly at this time of year, consider these facts on payday loans:

The typical payday borrower remains in debt for 212 days;

The average payday borrower has nine transactions per year;

Ninety percent of the payday lending business is generated by borrowers with five or more loans per year; and

More than 60 percent of business is generated by borrowers with 12 or more loans per year.

This year and every year, avoid any financial product or loan that leaves borrowers with more problems than before. Whether from a storefront or from a bank, a payday loan is nothing more than a debt trap by design.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at [Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org](mailto:Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org).



# Obama Praises Mandela as 'Great Liberator'



By George E. Curry  
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

SOWETO, South Africa (NNPA) – President Barack Obama described Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first Black elected president, as "the last great liberator of the 20th century" and thanked the grieving nation for sharing their beloved former leader with the rest of the world.

Speaking Tuesday at a rain-soaked memorial service here attended by nearly 100 current and former international leaders, Obama said, "It is a singular honor to be with you today, to celebrate a life like no other. To the people of South Africa, people of every race and walk of life – the world thanks you for sharing Nelson Mandela with us. His struggle was your struggle. His triumph was your triumph. Your dignity and your hope found expression in his life. And your freedom, your democracy is his cherished legacy."

Mandela died last Thursday at the age of 95 after a long illness. The memorial service kicked off a week of celebrations that will culminate Sunday with his burial in his ancestral village of Qunu, in the Eastern Cape region. Flags are flying throughout the country at half-staff.

Coincidentally, the memorial service fell on United Nations Human Rights Day. Obama used the occasion to deliver stern words to leaders who repress their own people yet profess to admire Mandela, whom Obama mostly referred to as Madiba, the former president's Xhosa tribal name.

"There are too many people who happily embrace Madiba's legacy of racial reconciliation, but passionately resist even modest reforms that would challenge chronic poverty and growing inequality," President Obama said. "There are too many leaders who claim solidarity with Madiba's struggle for freedom, but do not tolerate dissent from their own people. And there are too many of us on the sidelines, comfortable in complacency or cynicism when our voices must be heard."

Like many U.S. civil rights leaders, Obama drew a parallel between Mandela's struggle for majority rule in South Africa and African-Americans' struggle to overcome slavery and Jim Crow laws that treated Blacks as second-class citizens.

"We know that, like South Africa, the United States had to overcome centuries of racial subjugation. As was true here, it took

sacrifice – the sacrifice of countless people, known and unknown, to see the dawn of a new day. Michelle and I are beneficiaries of that struggle," Obama said to applause. "But in America, and in South Africa, and in countries all around the globe, we cannot allow our progress to cloud the fact that our work is not yet done."

Mandela, a former amateur boxer, gave his last public speech in the soccer stadium where the tribute was held. Fittingly, the stadium is located in Soweto, a township where Blacks were forced to live under apartheid and where Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu have homes.

Accompanying Obama on Air Force One were former president George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. Former presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter arrived in South Africa on separate aircrafts.

Like many international gatherings, journalists observe every detail, including whether adversaries shake hands.

Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro shook hands but, White House officials were quick to note that it amounted to nothing more than an exchange of pleasantries.

"Nothing was planned in terms of the president's role other than his remarks," Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters traveling with Obama. "He really didn't do more than exchange greetings with those leaders on his way to speak, it wasn't a substantive discussion."

The fact that Obama and Castro were at the same event demonstrated the breath of Mandela's impact on their world.

"He was more than one of the greatest leaders of our time. He was one of our greatest teachers," U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon told those in attendance. "His baobab tree has left deep roots that reach across the planet."

Following in the footsteps of Mandela is a tough act to follow, as South African President Jacob Zuma has already discovered. He and the ruling ANC Party are unpopular because of a poor economy and record economic inequality. When Zuma rose to give the keynote speech Tuesday, he was widely booed. Some gave the thumbs down sign or rolled their wrists, a soccer gesture for substitution.

"There is no one like Madiba. He was one of a kind," Zuma said, as the booing subsided. "Mandela believed in collective leadership. He never wanted to be viewed as a messiah or a saint. He recognized that all of his achievements were a result of working with the A.N.C. collective."

President Obama relayed how Mandela's fight for freedom impacted him personally.

"Over 30 years ago, while still a student, I learned of Mandela and the struggles in this land. It stirred something in me. It woke me up to my responsibilities – to others, and to myself – and set me on an improbable journey that finds me here today. And while I will always fall short of Madiba's example, he makes me want to be better. He speaks to what is best inside us."

Gen. Thanduxolo Mandela, a relative who offered one of the eulogies, said: "I am sure Madiba is smiling from above as he looks down at the multitude of diversity gathered here, for this is what he strove for – the equality of man, the brotherhood of humanity."

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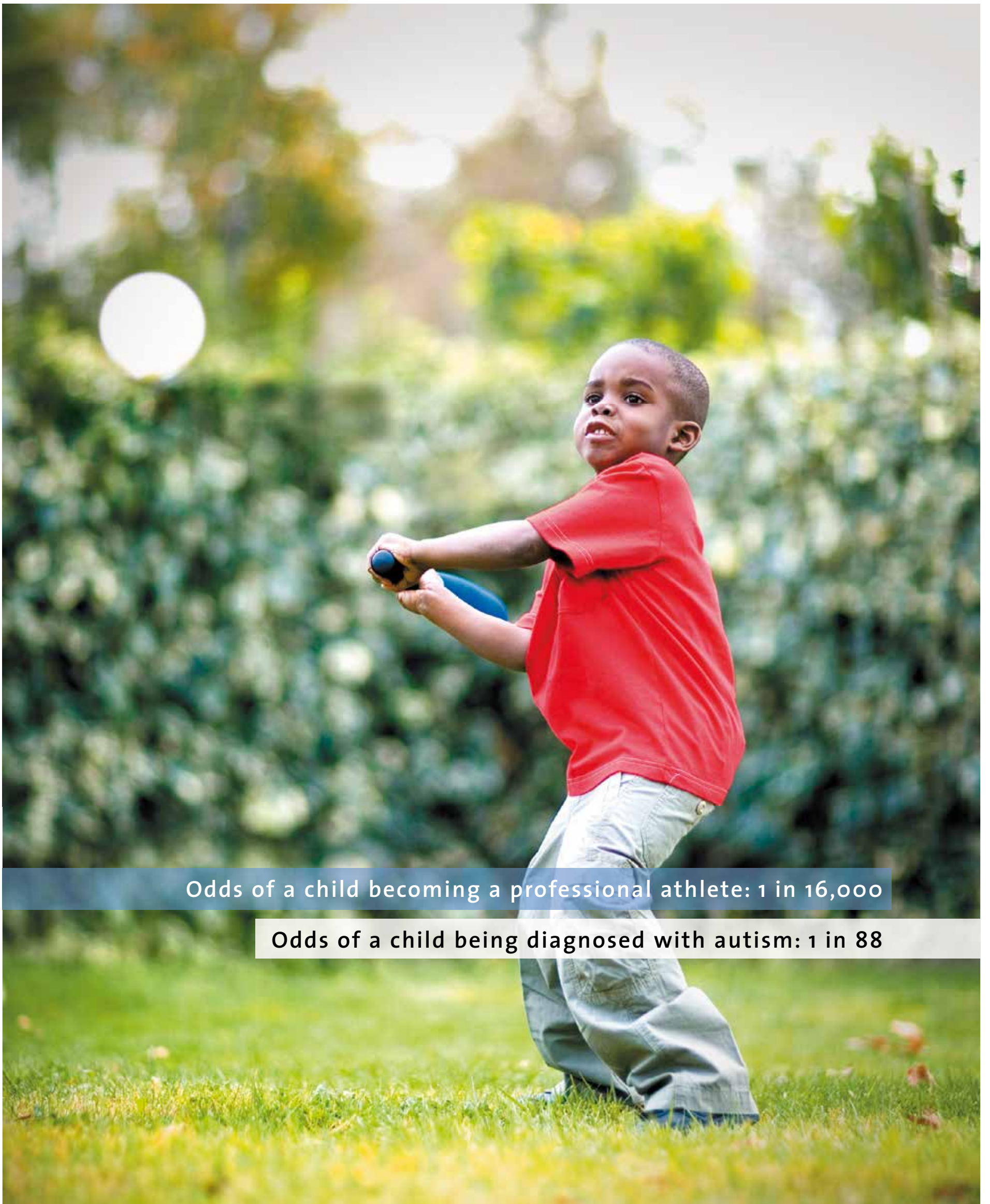
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No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months.

No babbling by 12 months.

No words by 16 months.



**To learn more of the signs of autism, visit [autismspeaks.org](http://autismspeaks.org)**



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