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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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French Quarter Festival

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Black and Blue in America



African Americans throughout the nation in the last year, have joined together in protest against the police brutality that has been unleashed against Black men. The cellphone camera has become the key to holding those police responsible for the deaths of several, but has not proven yet, to be enough in all cases to warrant the arrest of those who killed unjustly unarmed Black men.

By Edwin Buggage

Recently, we have had several high profile shootings involving the police killing of unarmed Black men. This sad state of events has caused protest across America. It has resonated with many and slogans such as “Hands up don’t shoot” and “Black Lives Matter”

have become the rallying cry of those who want fairness and justice for all citizens of our nation. The deaths at the hands of police of Michael Brown, Eric Garner and more recently Walter Scott have brought into focus questionable police tactics. These deaths of Black Men at the hands of police are a major concern, but it is irresponsible and short-

sighted to say that all police are going out with the intent of killing Black Men. Most are hard-working doing a tough job putting their lives on the line and should be praised for keeping us safe. But when they do wrong, the blue wall of silence must not apply; bad officers must be held accountable for their actions. Admittedly, the job of a police officer can at times

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be equally stressful, demoralizing, and rewarding. But as non-law enforcement officer and Black male in America are sometimes unfairly targeted by the police it can be as equally stressful. It has been ingrained into the consciousness of many that the perception of Black males being potential criminals is ever present in the minds of many in law enforcement, where polices such as racial profiling, stop and frisk and stopping individuals for driving while Black is standard practice.

While we all understand the eminent danger of police work but the shoot now, stop now, ask questions later mentality must cease. But the questions is how do we come to a common understanding where the folks in blue and Blacks can have a relationship based on mutual respect, and where the police actually serve and protect?

This for some may seem like a pipe dream, because we are in an age where in these high profile cases it seems okay for law enforcement to have their way with Black males and be exonerated. It seems the cry for law and order has given way for excusing police brutality and in some cases murder based on preconceived notions of Black males being a potential threat. The police in these cases sometimes overreact to situations that in some instances can be defused, without causing major confrontations leading to injury and sometimes death of those who encounter the police.

We understand that it would be naïve on our parts to state that Black men do not commit crime, for as it is well-known and documented that Black men commit a disproportionate amount of crime that far exceeds our numbers in the population. But contrary to what some of the mean spirited self-serving politicians, prosecutors and defense attorneys, the police and some media organizations that use young Black males as a scapegoat portraying them as young thugs who are out to rob, rape, and kill to garner votes, win cases or acquit defendants or get high ratings.

They are not the only ones culpable that must be called to task because we have some in our own community who are opportunist. That is the professional Black activist who uses racial inequality and strife to enrich themselves. While the people they supposedly represent stay disenfranchised. But they become six and seven figure activist. They will come out and attack police and Whites in racial incidents, but will not come out with the same fervor when Blacks do bad things to other Blacks.



With respect to some police behaviors we must keep in mind they have lives outside of wearing the badge. And unfortunately some have internalized and mirror society's prejudice image of Black men. And without a historical framework or familiarity to draw from they do not understand how Black men feel when they have to encounter the police.

Where Black Men sometimes feel harassed and their dignity, pride, respect, intelligence, competence, and humanity, and honesty are an issue. And one must remember that not so long ago in our history police could basically get away with throwing any charge on Blacks and get away with it.

Police abuse of Blacks is not a new phenomenon, because for as long as there has been an organized police force to speak of, Blacks have been the enemy of the state. Then even when those in charge of these agencies are Black their marching orders, programs and initiatives often times have already handed down on how to deal with Blacks.

From John Punch in the 1600's being given a harsher sentence for the same so-called crime "running away from indentured servitude" as his White cohorts, to the Rodney King and Abner Louima beatings, the murder of Amadou Diallo, and today Michael Brown, Eric Garner and Walter Scott. We see many of the same things happening, but now because of technology many outside the African-American community getting a window into what we have known and experienced throughout our

history. That things for America's Darker Brother is not always fair.

Finally, we must together commit ourselves as members of the community, those elected into office, and those in law enforcement to begin to rethink police policy and procedures. Dashboard cameras and body cameras on policeman is a step in the right direction. But it is more important for us as a society to move, become not post racial but post racist. To work towards changing our tainted racist history that

finds its way in our consciousness, our public policy and our private thoughts that Black men are predisposed to become criminals and are potentially dangerous and that presumption of innocence does not apply to them. We must ask ourselves in this nation how far have we come from Scott v. Sanford in 1857 when Supreme Court Justice Roger Taney wrote, "the authors of the Constitution had viewed all Blacks as 'beings of an inferior order, and altogether unfit to associ-

ate with the White race, either in social or political relations, and so far inferior that they had no rights which the White man was bound to respect." We have made great strides in many areas towards racial reconciliation in this country, but in the area of law enforcement and what sometimes happens to Black males, we as a nation still have a long way to go because sometimes Black Lives don't matter or have equal value as others... but they should.

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Get Out and Vote in May 2nd Election

By Data News Weekly Staff

Voting is Important

As we get into the full swing of festival season with last week's French Quarter Festival and the upcoming New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival the City will be abuzz with great food, fun and music. But against the backdrop of all these great events there is an election on May 2nd that has two propositions on them that are important for our City.

Both are millage propositions that will help operate and improve the New Orleans Public Library branches across the City and one that will help fund the maintenance and upkeep of the Orleans Parish jails and other related expenses.

In the name of keeping our readers informed and involved we at the New Orleans Data News Weekly wanted to provide information about both of these propositions and en-



courage our citizens to vote. Early voting begins on April 18th and ends on April 25th. Below are the proposi-

tions that are on the ballot in the May 2nd election and information surrounding early voting.

Parish-wide Public Library Proposition (New Millage)

Shall the City of New Orleans (the "City") be authorized to levy and collect annually, in addition to any other authorized tax, a special ad valorem tax not to exceed 2.5 mills on all property subject to taxation within the City (an estimated \$8.25 million reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 25 years, beginning January 1, 2016 and ending December 31, 2040, which tax shall be collected in the same manner as all other ad valorem taxes and which shall be dedicated to and used by the New Orleans Public Library System for the purpose of adequately funding its continued operations, said tax to be levied and collected in addition to the current 3.14 mills previously approved by the voters of New Orleans for the benefit of the City's public libraries, which

current 3.14 mills shall expire December 31, 2021?

Law Enforcement District Proposition (Millage)

Shall the Sheriff of Orleans Parish, as the governing authority of the Law Enforcement District of the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana (the "District"), levy a tax of not exceeding 2.8 mills on all property subject to taxation in the District (an estimated \$9,366,050 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2016 and ending with the year 2025, for the purpose of providing additional funding for the operation, maintenance and upkeep of jails and related facilities, the District and the Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office, with said millage levied each year to be reduced by the millage rate levied that year for the District's currently outstanding General Obligation Bonds?

Important Dates for May 2, 2015 Election

April 18-25, 2015: Early Voting Week. All locations for early voting will be closed on Sunday the 19th.

April 28, 2015: Last day to request mail ballot from Registrar

May 1, 2015: Last day to return voted mail ballot to Registrar. Ballots must be received by 4:30 p.m. (not including military and overseas citizens).

Voters who need help finding their polling location can call (504) 658-8300 or use the Louisiana Voter Portal

Early Voting Sites

- 1) City Hall
1300 Perdido Street, Room 1W24
New Orleans, LA 70112
- 2) Algiers Courthouse
225 Morgan Street, Room 105
New Orleans, LA 70114
- 3) Chef Menteur Voting Machine Warehouse Site
8870 Chef Menteur Highway
New Orleans, LA 70126
- 4) Lake Vista Community Center
6500 Spanish Fort Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70124

All Elections are important so get out and vote, it is not just your right it is your responsibility.

ladatanews.com

Pay Raises for More Than 16,000 Walmart Associates in Louisiana

As part of Walmart's additional \$1 billion investment in its workers this year, Walmart is giving pay raises to 16,028 associates in Louisiana for the pay period starting April 4th. With the raises, associates earn at least \$1.75 an hour above the federal and state minimum wage. The new full-time average hourly wage in Louisiana is now \$12.89.

This is the first company-wide increase in wages since its announcement in February to provide even more opportunity for its workers. As of April 4th, all Walmart associates earn at least \$9 per hour and by February 2016 all current associates will earn at least \$10 per hour. Walmart is also raising the floor and ceiling of its in-store pay bands in most stores and is providing raises to associates earning at the maximum of their pay band.

Starting wages are just one part of Walmart's commitment to providing associates with clearer career opportunities. Through its Opportunity initiative, Walmart is



opening doors for existing and new associates by providing increased scheduling flexibility and control, and new training opportunities for continued growth and advancement beyond entry-level jobs.

"I'm excited to learn how I can work my way up to a manager or supervisor position in these new training programs," said Chasity Banks, associate of Walmart Supercenter #912 in New Orleans. "The pay raise and new opportunities to advance our career here shows me that Walmart really wants associates to succeed."

Walmart is acting purposefully on wages all along the opportunity ladder. For example, the company is reexamining the department manager roles and will raise the starting wage for some of them to at least \$13/hour this summer and at least \$15/hour early next year. As part of the company's commitment to associate success, Walmart is also implementing comprehensive changes to its hiring, training, compensation, and scheduling programs, as well as its store structure.

Walmart associates from Louisiana and around the country will

have greater choice in their work scheduling to better fit their individual needs. To ensure consistency, some associates will have access to fixed schedules that will not change for at least six months. Associates also will have the option to pick their own shifts or continue to be scheduled systematically based on their availability.

Associates will also be introduced to a new development and training program developed by Walmart workers that allows them to improve and build the skills necessary to grow and enhance their careers. The goal of Walmart's transformation effort is to set the stage for future associates and showcase the unique ways Walmart offers appropriate onboarding and training. Robust onboarding and training programs are essential for associates and their careers, ensuring a greater chance for promotions and other advancements.

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Economic and Property Damages Settlement

The Deadline to file a Claim is June 8, 2015

June 8, 2015 has been established as the deadline to submit a claim in the Economic and Property Damages (“E&PD”) Settlement with BP Exploration & Production Inc. and BP America Production Company (“BP”) related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. So if you are eligible to file a claim, you must act soon.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The E&PD Settlement Class includes people, businesses, other entities, and properties in the states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, and certain counties in Texas and Florida, that were harmed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that occurred on April 20, 2010. The website DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com has detailed descriptions and maps of the included geographic locations to help you determine whether you are a part of the E&PD Settlement Class. Additionally, you can call 1-866-992-6174 or e-mail questions@DeepwaterHorizonEconomicSettlement.com to find out if a geographic location is included.

WHAT ARE THE PAYMENT CATEGORIES?

The settlement provides payments if you had economic loss or property damage because of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. By submitting a claim, you can request a payment in one or more of the following seven categories:

- Economic Damage ■ Loss of Subsistence
 - Vessel Physical Damage
 - Real Property Sales Damage
- Vessels of Opportunity Charter Payment
 - Coastal Real Property Damage
 - Wetlands Real Property Damage

Economic Damage payments are available for Individuals and Entities that lost profits or earnings as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Incident. **Coastal Real Property** payments are available for property that was physically damaged in connection with the Deepwater Horizon Incident. Detailed descriptions of all seven categories are available at the website.

There is no limit on the total dollar amount of the E&PD Settlement. All qualified and timely claims will be paid in full once they are approved. The Settlement also allowed for Seafood Compensation claims, but the deadline for those claims has passed.

HOW DO I REQUEST A PAYMENT?

You must submit a Claim Form to request a payment. You can get a copy of the various Claim Forms by visiting the website or by calling 1-866-992-6174. Claims can be submitted online or by mail. If you have questions about how to file your claim, you should call the toll-free number for assistance. The claims process can be complex, so if you are eligible to file a claim, you should act now so you may complete your claim before the **June 8, 2015** deadline.

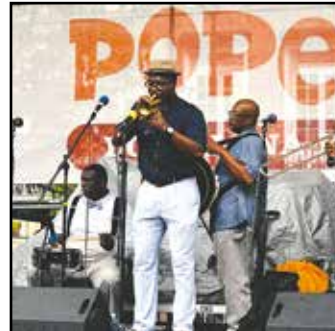
DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com ■ 1-866-992-6174

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

2015 French Quarter Festival

Good to the Last Drop

Photos by Kichea S. Burt



The 32nd Annual French Quarter Festival presented by Chevron, was held on April 9th-12th and featured new stages and restaurants, expanded Film Fest, Children's Headquarters and more. What started as

a neighborhood festival and 'locals' event' has grown into the largest showcase of Louisiana music and food in the world, with an economic impact of over \$251 million.

In 2015, organizers welcomed

eight new restaurants to 'The World's Largest Jazz Brunch'; employed over 1,700 world class, local musicians; launched two new stages; offered an expanded Children's Headquarters and Film Fest; and immersed

festival-goers into a unique cultural experience that cannot be replicated anywhere. The Festival had something for everyone, and was good to the last drop! And of course, Data was there.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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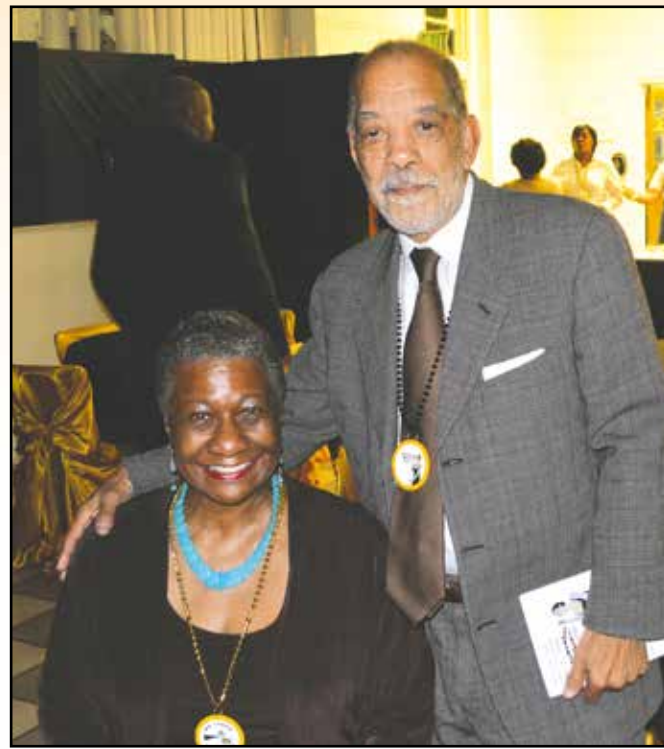
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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Xavier Prep Annual Fundraiser

Photos by Terry B. Jones

Xavier Prep High School held it's Annual Fundraiser to support school programs at the school. The event was attended by family and supporters of the school and was a great success.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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!

At Columbia-Greene Media, we are expanding! This includes starting a print newspaper/digital endeavor in one of the most dynamic and exciting cities, New Orleans.

If you want to be an integral part of your community, tell stories in a multi-media environment — look no further.

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
- Strong motivational skills
- Recruit talent

Our company provides a competitive salary, and an environment that encourages personal and professional growth. We are an equal opportunity employer.

If you are interested in a rewarding career, email a cover letter and resume to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net or mail to: Data News Weekly, c/o Terry Jones, Publisher, 3501 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans LA 70125

Attacking Economic Racism



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Despite ill-intended efforts to do it for us, Black Americans have a responsibility to define our own reality. It is a fundamental human right recognized and respected by the United Nations. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to define, without apology, the deadly and debilitating manifestation of racial discrimination and injustice as “economic racism.”

Why are so many Black Americans still mired down in inter-generational poverty, lack of health care, inadequate education, raging unemployment, disproportionate imprisonment, the highest rate of housing foreclosures and housing discrimination, the lowest rate of bank lending and overall exclusion from access to sustainable wealth generation in every region of the nation?

How is it mathematically possible for Black Americans to spend more than \$1.2 trillion annually in the United States, and yet the overwhelming majority of the companies that make huge profits from the annual spending of Black Americans do nothing more than invest far less than 1 percent of their profits back into Black-owned

businesses and grassroots organizations throughout the country?

Why does the American economy remain racially segregated in 2015? Why are Black Americans consigned to poverty and economic inequality?

The answer is amazingly simple: It is the reality of economic racism, defined as the intentional racial discrimination against Black Americans and other people of color to prevent economic equality, justice, parity, advancement, and empowerment; it is the systematic racial exclusion of Black Americans and other people of color from economic policy-making at local, state and national levels in both corporate and governmental entities; and, it is economic institutionalization of racial oppression, stereotyping,

and profiling coupled with the ignorance of racial prejudice and hatred.

Yes, this is an admittedly complex definition of economic racism. The matrix of complexity concerning economic racism, however, does not make it impossible to challenge and to overcome. No one is born a racist. We can and will eventually liberate ourselves from all forms of racial oppression and economic racism.

We have not concentrated on economic racism as much as we should have because of the overemphasis on politics. But we eventually had to recognize that even our political system is controlled by economics and politicians tend to be more responsive to those who support their campaigns economically.

The economic liberation of Black

America will require establishing more internal unity and more external coalition-building and partnering with those who stand for freedom, justice and equality with their money, words and deeds. Organizing and mobilizing an effective movement to challenge and overcome economic racism is long overdue

The perpetrators of racial injustice and discrimination are always reluctant to confess or acknowledge the reality of these centuries-old phenomena. In the United States, in particular, there is a historic and contemporary denial of how race plays a determinative role in all aspects of society. As former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ)

Chavis, Continued on page 9.

To Be Equal The State of Black America Part 3: Justice



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

“I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states...Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963

What is the state of Black America in 2015? In short, and on many fronts, Black America remains in crisis – and we see justice challenged at every turn.

A few weeks before the launch of the 39th annual 2015 State of Black America® report – “Save our Cities: Education, Jobs + Justice,” the U.S. Department of Justice released a scathing, and perhaps for some, startling report on the systemic racial bias inflicted upon the African-

American citizens of Ferguson, Mo. by the city’s police department. The report’s tragic catalyst was – and sadly remains – an all-too-familiar story in Black and Brown communities dotted across our nation: an unarmed black male was approached by an armed police officer and lost his life in the encounter.

The National Urban League’s analysis of the relevant data told much the same story: the Ferguson narrative could be the narrative of so many U.S. towns, but within that dark cloud we discovered strands of silver linings.

Today, fewer African Americans are the victims of violent crimes, there are more Black lawmakers in Congress than ever and the U.S. Department of Justice is actively working to confront police misconduct and improve police-community relations. Yet, we cannot easily forget the images of anger and despair we have seen in communities rocked by protests over the killings of unarmed Black males at the hands of law enforcement.

These encouraging and necessary strides in our struggle for equality in justice are overshadowed by justice miscarried, with outrage spilling onto our streets

as a seemingly endless parade of police officers are not held accountable by grand juries for their actions. We are also witnessing a continual assault upon our voting rights, as several states prepare to pass legislation that would erode access to the ballot box for people of color.

The state of justice in Black and Brown communities is very often a shameful tale of injustice and clear racial disparities in the implementation of the law.

The tragedy of Mike Brown’s death in Ferguson, Eric Garner’s death in New York, and the deaths of so many others, should underscore a difficult truth that should not sit well with any American: law enforcement, in too many cases, provides neither equal protection nor equal justice in far too many communities of color. And this is no blanket indictment of police officers. There are, and will always be, good police officers who put their lives on the line to keep law-abiding citizens safe. As the heated debates and protests continue, we know that police officers have become victims of violence, most notably the two officers in New York City late last year and police officers in

Ferguson this year. But this should not – and cannot – silence our call to action in communities besieged by police officers who treat the people they are intended to serve and protect as presumptively guilty.

The exoneration of the police officers in those deaths of unarmed men by grand juries signaled that police accountability for the taking of Black and Brown lives was reaching a modern-day low. Attorney Benjamin Crump, who represents the family of Mike Brown, penned an essay in the 2015 State of Black America® report: “It’s Time to Pass the Grand Jury Reform Act of 2014.” The bill calls for judges to determine if the State should bring criminal charges against police officers who fatally use deadly force and calls for governors to appoint special prosecutors for those hearings. Deciding whether or not to indict would be a judge’s decision, not a grand jury’s, and the proceeding would remain open to the public, unlike grand juries that are, by law, secret proceedings.

Following the Supreme Court’s 2013 decision to strip pre-clearance from the Voting Rights Act, allowing states to bypass federal approval before changing their voting rules, 40

states are now in line to codify into law new ways to make it difficult for people to vote—laws that would disproportionately affect communities of color. Voting is a powerful tool for any individual or group in a democracy to influence their government and create change. Without this right, you have no voice. The National Urban League and others will continue to press Congress to pass the bipartisan Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014. This legislative fix would create new rules to determine which states require federal approval before making any changes their voting rules. Truth be told, we cannot maintain our commitment to democracy as a nation while, at the same time, deny the ballot box to so many of our citizens.

There are tremendous challenges ahead of us in what should be our national fight for equality under the law, because to deny justice to one is threaten justice to all, and as long as justice is challenged on any front, we must—as a nation—keep pushing on every front.

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

Rainbow Iris Walk

By LMG Calla Victoria

Iris should be planted in the fall, but April is the time to enjoy their unique beauty and variety. You can find them in bloom everywhere right now. The Longue Vue House and Gardens and the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden at City Park held their Annual Rainbow Iris Walks recently. If you love irises and would like to grow several varieties, this is the time to view most of these amazing flowers at those public gardens that label all of their Iris species. That way you can write down the names of the ones you like, and in October when Iris societies have their sale you can pick up what you like and plant them. In January you will start to see the long strap-like leaves com-



ing up, and by April you will have gorgeous blooms.

I love all plants that readily multiply and Irises do just that, so every



couple of years you can separate them to sell or share with friends. Most Iris varieties like wet feet so you can grow them in pots with no

drainage holes, the more water the better which is why you will find them living happily near ponds. Walking Iris (*Neomarica gracilis*),

on the other hand, prefer a drier well-drained soil. They are called "walking" Irises because their blooms are not upright like other Irises but drape over and wherever they touch the ground a new Iris plant will grow. My Walking Irises are now in bloom and fabulous.

The fleur-de-lis symbol which is the adopted symbol of New Orleans is based on the shape of Iris plant. According to the history of the fleur-de-lis from the French "fleur," meaning flower, and "lis," meaning lily; the Iris plant was the inspiration.

Check out my "Gardening Tip of the Day" at www.thegardeningdiva.com

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

Chavis, Continued from page 8.

was fond of saying, "Slavery was America's original sin, and racism remains its unresolved dilemma."

And we see that racism manifested in so many ways.

Today, it now appears that the only way to get people to acknowledge racially-motivated police misconduct against Black Americans and other people of color is to have a video tape of the transgression. Thank God for the recent videotape of the police murder of unarmed Walter Scott in North Charleston, S.C. Sometimes, as was the case with Eric Gardner in New York City, we can have videotape and rouge cops still escape punishment.

Racism in all of its oppressive manifestations must not only be consistently called out and challenged, but also we must be vigilant and diligent to make sure that we are effective in the elimination of

the under-girding factors that cause racism to exist and persist in the first place.

In my home state of North Carolina more than 32 years ago, while helping to lead civil rights protests against the digging of a massive toxic waste landfill in predominantly African American Warren County, I coined the term "environmental racism." Warren County was also the place where Congress of Racial Equality Chairman Floyd B. McKissick Sr., the first African American to receive a law degree from the University of North Carolina, attempted to build Soul City as an economic empowerment zone and a new city for Black Americans and others who considered themselves progressive.

Environmental racism is the intentional racial discrimination in the deliberate targeting of eth-

nic and minority communities for exposure to toxic and hazardous waste sites and facilities, coupled with the systematic exclusion of racial minorities in environmental policy making, enforcement, and remediation. As a result of the definitive work that we did on this issue back in the 1980s, today there are effective and transformative environmental justice movements and organizations across America and throughout the world.

One day, I hope we'll be able to look back and say the same about economic racism.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is the President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) and can be reached for national advertisement sales and partnership proposals at: dr.bchavis@nnpa.org; and for lectures and other professional consultations at: <http://drbenjaminfchavisjr.wix.com/drbcf>

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Email: jobs@orleanspehs.org for job description/application or apply in person.

Resumes will not be accepted in lieu of applications. Applications are available **Monday thru Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm** at the CDI Head Start Serving Orleans Parish, LA Early Head Start Administrative Office, which is located at **2714 Canal Street, Ste 407, New Orleans, LA 70119**, only. Completed applications may be returned to the Administrative Office or **mailed to P. O. Box 8249, New Orleans, LA 70182**. Successful applicants must possess a clear criminal records and background check acceptable under LA codes to work with children, clear TB screening and health exam. Applications will be accepted until the closing date which is **April 30, 2015** or until position is filled. CDI HS is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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Holding the Loretta Lynch Nomination Hostage

By Charlene Crowell
Center for Responsible
Lending

It is ironic that April is Fair Housing Month and the U.S. Senate has

yet to schedule a vote on the nomination of the first Black woman to become the nation's Attorney General. Nominated on November 14, the nomination of Loretta Lynch has lingered longer than the seven previous

attorneys generals combined.

The delay is even more disturbing because Lynch was previously and unanimously approved by the Senate – twice – to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New



Loretta Lynch

York. Representing the interests of 8 million people residing in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island and Long Island, Lynch won a number of Wall Street financial fraud cases.

That kind of leadership and experience would rightfully continue the fights for fair housing and a stop to predatory lending. As with any organization, the tone is set at the top. At the Department of Justice (DOJ), the successor to outgoing Attorney General Eric Holder will determine whether aggressive enforcement of laws designed to provide equal access to housing and credit will be sustained.

In 2015, 47 years since passage of the Fair Housing Act, DOJ's actions prove we are still seeking justice in housing – especially in instances where consumers of color have been denied fair and equal treatment under the law.

Since 2010, according to Vanita Gupta, Acting Assistant Attorney General, DOJ's Civil Rights Division has reached settlements in 18 lawsuits charging discrimination in mortgage lending, pricing discrimination, racial steering and redlining affecting both large and small numbers of consumers. These cases have been as large as the \$335 million settlement with Countrywide that brought a measure of justice for 200,000 borrowers who were targets of discrimination and shared \$335 million in relief. Wells Fargo, one of the nation's largest banks, paid more than \$184 million to thousands of victims of steering and pricing.

Other actions have affected far fewer victims, but still led to monetary compensation. For example, eight Brooklyn families who were sold homes at inflated prices by a developer, United Homes, shared a \$1 million settlement.

In addition, HUD officials advise that in FY 2014, its Fair Housing Assistance Program partner agencies received 8,468 complaints alleging discrimination based on one or more of the Fair Housing Act's seven protected classes: race, color, national origin, religion, gender, family status,

and disability. Enforcement actions resulted in almost \$33 million in compensation for victims and victims' funds. The two top reasons cited in these complaints were disability and race. The combined fair housing efforts of DOJ and HUD have forced substantial settlements for those who have violated the law.

Even so, more housing litigation is pending. For example, in November 2014 the National Fair Housing Alliance, a consortium of more than 220 private, nonprofit fair housing organizations throughout the nation, expanded a racial discrimination complaint filed against U.S. Bank. The original lawsuit, filed in 2012, alleged multiple fair housing violations in the neglect of bank-owned foreclosures in communities of color. The amended complaint now adds the cities of Cleveland, Columbus, Grand Rapids, Kansas City, Minneapolis, and Muskegon to those already filed for Atlanta, Baltimore, Denver, Dallas, Miami-Ft. Lauderdale, Memphis, Milwaukee and other locales.

With these and other housing issues, it is inexcusable for the Senate to delay a floor vote on the Lynch nomination. The upper chamber has a constitutional duty to 'advise and consent'. Fortunately, a few members of the majority have indicated their commitment to vote for the delayed nominee.

On February 26, the day that the Senate Judiciary Committee voted on the Lynch nomination, its former chair and longest-serving member, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) said, "The case against her nomination, as far as I can tell, essentially ignores her professional career and focuses solely on about six hours that she spent before this committee on January 28. I do not believe that is a proper way to evaluate any nominee's fitness for any position."

Mike Calhoun, president of the Center for Responsible Lending agreed adding, "Lynch has impeccable credentials, distinguished experience, and her values have shown she is committed to independent and fair application and enforcement of our laws, and in particular, protecting working American families from economic and consumer violations of our protections. It's time for this to end and for this extraordinary candidate to be confirmed."

Loretta Lynch and the nation are waiting – still.

Charlene Crowell is a communications manager with the Center for Responsible Lending. She can be reached at Charlene.crowell@responsiblelending.org.



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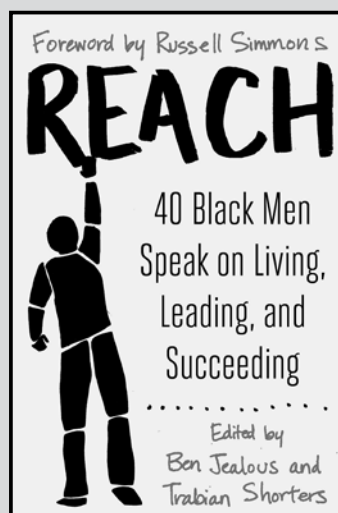
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Reach

40 Black Men Speak on Living, Leading, and Succeeding



**“Reach:
40 Black Men
Speak on Liv-
ing, Leading, and
Succeeding,”**

edited by Ben Jealous
and Traban Shorters,
foreword by
Russell Simmons

c.2015, Atria
\$15.00 /
\$18.00 Canada
275 pages



Author, Benjamin T. Jealous



Author, Traban Shorters

By The Bookworm Sez

Where do you go from here?

You’ve been looking at your life and everything around you, and that’s the question you’ve been asking: what next? What will you do with the rest of your days? In the new book “Reach,” edited by Ben Jealous and Traban Shorters, foreword by Russell Simmons, you may find some guidance.

What you see is what you do.

That’s natural. Says Ben Jealous, “...imitation has always been the first step for those who achieve great things.” It’s easy to emulate positive behavior and success, once you see it done – which is what you’ll find in this book.

When D’Wayne Edwards was sixteen, he lost his beloved older brother. That, says Edwards, “re-

ally encouraged me to pay attention to my gift” of drawing and design. Realize your “true potential,” he advises.

Says actor Louis Gossett Jr.: learn that you can play Superman.

Shaka Senghor was still a teenager when he was sent to prison and “was on course to become the best predator I could be,” until journaling helped him look at his life and “the most absurd stuff you can imagine.” Write down your thoughts, he says. Read them and “understand that [they] have power.”

Read, says Dr. Eddie Connor. “We’ve got to promote books instead of prison bars...”

Ben Jealous advises taking risks. Learn math, says Emmanuel Cephas. Broadcasting executive Ron Davenport says to “Be in the room where the decisions are made.” Learn to fail, says aviator Barrington Irving, but don’t let it be an option.

Name your future, says Van Jones. Become involved in politics, get an education, and cultivate empathy. Be financially literate, and promote entrepreneurship. Be a role model, and ask for mentors. Work collaboratively, and lift up future generations who come after you.

And above all, stay hopeful. Loss of hope, says Reverend Tony Lee, can “sabotage [your] faith.” Says Yusef Shakur, “without... hope, poverty becomes overwhelming.”

Says Senghor, “... hope, man – hope is the saving grace.”

Wow. Though it’s only a few ounces of paper and ink, “Reach” truly packs a punch.

There’s a lot of takeaway in this book, for starters. Editors Ben Jealous and Traban Shorters invited 40 black men from all walks of life and achievement to tell their stories and share what helped them succeed. While it’s natural that there’d be some repetition, you’ll find dozens and dozens of short chapters to uplift and inspire.

I loved that in this book – but there was one thing that bears mentioning: pay attention, and you’ll start to notice that many authors here were raised in fatherless households. It truly struck me as further proof that there are no excuses not to succeed.

While I think anyone will be glad they read this book, I can definitely see it being a great gift for any young man on his way to high school, college, or post-college life. It will give him something to think about on his path to success. For him, “Reach” is a great book to have, wherever he goes.

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State & Local News

DSEF 5th Annual Scholarship Essay Contest

The Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund is proud to announce its 5th Annual Scholarship Essay Contest. The contest deadline date will be July 31, 2015. All completed essays should be mailed to P.O. Box 6832 New Orleans, LA 70174 or emailed to dseducationalfund@gmail.com.

Participants must be a resident of New Orleans or any of the surrounding areas. The essay contest is opened to all students from grades 7-12. All essays must be



Dinerral Shavers

typed and 250 to 500 words in length. This year’s essay topic is, “Dear President Obama...” Students are encouraged to write an essay to the President of the United States and express their feelings about poverty, their

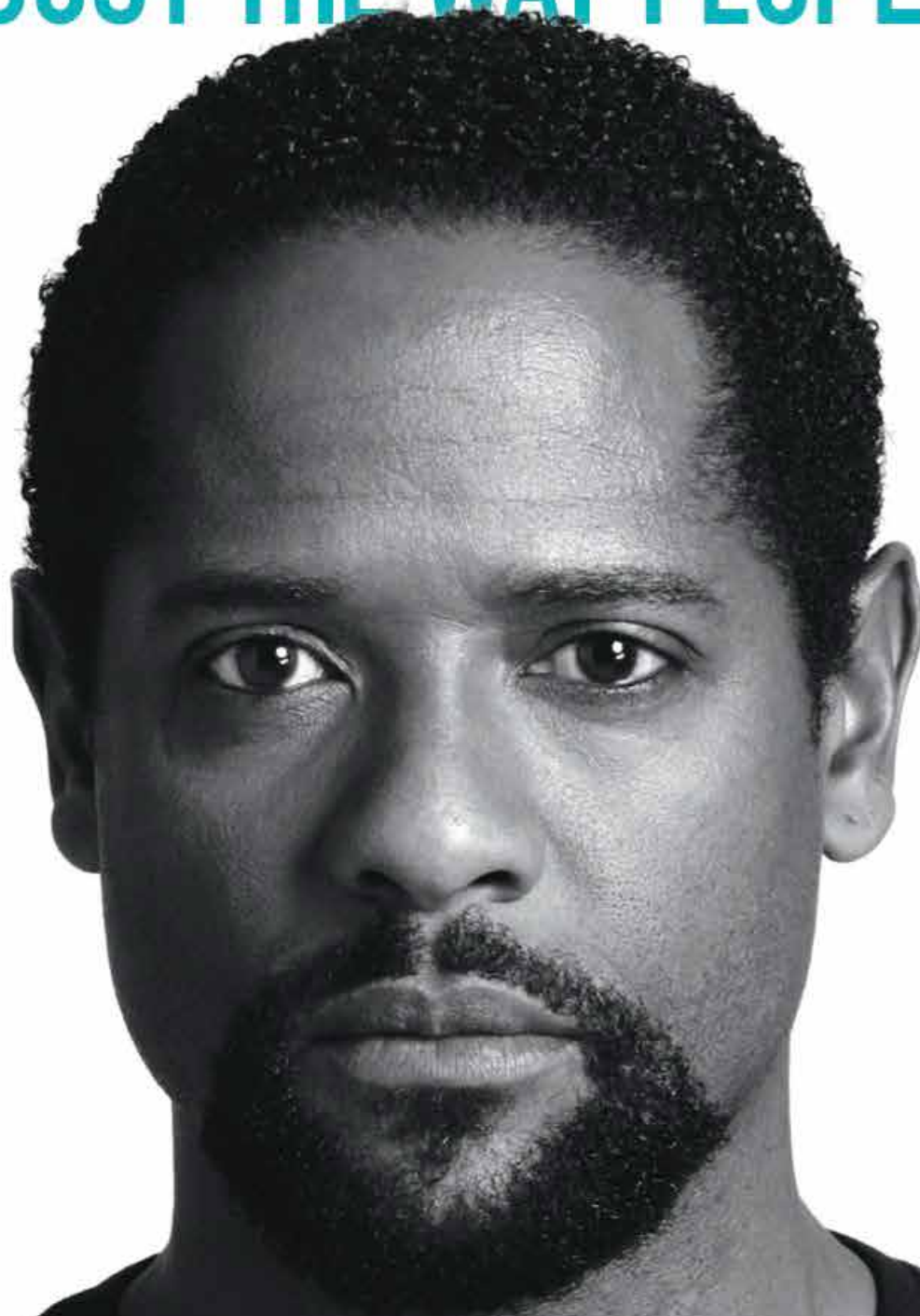
country, their community, the minimum wage, the desensitization of violence, healthcare, why their lives matter, or anything that they would like to see him change about our society.

There will be three cash prizes: 1st Place \$500, 2nd Place \$250 and 3rd Place \$100.

The winners will be announced during DSEF’s Annual Back to School Extravaganza which will be held this coming August.

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Blair Underwood