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The Whole Gritty City

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Ebola Virus Turns Deadly in the US



The Ebola virus, which has been responsible for over 2000 deaths in West Africa had its first diagnosis in the US two weeks ago with the arrival of Thomas Eric Duncan (image shown on cover) from Liberia. Duncan died from the disease in a hospital in Dallas, TX.

By Edwin Buggage

Recently the word Ebola was not something in the vocabulary or consciousness of many Americans. But as reports spread of the deadly virus killing many in West Africa, it became a concern across the globe as President Barack Obama pledged to send 4000 troops over on a humanitarian mission. Already the Ebola outbreak is estimated to have killed more than 3,400

people in West Africa and has taken the biggest toll in Liberia. This public health crisis is tragic because it is occurring in a part of the world that does not have the capacity to deal with a calamity of this scale; where there aren't even enough beds in isolation units to keep up with the hundreds who get sick each week.

Ebola was thought of as something that is a foreign problem until recently when Thomas Eric Duncan a 42 year old Liberian citizen left his native country to

visit the U.S. to see his family on September 19th and begin to get sick. He went to the hospital and told hospital personnel he's come from a country where Ebola was rampant but he was misdiagnosed and was sent home. Later, it was discovered that he had contracted Ebola. During his short stay in a U.S. hospital he was in a fight for his life that lasted a week. His death from Ebola has caused an international outcry to better understand the virus and get it under control before

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more people get infected.

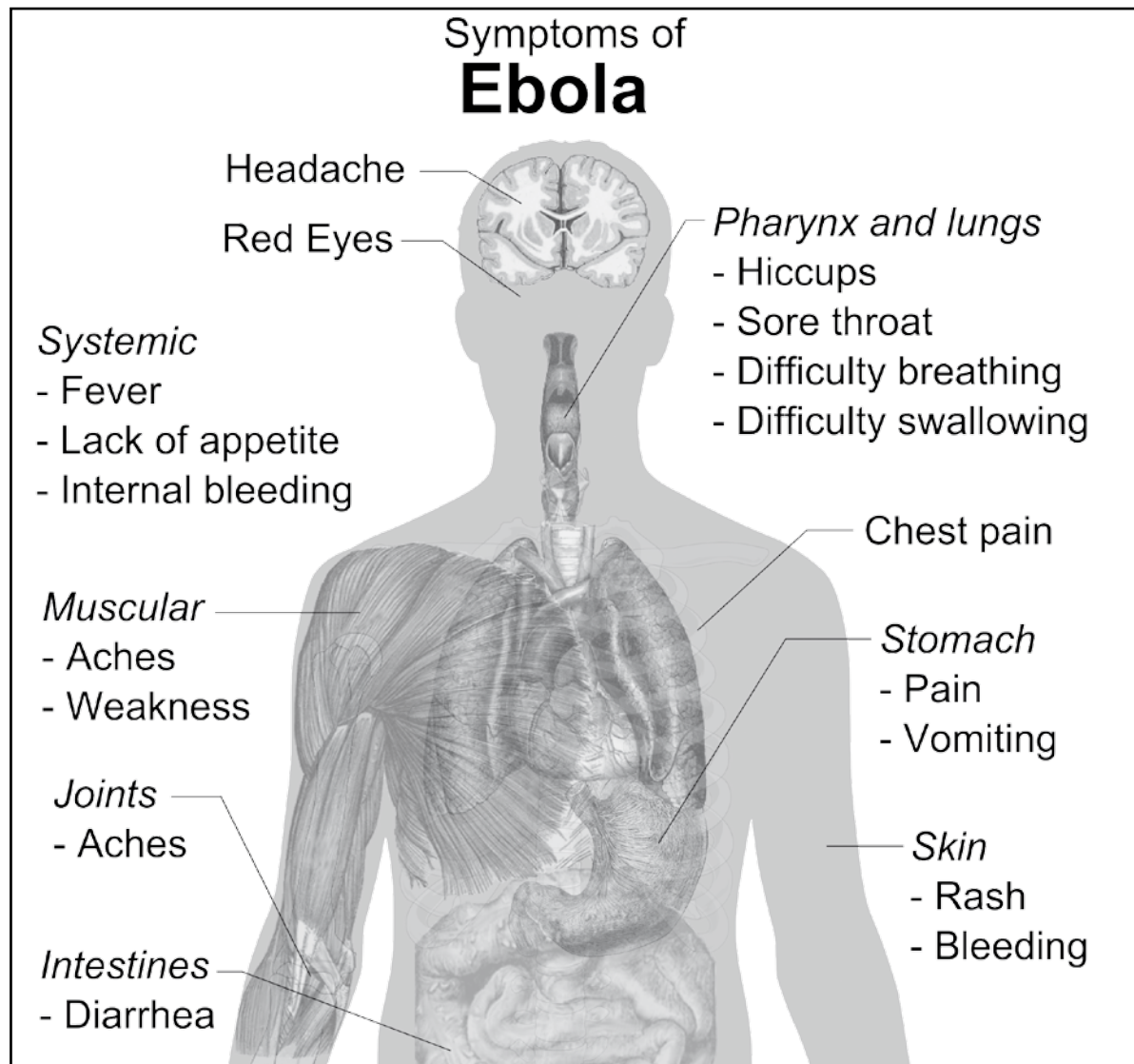
After it was discovered that a person with Ebola was in the U.S. many questions surrounded who this person was and how did he enter the country carrying this deadly virus. According to several published reports Thomas Eric Duncan was a citizen of Liberia from the Capital City of Monrovia who was coming on his first trip to the U.S. to visit his son and his son's mother. As this story unfolds though more questions than answers have been hurled around as to what has become an epidemic in parts of West Africa. Some question how did he get the Ebola virus, reports say that witnesses in Liberia say that he was helping Ebola infected patients and in one specific instance he carried a pregnant woman infected with Ebola from a hospital that turned her away because of lack of bed space to treat her. It is a sad commentary that a man who was working to try to help others has come to be a casualty of this deadly virus.

With this scare many Americans have become concerned that the virus could spread in the U.S. because Duncan was sick and had gone back home for two days when released from the hospital. A recent Pew Poll conducted found that 11 percent of Americans were "very worried" that they themselves or a family member will be exposed to Ebola, while 21 percent are somewhat worried. As we know as with many health scares it is important not to create an environment of hysteria and paranoia. And the best way to combat that is with our citizens being educated about the virus and about how to prevent yourself from becoming infected. These facts are from published reports from the Center for Disease Control and others knowledgeable in the field of infectious diseases including Thomas Geisbert, who is an expert on the deadly virus and a Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at the Institute for Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. He says the odds are extremely low that an Ebola infection could reach the United States and spread into a full-fledged outbreak.

This is some information/education about Ebola:

Think close contact, think wet and think warm

The virus doesn't live for long outside the body. Ultraviolet rays from sunlight destroy it, as does heat. Bleach kills it and plain soap and water can wash it away. Warm body fluids such as blood, vomit



and feces carry the virus. And it has to get into the body to infect you — it doesn't soak in through the skin, for instance. It must get in through the nose, mouth, eyes, through a cut or by a needle stick.

Delivering medical care

Doctors say close contact is the usual way for people to become infected with the Ebola virus. That includes caring for patients — health care workers are among those most likely to become infected as they examine patients, draw blood, clean them and clean up bodily fluids

such as vomit. That's why seven of the 10 people on the State of Texas and CDC's close contact list for Duncan are health professionals.

Home care

Experts say one reason Ebola is spreading so badly in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia is that patients have nowhere to run. They're being treated at home, or left to die in the streets. A single sick patient can infect his or her whole family. Anyone who's treated a loved one with a stomach virus knows how messy, and infectious, it can be.

Cleaning up a mess

The virus lives in vomit, diarrhea, blood and sweat. The sicker a patient is, the more virus there is in the bodily fluids. Thomas Geisbert, who tests Ebola drugs and vaccines at the University of Texas Medical Branch, says using high-pressure sprays to clean animal cages can splash the virus into the air. "If you blast it, you can create a manmade aerosol," Geisbert said. But that is not the same as the virus being airborne. It's not. And the mess, in general, should be fresh. "I don't think there's a whole lot of evidence that there is going to be virus on door

handles," says Geisbert. Ashoka Mukpo, the freelance NBC camera operator who's infected, said he believes he got infected while helping to disinfect a car used to transport a sick Ebola patient in Liberia.

Burying a body

People who have just died of Ebola are the most infectious. One healer who died in Sierra Leone infected 14 other people who prepared her body. CDC says people who have just died of Ebola should be placed in not one, but two sealed plastic bags and then a hermetically sealed casket.

You won't get it from casual contact.

Some people have expressed worry that Texas State officials walked unprotected into an apartment where Duncan stayed when he was sick. But there is no evidence at all that the virus could be suspended in the air somehow, or even on the walls or floors. It's important to clean an area where someone's been sick with Ebola but that's just to make sure no fluids that could contain the virus could remain. Forty years of studying Ebola outbreaks show the danger comes from being close to sick people. "Most times, when people get it, there's some kind of defining moment when they have been in close contact with the body fluids of somebody who had it," Geisbert said.

Here are some resources to look at to get more information about the Ebola virus:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/resources/pdfs/ebola-factsheet.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/prevention/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/transmission/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/symptoms/index.html>

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William D. Aaron Appointed to First NBC Bank Holding Company Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of First NBC Bank Holding Company has increased the size of the Board by one and appointed William D. (Bill) Aaron, Jr. to the position.

First NBC Bank Holding Company operates as the holding company for First NBC, a rapidly growing commercial bank headquartered in New Orleans. First NBC bank provides various financial services for businesses, institutions, and individuals.

Aaron is a founding shareholder and also serves as a Director of First NBC Bank with 32 full service banking offices located on the Northshore and the Southshore throughout the Greater New Orleans area.

The Holding company became a publicly traded company on May 10, 2013 pursuant to an Initial Public Offering (IPO) and Aaron served on its IPO committee.

Aaron plays an active role in the continued rebuilding of the New Orleans area nine years after Hurricane Katrina. A prominent figure in local and regional business circles, Aaron



William D. Aaron Jr., Esq.

is a member of the Executive Board of the Jefferson Business Council, the Board of Directors of Greater New Orleans Inc. and the Board of Directors of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce. In 2012 he served

as Chairman of the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Aaron currently serves as the Managing Shareholder and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the law firm of Aaron & Gianna, PLC.

Public Service Union Champions Higher Education

AFSCME Partners With Thurgood Marshall College Fund

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO, the nation's largest public services employees union, announced today a partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf) in its Union Scholars Program to provide educational opportunities and scholarships to talented students of color from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other colleges and universities.

"Our commitment to students of color at historically black and other colleges and universities is unwavering," said AFSCME President Lee Saunders. "AFSCME's partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund enables us to continue a tradition of developing young leaders who are dedicated and passionate about making a difference in our society."

"HBCUs have a history of educating minorities, which contributes to the diversity of today's workforce," said TMCf President & CEO Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. "The increased cost of college, along with stricter grant and loan payments, make gifts like this more important, and demonstrates AFSCME's commitment to improve education and build a pipeline for tomorrow's workforce."

The AFSCME Union Scholars Program provides students with an internship and the opportunity to earn money for college. They work on the frontlines of organizing campaigns, helping workers gain a voice on the job and better their lives for themselves and their families. AFSCME has a long history of activism and a historic connection with civil rights.

AFSCME's 1.6 million members provide the vital services that make America happen. With members in hundreds of different occupations — from nurses to corrections officers, child care providers to sanitation workers — AFSCME advocates for fairness

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Cricket Wireless Launches Cricket Community Stars

Cricket Wireless announces the launch of its Cricket Community Stars: Salute to Solopreneurs contest to recognize men and women who serve as one-person enterprises and still make it a priority to help their community.

"Small businesses and entrepreneurs are the heartbeat of most communities," said Winston Warrior, Director of Marketing and Customer Acquisition, Cricket Wireless. "As a community brand, we're always looking for ways to support these business owners – including our dealers and sole proprietors, thus, positively impact our customers where they live and work."

Entry forms are being accepted online now through Oct. 19, 2014, via the Events page of cricketwire-



less.mediaroom.com/cricket-stars. Entrants must provide details on their sole proprietorship business, community involvement and social media presence. All entries will be reviewed and evaluated by Cricket, then narrowed down to three finalists who will

be named 1st-, 2nd- or 3rd-place winners by a panel of judges, and receive prizes as follows:

- 1st Place: \$5,000, Free Mobile Device with 1 year of Cricket service
- 2nd Place: \$2,500, Free Mobile Device with six months of Cricket service

- 3rd Place: \$1,000, Free Mobile Device with three months of Cricket service

Finalists will be announced late-November and must participate in a Cricket-sponsored video recording which will be housed on Cricket's YouTube channel for finalists' social media engagement via their respective social media channels. Finalists will be recognized during in-store celebrations on Small Business Saturday which takes place on November 29, 2014. A panel of judges will review the finalists' videos and rate the finalists based on their community involvement/improvement, clarity and creativity in sharing their business story, social media engagement, and expressed passion to be named the grand prize winner. The panel will deter-

mine the 1st-, 2nd- and 3rd-place winners who will be announced mid-December. To learn more about Cricket Community Stars: Salute to Solopreneurs or to enter, visit cricketwireless.mediaroom.com/cricketstars and join the conversation via social media using #Cricket-Nation. The contest is open to residents of Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and Washington D.C.

In addition to Cricket Community Stars: Salute to Solopreneurs, Cricket offers affordable pricing, group and loyalty plans on a reliable, nationwide 4G LTE network. For instance, the monthly savings in the Group Save plan are perfect for solopreneurs in need of separate lines for business and personal use.

Dillard to Host Domestic Violence Awareness Events



Author Kevin Powell pictured above, will lead workshops for male and female students, respectively, on domestic violence.

Dillard University will host more than a dozen events on and off campus in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness during October. Workshops for students will range in topics from "Getting Rid of Negative Talk" to an "Intimate Partner Violence Discussion: Loving Each Other," and "Learning to Love Yourself: Self-Esteem and Self-Care Tips." Other events include an international perspective on domestic violence to be presented during the Global Citizenship Conference currently underway at the University; a movie showing of "What's Love Got to Do with It"; a poetry slam; as well as presentations to elementary and

middle school children.

On Oct. 22-23 Kevin Powell, who is well known for his political activism, literary and for his international humanitarian efforts, will lead workshops for male and female students, respectively, on domestic violence. Powell is the author of 11 books and his writings have appeared in The Washington Post, CNN.com, The Huffington Post, Ebony, Esquire, and Vibe Magazine, to name a few. He is active in the movement to end violence against women and girls.

According to the September 2014 report by the Violence Policy Center, Louisiana has one of the high-

est rates of domestic violence in the country. The report ranks Louisiana in the No. 4 spot for homicide among female victims based on the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report data (2012). When race is considered, black females are murdered nearly two and half times higher than white females: 2.46 per 100,000 to 1.0 per 100,000, the report said. In addition, 93 percent of female victims were murdered by someone they knew.

"That's why it is so important for us to have these workshops and conversations with our students," said Dr. Toya Barnes-Teamer, vice president for student success at Dillard. "We're taking the month of October to bring about an awareness of domestic violence. We want to help students understand it, recognize the signs, and learn behavior that will prevent them from becoming victims or perpetrators," she added.

The month began with a session called "Getting Rid of Negative Talk." Highlights of the remainder of the month are as follows:

For more information and for a full schedule of events go to www.dillard.edu.

City's New Parking Policy for Disabled Residents and Visitors

The New Orleans City Council passed an ordinance this week that will eliminate fees for disabled residents and visitors as part of an ongoing effort to make New Orleans more accessible for those who are physically disabled. Championed by the Mayor's Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities, the new ordinance will allow citizens and visitors with motor vehicles bearing mobility-impaired tags or plates to receive three hours of free parking at metered spaces without having to make any payment.

"The City of New Orleans is committed to enhancing the accessibility for all of our citizens and visitors," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said. "I applaud the council for approving this smart policy that will allow free parking for our disabled citizens and visitors at metered parking.

We will continue to do all we can to build a city that works for every citizen."

The Mayor's Advisory Council for Citizens with Disabilities represents people with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act to the Mayor, the New Orleans City Council, the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Section and persons in the city of New Orleans.

"The City's policies must make sense and work for the benefit of all of our citizens, including and especially for those at a physical disadvantage," Councilmember-At-Large Stacy Head said. "I am so glad that, under the Administration's leadership, the Council has moved to lessen the burden on our disabled citizens through allowing for three free hours of parking at metered spaces throughout the city."

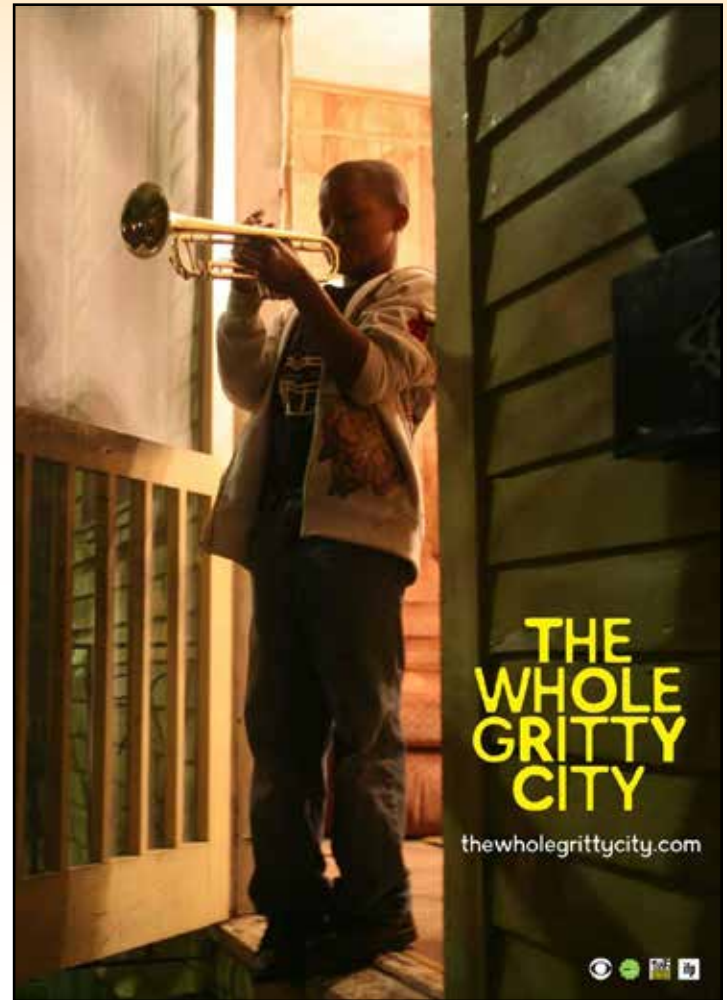
The Whole Gritty City



Wynton Marsalis hosts "The Whole Gritty City"



The O. Perry Walker band parades during carnival - courtesy of The Whole Gritty City



O. Perry Walker High School Band/courtesy of "The Whole Gritty City"

In a Special Screening, Musician Dinerral Shavers' Legacy Lives On Through a Foundation and a Film

The Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund (DSEF) is pleased to announce plans for its upcoming screening of THE WHOLE GRITTY CITY.

The feature documentary will be shown in a special one-time screening at AMC Elmwood Palace Theatre (1200 Elmwood Park Blvd, Elmwood, La 70123) on November 6th at 7:30pm. There will be a live performance by The Chosen Ones Brass Band, Mardi Gras Indians, special guest appearances, and a Q&A with filmmakers Richard Barber and Andre Lambertson.

THE WHOLE GRITTY CITY gives us a glimpse into the lives of New Orleans' marching band members and the charismatic teachers working to prepare these

youth for Mardi Gras Season as well as the real world. Most importantly, this film proves that music education is an essential tool needed to counter the culture of violence. The Whole Gritty City first premiered at the 2013 New Orleans Film Festival and aired nationwide in a February CBS special hosted by world renowned jazz great, Wynton Marsalis.

The Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization founded in March of 2007. This organization was created in memory of Dinerral Shavers, an educator, musician, entrepreneur, and New Orleans Civil Sheriff. In his passing, the Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund has hosted several programs and initiatives to promote youth empowerment, community development, and enhanced educational opportunities in the city of New Orleans.

The film's director Richard Barber says Shavers' story was the initial inspiration for the film. It was a central part of a CBS 48 Hours broadcast he had worked on about the post-Katrina violence that catalyzed a march on City Hall. "I watched interviews with Shavers' high school band students. They talked about their own lives and struggles, and about the positive impact Mr. Shavers and this band had on their lives. I realized something very powerful was happening here," says Barber. When he and co-director Andre Lambertson returned to New Orleans, they found more and more dedicated teachers that were using music to save and change the lives of youth through music all over the city.

Barber says this screening is a special one, both because it's being presented by Nakita Shavers who is carrying on

her brother's legacy, and also because there will be a live performance by a band that features one of the young musicians in the film. Jaron "Bear" Williams was an 11-year-old beginner in the film. Now he's a senior at Landry-Walker High School, and plays trumpet in The Chosen Ones Brass Band. The Landry-Walker Band director, Wilbert Rawlins, Jr., is also a prominent presence in the film.

The film is being screened through Tugg.com, a platform that helps individuals and organizations to host screenings in their local theaters. All proceeds will benefit DSEF. Tickets are \$10, must be purchased in advance, and can only be purchased at: <http://www.tugg.com/events/10961>

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Ebola

Fight the Disease, not the Victims



By Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
Founder & President, Rainbow
PUSH Coalition

The spread of the deadly Ebola virus in Africa is a global health emergency. Countries around the world must join together to mobilize the resources, build the isolation units, supply the needed medicine, doctors, nurses and support personnel needed to isolate and treat those afflicted, track down and monitor those who might have been in contact, and stop the epidemic.

The toll of the victims of the epidemic – centered in the West African countries of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone – is rising. The

World Health Organization now reports more than 7,400 confirmed or likely cases, and 3,431 deaths. On Sept. 23, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimated that without a more robust response, as many as 1.4 million cases could erupt in Liberia and Sierra Leone by January 20.

The virus is deadly, but not particularly infectious. It spreads only from direct contact from the bodily fluids – sweat, blood, vomit – of someone infected after the fever and other symptoms have occurred. Unfortunately, the incubation period – the time after someone is infected but before symptoms appear – lasts a week and sometimes as long as three weeks. People can travel long distances unaware that they are carrying the disease. This poses a challenge for health officials who must make the public aware so that they are cautious, without spreading panic. It also means that the entire world has a stake in coun-

tering this lethal epidemic.

The disease can be stopped. An American victim, undiagnosed, carried the disease into crowded Lagos, Nigeria. More people live in Lagos than in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone combined. A vigorous response – investigating all in contact with the patient, monitoring them, and isolating those who showed symptoms – cleared the virus with only eight deaths. Nigeria had the public health and governmental capacity to respond. But in West Africa, civil wars and chronic poverty have disrupted already meager local health systems. Doctors are scarce; health workers had no experience with the disease.

As Nigeria shows, we need mobilization, not panic, particularly with the chilling news that a Liberian, Thomas E. Duncan, tested positive for the disease in Dallas, the first case diagnosed in this country.

Duncan, now in critical condition, traveled to the U.S. without being aware that he was infected.

However, he did come into direct contact with a woman while in Liberia, and he failed to report the truth on an airport health questionnaire. When he contracted a fever, he went to the hospital but was sent home without proper testing. When his symptoms grew worse, he was taken back to the hospital and isolated.

Public health authorities have mobilized, identifying and monitoring all those who might have had contact with him. CDC officials fanned out in the hospital and in his neighborhood to investigate. Happily, as pediatrician Matt Karwowski reported to the Washington Post, “there was no resistance from anyone whatsoever ... At every single door, people welcomed us in ... They were also fearful, but not of us.” The CDC teams have been working 18 hours a day.

This epidemic is a human disaster. It will devastate not only its victims, but also millions more as economies freeze up, schools close,

tourism dries up, and fear spreads. In this country, some will use the epidemic to fan racial divides or to posture on immigration. President Obama is already criticized for providing military assistance to build hospital units and transport necessary equipment and medicine in Liberia. Some treat Duncan more as a criminal than a patient, due to his failing to report the truth. His family reports that even those who have been cleared are now shunned in their community.

In Jesus’ time, lepers were treated as unclean, sowing fear and hatred. On one of his last nights, Jesus stayed at the home of Simon the Leper. He showed that we should be fighting the disease, not the person. That is a lesson we should remember in the days ahead of us.

Jesse L. Jackson, Sr. is founder and president of the Chicago-based Rainbow PUSH Coalition. You can keep up with his work at www.rainbowpush.org.

To Be Equal

Eric Holder

A Champion for Equal Justice



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

“Throughout his long career in public service, Eric has built a powerful legacy of making sure that equal justice under the law actually means something; that it applies to everybody – regardless of race, or gender, or religion, or color, creed, disability, sexual orientation.”

— President Barack Obama at last Saturday’s Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Awards Dinner

As I stood with a group of civil rights leaders and grieving family members two weeks ago at a press

conference in Washington, D.C. to demand a full federal investigation of the police killings of two unarmed Black men – Michael Brown of Ferguson, Mo. and Eric Garner of Staten Island, N.Y. — we learned that Eric Holder, our nation’s first African American Attorney General, was resigning as head of the Justice Department.

After six years of serving as “the people’s lawyer,” Holder will also leave as the most ardent and effective Attorney General for civil rights in American history. President Obama praised him as both “a great friend of mine” and “a faithful servant of the American people.”

Since 2009, Eric Holder has overseen the Justice Department’s large portfolio of responsibilities – from counter-terrorism to government corruption to white collar crime. Under his leadership, the overall crime rate and the overall incarceration rate declined by 10 percent – the first time we have seen such a

simultaneous decline in more than 40 years.

Among his many accomplishments, we are especially grateful that he honored his pledge to reinvigorate the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division. As my civil rights colleagues and I stood together at the press conference devoted solely to calling for justice for Michael Brown, Eric Garner and their families, we knew that Eric Holder was standing shoulder to shoulder with us and with millions of citizens across the nation who are committed to protecting voting rights, combating human trafficking and hate crimes, eliminating sentencing disparities, creating alternatives to incarceration, guaranteeing equality for our LGBT brothers and sisters, and ensuring that Americans of all races and walks of life are treated equally and fairly by our criminal justice system.

We have been especially encouraged by Holder’s pledge to pursue

civil rights investigations in the wake of the recent spate of killings of unarmed Black men by police and other law enforcement officers. His visit to Ferguson to meet with Michael Brown’s family and other concerned citizens demonstrated tremendous compassion and courage. When local officials, including Darren Wilson, the police officer who killed Michael Brown, were nowhere to be seen, Eric Holder’s presence assured the people of Ferguson and across the nation that their voices were being heard at the highest levels of government.

Attorney General Holder has been disparagingly accused by his critics of being too activist and too partisan. But as the nation’s chief law enforcement officer, he had a clear mandate to ensure that our civil rights laws were protected, strengthened and enforced – and he has fulfilled that duty. As the son of working-class parents, Eric Holder had an up-close and personal ex-

perience with racial and economic hardship, and these humble beginnings gave him a special insight into and empathy for the challenges facing so many of our citizens in these perilous times. Eric Holder has been an impactful Attorney General and a bold and unapologetic champion for civil rights – and our nation is better for his service and leadership.

While he is stepping down as head of the Justice Department, we are encouraged by what he said at his resignation announcement, “I will never leave the work. I will continue to serve and try to find ways to make our nation even more true to its founding ideals.”

We certainly hope to see him on the front lines of civil rights and equal justice for many years to come.

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

Letter to the Editor

Proposal 11 on the November Ballot is Critical to Louisiana's Seniors

In Louisiana, if you are a bird, roadway, prisoner, pine tree or soybean, you have a professionally staffed department looking after your welfare. If you are aged over 60 years however, you are blended into the Governor's Office along with matters pertaining to Renewal Communities, Press and the Governor's schedule.

While all of these are important, so are matters that affect Louisiana's elder population, their families and the communities where they work and live.

In fact, with Louisiana's elder population now making up nearly 20% of Louisiana's population, the need for a clear and singular focus is greater than ever and will increase as that proportion grows to 25% over the next decade.

On the November 4 ballot, Louisiana voters will have the opportunity to vote in favor of a constitutional amendment that will pave the way for the creation of a 21st department, the Department of Elderly Affairs. It's proposal 11 on the ballot. The new department is not an

expansion of government but a realignment of existing resources and funding but with a clear focus on Louisiana's elderly. It does not redirect resources for any other class of citizens but will simply realign existing funding for a clearer purpose. In fact, the new department may well bring in net new dollars as a focus on elderly is elevated to priority in Louisiana. Its no accident that states like Florida and Arizona that focus on elderly have such a concentration of retirees who bring with them significant wealth, talent

and resources.

Creating this department is morally, ethically and fiscally the responsible thing to do. Our elderly are net contributors to our state and have delivered to us a state that is rising economically, educationally and in its quality of life.

Elder issues affect us all not just those over 60. Services to the elderly also provide the support to allow working age Louisianians to work, provide longer quality of life to keep our elder citizens in their homes, requiring fewer services for acute

or long-term care and contribute to the overall health and welfare of our communities.

The time has come for a department solely dedicated to Louisiana's seniors and we encourage all of Louisiana to consider what the creation of a Department of Elderly Affairs can mean for our state. Information is available online at voteprop11.org.

Rene Rhodes
Chairman
Seniors First

Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring for two positions in our New Orleans Office.

Editor/Reporters

About the Job

Journalists — tired of reading of layoffs, closings, the dire straights of the profession? Recent college graduates — think your job prospects are bleak? Not with us!

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If interested, send your resume, cover letter and at least three clips of your work to Terry Jones Publisher, Data News Weekly, 3501 Napoleon Ave, New Orleans, LA 70125, or via email to terrybjones@bellsouth.net, or call (504) 821-7421.

Sales Manager/Retail Ad Manager

About the Job

Data News Weekly Newspaper is the leading African American media company in New Orleans, publishing a weekly newspaper. Additionally, its website under ladatanews.com is the most read Black website in the region.

We are currently seeking a strong leader to proactively manage broad aspects of the advertising division. You will be working in a positive team-oriented atmosphere which has a modern press, leading website and award-winning newspaper.

Responsibilities include but not limited to:

- Prospect and develop sales leads for print and digital product lines
- Drive online and cross platform advertising sales
- Identify, create strategies, develop influential contacts, and help close new digital products
- Increase overall revenue opportunities in both print and online
- Develop a team sales atmosphere

Our ideal candidate will possess the following education,

skills and experience:

- Minimum 5 years print and digital sales and manager experience
- Self-starter, capable of executing within all phases of sales cycle
- Strong relationship building and client service background
- Strong organizational, communication and presentation skills
- Team player and leader
- Understanding of Analytics and ad serving technology
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Fall 2014

Preparing Your Garden

By LMG Calla Victoria

Although it is still hot and muggy down south, this is a good time to start planning your fall garden. Decide what your color scheme will be, how you will be grouping plants, and start thinking of plant selections. Now the idea is planning and not acting at this time. Many of the fall plants, although in some nurseries already, will burn up in the landscape because it is just still too hot for them to survive. Remember that nurseries have perfect growing environments, daily watering, greenhouses, etc., to help those plants through the last of the hot days. But once you buy those plants and take them into the REAL World, they are just not equipped. So until it cools down permanently you can start by turning and loosening the soil, weeding, adding compost to amend the soil, and getting your beds ready for planting.

The LSU AgCenter, which is the extension service for the State of Louisiana and is the umbrella under which the Louisiana Master Gardeners (LMG) falls, has just released its Louisiana Super Plants selections for Fall 2014. "Super Plants" are plants that have trialed well in zone 9 over a specific time in the trial gardens at the LSU AgCenter Research Center in Hammond, Louisiana. The super plants for this fall are the Mesa series gaillardia



and the Rabbiteye blueberry (know that blueberries must be planted in pairs in order to set fruit). As the current gardening trend is towards

ornamental color along with edible gardening, the super plant selections are right on point. Consider inter-planting your veggies and fruit

bushes in the same beds with your ornamental shrubbery. There is no need for separate beds for flowers and veggies. Just make sure that

the plants have like sun and watering requirements.

Other cool weather crops to consider for your fall garden are lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, spinach, collards, lettuce, Swiss chard, mustards, kale, and arugula. As well as root crops like carrots, beets, onions, radishes; and egumes, such as fava beans and peas grow and flourish in the fall.

As ornamentals go Cassias, now more commonly called by the scientific name of Senna, are a great fall-flowering large shrub-like plants for Louisiana. Cassia alata, or Senna alata commonly known as the Candlestick or Candelabra bush, makes a big splash of brilliant yellow color in any fall garden. The Candle Bush plant is drought-tolerant and weather-tough making it a suitable plant for inexperienced and expert gardeners alike. Pink Mulhy grass, too makes a big splash of color in the fall looking like rolling fields of cotton candy. This grass is fabulous, it gives you color, movement, and like all other grasses it is drought-tolerant and indestructible. I have some planted on the easement in front of my home and occasionally I look out of my front window and see someone just standing there stroking the grass as it sways and smiling.

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

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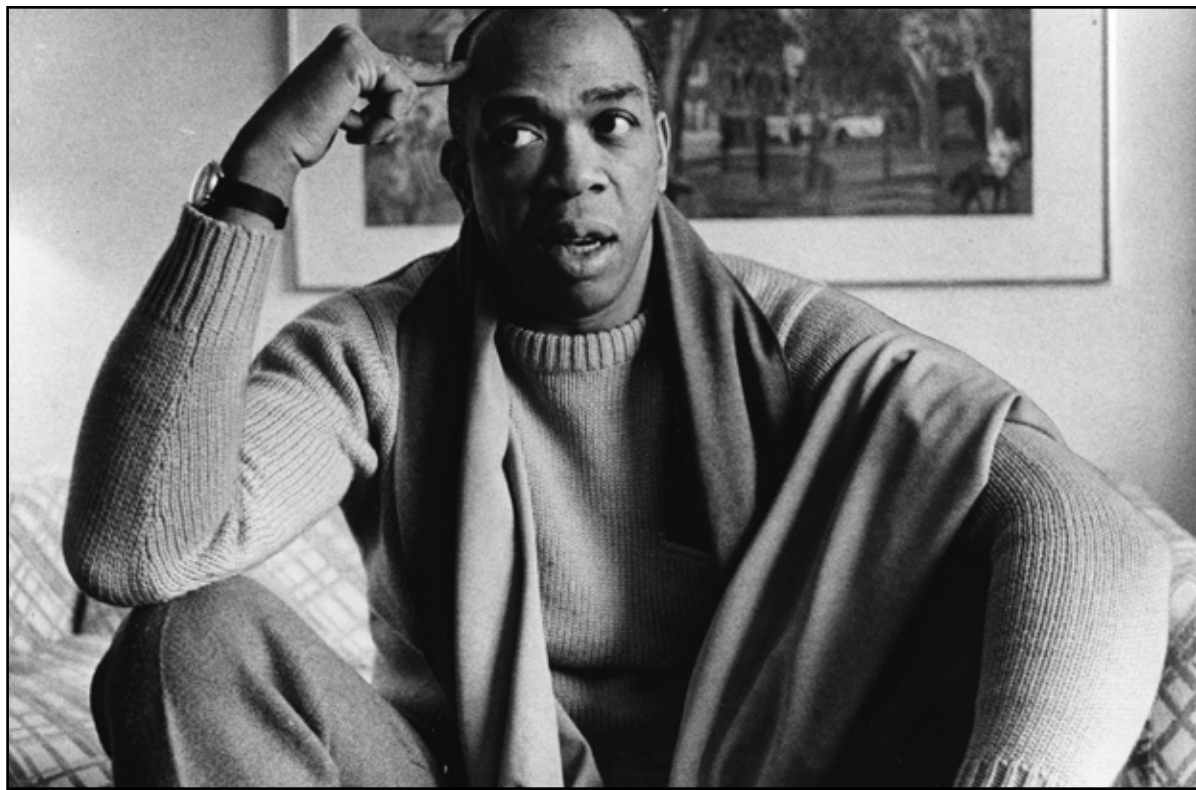


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Geoffrey Holder

Death of a Renaissance Man



By Herb Boyd

NEW YORK (NNPA) – His voice arrived first, deep and sonorous, prefiguring a man of enormous life and vitality, and such was the often imposing but impressive visage and physique of Geoffrey Holder, who many remember mostly from his promotion of Seven-Up “Uncola” commercials. But the multit talented Holder was much more than a pitchman. This artist with almost magical gifts died Sunday, Oct. 5 at this home in New York City. He was 84.

According to Charles M. Mirotznik, a spokesman for the family, Holder’s death was the result of complications from pneumonia.

Standing 6 feet 6 inches, Holder commanded practically every room he entered, and the niches not covered by his giant-like presence were filled with his resonant voice and laughter, his flamboyant style and persona, something magisterial, je ne sais quoi.

If viewers were reminded of the Jolly Green Giant or Mr. Clean from the many films and Broadway productions, it was understandable inasmuch as he had that same powerful countenance but embellished by a graceful sense of movement and artistic savoir faire.

Even the swerving arc of his autograph provides some semblance of his absolutely total absorption in the theater, dance and art as writer and dance authority Jennifer Dun-

ning captures so well her biography.

“Who is Geoffrey Holder?” Dunning asks rhetorically in the preface to her book. “He paints and photographs, but he has never wanted to be called simply an ‘artist.’ He dances and choreographs, but he has no desire to be categorized as a ‘dancer and choreographer.’ He designs costumes and has directed shows on Broadway, but do not call him a ‘man of the theater.’”

Through these things he chose not to be called, we gather some idea of the complexity of his life, the expansiveness of his endeavors and successes.

“Life is strange and sweet and divine,” Holder told Dunning during one of her many interviews with him as he folded his long frame into a delicate white chair in the garden corner carved out his wife, the actress and dancer Carmen de Lavallade, in their loft in Soho. She notes that Holder’s paintings are everywhere.

And Holder throughout his remarkably productive career seemed to be everywhere—on stage, on film, in the studio, galleries, and anywhere a convivial ensemble was ready a night of gaiety and cultural chit chat.

Whether surrounded by a gaggle of his admiring friends or strolling the streets of Manhattan that he dearly loved and became fond of many years ago when he arrived from his homeland in Trinidad, Holder was immediately rec-

ognized and onlookers were not sure if it was Punjab from the movie “Annie,” or Baron Samedi from the James Bond movie “Live and Let Die.” Or he could have been, for some of his older fans, the principal dancer in the Met’s production of “Aida.”

If left to him, he was Geoffrey Holder, born August 1, 1930 to parents who had migrated from Barbados to Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. He attended Queen’s Royal College and at very early age began demonstrating his prowess as a dancer in his brother Boscoe’s company. It was from this older brother that he got his first lessons in choreography and design.

Given his height and agility he easily stood out in a troupe and got the eye of dance maven Agnes de Mille in the early 1950s during a performance in the Virgin Islands. She invited Holder to New York City and subsequently he was hired to teach at the famed Katherine Dunham School of Dance. After a brief stint as the lead dancer at the Met, he made his Broadway debut in “House of Flowers” with book and lyrics by Truman Capote and music by Harold Arlen. Here, he met another dancer, Carmen de Lavallade, who became his lifelong companion. Their only child was Leo.

With excellent reviews from his performances on Broadway, he appeared in a series of films,

beginning with All Night Long, a British film in 1962; five years later, he was featured in Doctor Doolittle; then he was the sorcerer in Woody Allen’s Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex; and there was his voodoo turn in the Bond movie mentioned above in which he was also the choreographer.

For the most part Holder appeared to be caught between two very jealous muses: dance and painting. And they both were somewhat pacified when he was the choreographer, set and costume designer as he did on many occasions, but with particular panache in 1968 with The Prodigal Prince for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. According to Kina Poon, an assistant editor at Dance Magazine, this was his love letter to Haiti. “I wanted to do the same with Haitian folklore as we with Greek mythology,” he told her. “I revere Haitian art and I treat it with the same sense of grandeur and respect.”

Grandeur is certainly a word that is evoked when visiting a gallery of his paintings. Most impressive are his study of the human form and his nudes, male and female, are full of the freedom and abandon that characterized Holder’s restless spirit.

To list even a portion of his awards is daunting, but it’s hard to ignore the stunning work he in The Wiz, which earned Tony’s for direction and design. In both categories were first for a Black man. One of his most spectacular productions was Timbuktu, which choreographed and directed, featuring Eartha Kitt. Here again, the full arsenal of his artistic genius unfolds.

“Geoffrey is someone who speaks with movements and with images more than some other people might,” said Clifton Taylor, a lighting designer who worked with Holder in several productions, including a revival of The Prodigal Prince four years ago. “Another choreographer might say ‘This is what I want the lights to look like.’ Geoffrey is really about giving images to people, both the dancers and the designers. He’ll say, ‘We’re in a village at night. It’s stars and it’s gorgeous.’ He’ll go on in kind of rhapsodic prose. ‘Dahling,’ right? And then we go with it.”

Then, to express his appreciation, might come that drawn out but melodious “maarvelous,” in a voice as inimitable as his life and legacy.

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