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Data
Zone
Page 7

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

New Orleans Ten Years After Hurricane Katrina

The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



Newsmaker
WBOK's
Paul Beaulieu
Announces Retirement

Page 4

Commentary
The Legacy
of Julian Bond



Page 8

New Orleans Ten Years After Hurricane Katrina



It is true that New Orleans has done some new things post-Katrina, but the question becomes where have the investments been made, and who are they benefiting?

By Edwin Buggage

New Orleans: Ten Years Later Separate and Unequal

We are on the eve of the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, a time where our City reflects on it-

self. There are many that have used this opportunity to chime in on the progress/state of the City. Some of those voices have even stirred national controversy such as Chicago Tribune Writer Kristen McQueary who in her piece centering on the corruption of her native city wished a Katrina like moment would happen in her city, espousing that the aftermath of the most

horrific storm and flood to hit the U.S., in her view, has made New Orleans a better City.

After her piece was published many people locally and nationally came out to criticize her remarks. While her words in the view of many were insensitive and not very well thought, out it showed a lack of understanding of what's happened in New Orleans during

Cover Story, Continued on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary.	8
Newsmaker	4	In The Spirit	9
Book Review	6	National News	10
Data Zone	7	State & Local News .	11

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

the 10 years after nature and man conspired together to create the disaster called Katrina. New Orleans, where 1800 people died and 80% of the City was underwater, causing billions of dollars in damage and displacing a large majority of the City's residents; assessment the pace of resurrection and success is a matter of perspective. For those who have not been able to recoup their pre-Katrina lives, particularly those residents who formerly resided in the City's 9th Ward, a very real perspective is that New Orleans, post-Katrina is "A Tale of Two Cities... Separate and Unequal."

Progress a Matter of Perspective

10 years later the official line is that New Orleans has become for some the success story of how a City can go down the road from having a reputation of being a corrupt and undesirable place to live to being one of the fastest growing cities in America. Also, it's become a place for many young people a place to come and begin their professional careers. But again we must ask ourselves how much of this story is simply great PR messaging coming from City Hall and does it mirror the reality of the entire City.

It is true that New Orleans has done some new things post-Katrina, but the question becomes where have the investments been made, and who are they benefiting? Yes we can look at major events coming into town and speak of their economic impact, but have the areas that need the most help seen any changes in their way of life. It seems to some that New Orleans is changing, but it is not changing for natives and African-Americans in particular.

We have seen Magazine Street, areas of Uptown, the Marigny, St. Roch and of course the Central Business District re-developed and repopulated, but what you do

not see is in the areas where there are high concentrations of African-Americans, i.e. New Orleans East and the Lower Ninth Ward being a real priority as far as any real investment. What you see are virtual ghost towns that look the same if not worse than they did ten years

ago. And we must ask ourselves as Mayor Landrieu touts the many great successes of the City, how is it impacting the African-American community and those who face the greatest economic challenges. Looking around you see pockets of prosperity and splendor, which are marketed as the "new" New Orleans but nestled away, there are communities which still sit with blighted houses that are toxic wastelands; we must ask ourselves is this the kinds of places some our children should be growing up in.



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The New Orleans of Tomorrow

We must also ask ourselves about an education system that has

placed many of our most vulnerable kids inside of a petri dish being used to experiment in the name of reforming our education system. Ultimately, we must ask how are we preparing our young people to take the mantles of power in our City. Are we trying to create a City where ev-

eryone can have a hand in shaping the New Orleans of tomorrow or one where only a few will continue to set the agenda for the City. Will there be parity in power between the Black and White residents, between the rich and the poor? What will the future of the people of New Orleans be? Will those with power even care to create programs which uplift the people or will we continue to have two New Orleans?

areas are neglected and poor relations exist between the citizens and the police which only serves to exacerbate the problem. Hope springs however, that with a new African-American chief in place, that he can create an environment for better relations between the community and

those in law enforcement.

Ending Corruption: Civic Engagement is Important

Most native New Orleanians have seen the corrupt politics which the City and state are known for. We have seen many including Mayor Ray Nagin go from being our hero during Katrina to being convicted of bribery. We watched our longtime U.S. Congressman William Jefferson suffer the same fate.

And while we have many others that we will not name have also fallen on the same sword, we must move the needle forward as citizens and be civically engaged and hold those we entrust with our votes to a

higher standard. For today the City must elect people whose substance equals their style. It is a time where being a workhorse is more important than one of the shows horses of past political eras where symbolic gains were sufficient.

For New Orleans to Get Better All Hands Must be on Deck

This is a new day and ten years later as the City reflects on where it has been, it must be forward thinking and have a mutually beneficial vision on where it wants to go. New Orleans can no longer be a City that can linger in its past glories. It must move itself forward to face the challenges of becoming a City that can yes, embrace its rich and unique history and culture, but also embrace change and progress. But that change and progress must be for all of the citizens of New Orleans, not just the White citizens.

For that is what made this City what it is in the first place. The rich culture and heritage of New Orleans does not exist without it's Black native citizens. The food that tourists come to savor is OUR food. The music they flock to hear is OUR music. The flavor of New Orleans is OUR flavor. This City cannot survive without it. So the future of New Orleans must be one where all can sit at the table of power and determine its direction.

Ten years ago the City was shown to the world as a place that was separate and unequal, so unequal that it cost the lives of over 1000 of our precious people. Today we must work to rectify our ills which still remain, and recognize that if this City is to become the great City again, it has to value the potential of all of its citizens. And the leadership must realize that if we are to recover fully, that all citizens and all neighborhoods in New Orleans matter.

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Giving the People a Voice

Paul Beaulieu Retires



WBOK's Director of Operations Susan Henry and Paul Beaulieu



Timolynn Sumpter, Lambert Boissiere, John Slade, Oliver Thomas, Paul Beaulieu, Ro Brown, Wendall Pierce



Paul Beaulieu and Bakewell Media President, Danny Bakewell, Jr.



City Councilwoman Nadine Ramsey and Paul Beaulieu

By Edwin Buggage

Paul Beaulieu has been an important voice in the City of New Orleans. For forty-five years he has been in the media; on the frontlines as an advocate of African-American empowerment. He is known for his tell it like it is style that is brash and bold. But on this day he is relaxed and self-reflective as he talks about his retirement, his contribution to African-Americans of New Orleans and what is next on the horizon for him as he passes the reigns of leadership in media to the next generation.

His career in media started in 1970 working as a columnist for the States-Item Newspaper; this led to him writing in publications ranging from Gambit, New Orleans Magazine, the Louisiana Weekly, the New Orleans Tribune and the Data News Weekly. He eventually moved to television hosting and producing "Dimensions" on WVUE, "Between the Lines" on Cox-TV before moving to his most recent stint in media as General Manager and host

of a highly popular radio show on WBOK 1230AM. While he's worked in various fields of media, one thing that is a constant in all his work is his commitment to giving the African-American community a voice.

"When I look back at my career in media I can say that I tried to bring attention to many of the issues in our community and that our voice was heard. That people got a chance to hear our story from our perspective that has always been important to me. Data News Weekly founder Joseph "Scoop" Jones use to always stress that that was our role as African-American media and that's always stuck with me and when I talk to young people I want them to understand the importance of telling our story," remarks Beaulieu on his career and how essential having an unfiltered African-American media is to addressing the issues that affect their community.

WBOK 1230AM, with its all talk format and slogan of "Real Talk for Real Times" have become a go to place for conversations center-

ing on issues that affect the African-American community. Beaulieu's voice has come to be known to many, served as the clarion call into action. With his departure his voice will be sorely missed.

"Paul has been instrumental in championing issues that impact the New Orleans' African-American Community. His passion for the community, WBOK and its mission, is unsurpassed," said Susan Henry, Director of Operations in a press release announcing Beaulieu's retirement.

Danny Bakewell, President of Bakewell Media and owner of WBOK 1230AM also released a statement of Beaulieu's retirement saying, "We appreciate Paul's dedication and all of the hard work he has put into building a stellar team and continuing the important mission of the station."

Beaulieu speaks of his time at WBOK as one that the African-American perspective was necessary to push back at the agenda of some who want to make New Orleans a different City after Hurricane Katrina without the input of the African-American

community.

"It invigorated me in terms of the struggle that African-Americans are treated fairly. With WBOK emerging after Katrina we saw as our mission the City changing and we wanted to see some of those things benefit the African-American community and to Keep the Drive Alive as Dutch Morial would say."

Speaking of the WBOK and the rest of the African-American owned media and its continued role to help create a dialogue around fairness and equality for all citizens. The African-American media is an important and vital resource.

"We the African-American owned media had a greater role post Hurricane Katrina and that was to resist the tides of change by some to make the City smaller and Whiter and the powers that be made that clear was that we don't want the Lower 9 and New Orleans East to come back. Resistance to this agenda was necessary by African-American media and I think what we were saying was not anti-W or change. That in

fact we did not mind Whites coming in, but not at the expense of Blacks."

As he announced his retirement this does not mean this proud St. Aug Grad will not be active in the community. He says as he moves to a more relaxed lane that he sees writing and doing some other things around the community and passing on what he's learned to the next generation.

"I will continue to do some things including writing and speaking engagements, but the pressure of running the station will be on this new group we put together."

Looking back on his life his voice resounds a sense of satisfaction that he's lived a life filled with meaning and purpose that's come with serving others.

"When I think about my life and what it's meant, I hope I have been a servant to our community and an advocate and that's been what my life's been about, serving others and hopefully making it a better place for all our people to live and to give them a voice and hand in shaping its direction."

Posture, Long Hair & Poor?

This Is Why Blacks Are Being Excluded From Louisiana Juries

By Christina Coleman

It's no secret that most American juries underrepresent African-American women and men.

But according to a New York Times report, prosecutors in Shreveport, Louisiana are excluding potential Black jurors three times as often as jurors of another race by using peremptory challenges — an action that does not require attorneys to offer an explanation unless they are accused of racial bias in picking jurors. But the Supreme Court exception does little to ensure Black jurors are carrying out their civic duty, as an attorney can give the simplest of justifications to support their decision.

From the NYT:

Here are some reasons pros-

ecutors have offered for excluding blacks from juries: They were young or old, single or divorced, religious or not, failed to make eye contact, lived in a poor part of town, had served in the military, had a hyphenated last name, displayed bad posture, were sullen, disrespectful or talkative, had long hair, wore a beard.

"Stupid reasons are O.K.," said Shari S. Diamond, an expert on juries at Northwestern University School of Law. Ones offered in bad faith are not.

In Louisiana's Caddo Parish, where Shreveport is the parish seat, a study to be released Monday has found that prosecutors used peremptory challenges three times as often to strike black potential jurors as others during the last decade.

The exclusion is not exclusive to Shreveport. In fact, the pattern is consistent with those of other states like Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia, where "prosecutors excluded every black prospective juror in a death penalty case against a black defendant," the Times writes.

The Supreme Court is reviewing the latter this fall. The discovery is shining new light on the racial bias that takes place within jury selection — a practice that both denies Black people their basic civil rights and aids in the number of convictions against defendants presented in front of a jury that does not represent their peers.

"If you repeatedly see all-white juries convict African-Americans, what does that do to public confidence in the criminal justice sys-

tem?" asked Elisabeth A. Semel, the director of the death penalty clinic at the law school at the University of California, Berkeley.

Prosecutors, however, say peremptory challenges "promote fairness."

But many prosecutors and defense lawyers said peremptory strikes allow them to use instinct and strategy to shape unbiased and receptive juries. "I'm looking for people who will be open, at least, to my arguments," said Joshua Marquis, the district attorney in Astoria, Ore.

Jeff Adachi, San Francisco's elected public defender, said peremptory challenges promote fairness. "You're going to remove people who are biased against your client," he said, "and the district at-

torney is going to remove jurors who are biased against police officers or the government."

The numbers, arguably, do not read as "unbiased." Prosecutors in Houston and Henry Counties in Alabama were said to use the strikes to remove 82 percent of eligible Black jurors from trials where the death penalty was imposed, according to this lawsuit. And while "opposition to the death penalty is much more common among black people," according to Kent S. Scheidegger, a lawyer with the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation (a factor that could lead attorneys to exclude Black jurors in the hopes of curving a case), the sheer number of Blacks excluded from juries reveals a dark history of red-lining minorities due to skin color.

DSEF's 7th Annual Back to School Extravaganza

The Dinerral Shavers Educational Fund (DSEF) and its partners Tulane University's Staff Advisory Council and the Ashe' Cultural Arts Center, are pleased to announce plans for its 7th Annual Back to School Extravaganza. This event is a free school supply giveaway targeted towards all New Orleans students.

This year's Extravaganza will be held Saturday, September 12, 2015 at the Ashe' Cultural Arts Center (1712 Oretha C. Haley Boulevard New Orleans, LA 70113) from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm, and will feature live performances by Luther Gray & Bamboula 2000, McDonogh #35 Cheerleaders, POBC Dance Team, Tawain Cherrelle, Domango Training, Phillipi C.O.G.I.C with a special finale performance by the Red Wolf Brass Band and New Orleans Mardi Gras Indians. In addition there will be motivational speakers, tons of giveaways, and surprise guest. In return, we are encouraging New Orleans citizens to donate canned goods and non-perishable food items to our



2nd Harvest Food Drive in support of disaster victims. The focus of this year's event is to promote "A Heart Healthy New Orleans." In that, DSEF will partner with the American Heart Association and several health units to offer free health screenings for New Orleans Citizens.

This year DSEF will also honor its 2015 Scholarship Essay Contest Winners. Please join us in congratulating 1st Place Winner Aerial Anderson of Landry-Walker High School, 2nd Place Winner Treshor Sturgus of NOCCA High School,

and 3rd Place Winner Malik Gibson of St. Augustine High School.

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.



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Lil Weezyana Fest to Stream Live on Tidal



If you weren't able to get tickets to Lil Wayne's Lil Weezyana Fest next week, don't cry. Lil Wayne fans won't have to sell their first born to catch the inaugural "Lil Weezyana Fest," as Tidal is set to stream the entire event on Aug. 28. This comes on the heels of Lil' Wayne announcing that he "just signed a deal with Jay Z."

When Weezy said this at a concert back in June, many thought he had finally ditched his long time mentor Birdman, and had joined the Roc Nation family.

It was later revealed that it was in relation to Jay Z's streaming service Tidal.

Wayne's manager, Cortez Bryant debunked all of the original Roc Nation signing rumors, saying "The Internet and blogs took his words out of context... When Wayne was speaking about the partnership with Jay Z, he was speaking about his new deal as an artist owner with Tidal."

Back in Tha Carter IV days Wayne and Hov were going at it, when Wayne infamously threatened to kidnap Beyonce.

But with the beef behind them, two of the greatest rappers the world's ever seen have finally decided to get some money together.

While Tidal hasn't been received well, it's certainly got one thing going for it: exclusive event streaming. From Jay Z's B-sides Concert, to Summer Jam, Tidal is making some major moves.

"Lil Weezyana Fest" is also set to host the The Hot Boys reunion, including Juvenile, and will raise money to benefit victims from Hurricane Katrina.

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Straight Outta Compton

By Dwight Brown
NNPA Film Critic

Warning: This isn't some chump change Sundance indie movie about the rap group NWA. Nor is it a should-have-gone-straight-to-DVD afterthought about hip-hop culture. This is a full-fledged, big-budget looking homage to the L.A. rap scene that smartly, emotionally and historically capsulizes the life and times of Eazy-E, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre and everyone around them who caused the big bang that popularized West Coast rap music. This is an Oscar-caliber film. This movie is a monster.

You'll need to give your undivided attention to the 2 hour, 22 minutes of footage. Blink or go get popcorn and you'll miss an integral piece of music and cultural history that defined the times. You won't learn how legendary rappers such as Tupac and Snoop Dogg entered the rap scene, or how Suge Knight hooked up with Dr. Dre, or how Dr. Dre met producer Jimmy Iovine.

From the film's first moments, you know you're experiencing greatness because everything seems so real: the visuals of Compton streets, the strong bass beats in nightclubs, the ghetto fabulous clothes, the Jheri curls, the police arrests. The performances, the dialogue, the plotline – it's all amazingly authentic. It's as if you are a fly on the wall peeking in or a narc during a drug bust watching it all go down.

Instantly the thought occurs: Who orchestrated all this and why is it so good? Once you read the productions notes, it all makes sense. Ice Cube (Friday), Dr. Dre and Eazy-E's widow Tomica Woods-Wright are co-producers of their own story. F. Gary Gray, who shot Ice Cube videos (e.g. "True to the Game") back in the day, and has gone on to direct urban dramas (Set it Off) and comedies (Friday), is at the helm. That's why what you're viewing is so



graphic. These guys lived it. They're just sharing their experiences.

It's 1986 and 16-year-old O'Shea Jackson, aka Ice Cube (O'Shea Jackson, Jr.), is getting involved in drug deals that don't end well. Twenty-one-year old Andre Romelle Young, aka Dr. Dre (Corey Hawkins), is a wannabe record producer/DJ still living with his mom, Verna (Lisa Renee Pitts), and his younger brother. He's focused on his music, and not working. Mom, who had him as a teen and is holding down two jobs to make ends meet, isn't having it. She's in his face: "People said I would be shit. You would be shit. I've worked hard. I refuse to let you throw that all away!" Next thing you know, Dre is out on the streets, with his prized LPs in tow, couch-surfing. Eric Lynn Wright, aka Eazy-E (Jason Mitchell) uses his entrepreneurial skills selling drugs, but at age 23, he's burned out and the thugs he does business with are dropping like flies.

Call it a confluence. The three decide to

pool their talents and change their focus to writing, producing and performing rap music. Now, Dr. Dre is a DJ in local Compton clubs, working alongside DJ Yella (Neil Brown Jr.). Ice Cube and MC Ren (Aldis Hodge) are young emcees starting to form fierce rhymes. Eazy-E has enough drug money to invest in producing. He becomes the leader. They form Ruthless Records, cut music and become NWA – Niggaz Wit Attitudes. An ambitious music manager, Jerry Heller (Paul Giamatti), promises them gigs and a future. The rest is history, or urban folklore, depending on how you look at it.

The group comes up at a time in L.A., during the Ronald Reagan's years, when gang violence is rampant and police brutality is the norm. Their rap music reflects the chaos in their environment and the rest of the world is shocked by their graphic lyrics that some feel glorify crime ("Gangsta Gangsta"), exploit women ("A Bitch Iz a Bitch") and verbally assault

cops ("F— Tha Police"). When the guys tour, it's safe to say they don't perform at church socials, the National Organization of Women events or fundraisers for the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

Along the way, members leave the group, some are cheated out of money and bad blood takes hold. There are gold records, arrests, condemnations, orgies, babies, threats, TV appearances, rivalries, betrayals, and revelations. They grow apart. Will they come back together?

As you watch NWA blow up and flame out, and get a feel for what life was like behind the risqué MTV videos, you also watch the truth about the L.A. police department unfold. The Rodney King incident exposed the practices NWA catalogued years before. You're not only watching the history of West Coast rap, but the evolution of L.A.'s inner city community and race relations.

Straight Outta Compton,
Continued on page 11

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The Legacy of Julian Bond



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

There is an old African proverb that says “The spirit of a freedom warrior will never die in the enduring life of the village, yet that valued spirit will be passed on to future generations.” Julian Bond was a freedom fighter. He was a gallant leader-warrior for freedom, justice and equality. And his spirit will never die.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA) family pauses to mourn the passing of civil rights leader Julian Bond. But we also know that it is important to highlight those lasting lessons from Bond’s legacy that apply to today’s struggle for freedom.

Brother Bond was a personal friend and colleague in the Civil Rights Movement during the past 50 or more years. He was not only a skillful and articulate orator, Bond

was also a great writer not unlike W.E. B DuBois and James Baldwin. Julian was a penetrating columnist for the NNPA as he use his pen to stir the consciousness of millions of people about the plight of Black America and others who cried out for equal justice.

Bond was one of the early leaders and cofounders of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and worked tirelessly to lead young African American student leaders across the nation to the forefront of the civil rights movement. He was a Morehouse College student activist who helped ignite the Atlanta Student Movement. SNCC successfully shaped how Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) saw the value of African American college students in the vanguard of the freedom movement.

“I tell young people to prepare themselves as best they can for a world that grows more challenging every day – get the best education they can and couple that education with real-life experience in social justice work,” said Bond, the son of a famous educator, Horace Mann Bond.

The question for today’s genera-



tion of African American youth is: What can be learned from Julian Bond’s living legacy and applied to the Black Lives Matter movement? The importance of having structure, stated principles, and organization were central to Bond’s sense of youth leadership development.

SNCC was militant and outspoken, but SNCC was well-structured. It was not a spontaneous loosely organized student run organization. One of the reasons why Bond and SNCC were effective in the 1960s is because of their internal discipline and national organizational structure.

Of course, today with the Internet and social media being the

preferred means of communication among young leaders today in the Black Lives Matter movement, one challenge is how to build a sustainable student and youth led movement for justice with an effective structure and infrastructure. I am confident and admire the progress that the Black Lives Matters movement has already achieved. Learning from the past helps to avoid difficulties of the past.

On Bond’s passing, President Barack Obama stated, “Justice and equality was the mission that spanned his life – from his leadership of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, to his founding role with the Southern Poverty

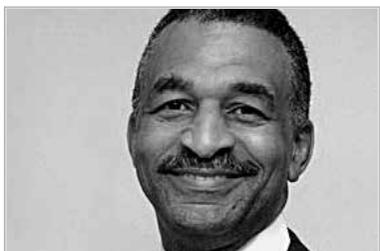
Law Center, to his pioneering service in the Georgia legislature and his steady hand at the helm of the N.A.A.C.P. Julian Bond helped change this country for the better. And what better way to be remembered than that.”

Denise Rolark Barnes, Chairperson of the NNPA and publisher of The Washington Informer, observed that Bond’s “lifelong dedication and commitment to political and economic empowerment, journalistic diversity and integrity, and educational equality served as a beacon for others to follow. His presence and voice will be sorely missed, but his words remain true for the NNPA: ‘Good things don’t come to those who wait. They come to those who agitate!’”

We will all strive to keep the living spirit of Julian Bond’s legacy alive in our current and continuing struggle for justice, equality and empowerment. May his valued and respected spirit be passed on to future generations of freedom fighters.

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

Happy Birthday Marcus Garvey!



By James Clingman
NNPA Columnist

This is not a history lesson; it is simply about homage, recognition, and appreciation of a Black man who loved his people so much that he sacrificed beyond what most of us would say is reasonable.

Marcus Garvey cared so much about his people that he kept coming back, even after being stymied and stigmatized by the White establish-

ment as well as by some of his own people. After all of the negative experiences he suffered at the hands of his enemies, he kept coming back to fulfill his mission of raising the consciousness of Black people, organizing Black people, and leading Black people to economic prosperity. He even promised to come back in death as a whirlwind or a storm, bringing with him millions of Black slaves who would aid us in our fight for freedom and keep the pressure up until we have succeeded.

When you think about how hurricanes that hit the United States originate near the African coast, it makes you wonder if Brother Marcus is not fulfilling some of his prophecy. In addition, considering the debacle that Firestone tires suffered with all of the lawsuits against

it a few years ago, I wondered then if Marcus was taking his retribution for that company’s role in thwarting his work to connect Blacks in the U.S. with our brothers and sisters in Liberia and West Africa via the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA). What goes around comes around. Right?

Marcus Garvey was principled, he had backbone, and he was fearless – all because he loved his people dearly. Love is the most powerful weapon we have. If Black folks had “Marcus Garvey love” for one another, imagine where we would be as a people.

Brother Garvey’s life should be celebrated just as other icons of the Black experience are commemorated. How can we continue to leave him out? After all, Garvey did what

many of those we honor each year only talked about – he demonstrated the viability of economic control of our resources. Garvey showed our people how to pool our dollars and how to do for ourselves. He carried us to new heights, collectively, by utilizing our own resources to build the UNIA and numerous Black-owned businesses.

Ironically, it was Brother Garvey’s dedication to true nationalism that led to his demise by those for whom he so valiantly and relentlessly fought. Unfortunately some Blacks were jealous and envious of Marcus’ ability to rally the people, to get Black people to raise huge sums of money, to march and demonstrate in overwhelming numbers, to turnout the vote in unprecedented fashion, and to deny

the takeover of the UNIA by “outsiders.” Black “leaders” of his time even came up with a “Marcus must go” campaign. Can you imagine that? I certainly can – been there, done that. Anytime a strong Black man or Black woman stands up for our people, it is inevitable that another Black person will lead the charge against them.

Too often we forget, if we ever knew, the importance of our brothers and sisters who stood tall on our behalf. Marcus Garvey, born August 17, 1887, is certainly deserving of our recognition and our honor. His words, “All I have I have given you,” are exemplary of this man’s love for us. We should be proud of his accomplishments, and it would

**Commentary, Continued
on page 10.**

Blessed to be You



James Washington
Guest Columnist

The more I travel life looking towards the eternal and not the physical, the notion of blessings gives me pause to think just how miraculous they are. If we're not careful, life will steal the beauty of these gifts from god. I mean haven't we all been taught at one time or another that it's better to give than receive? Kindness and goodwill should be

a given from all of God's children, Christian or not. Forgiveness and mercy should be a staple of the Christian diet. The result, many people believe, is a reaping of unimaginable rewards for a life spent giving with little to no expectation of getting in return.

Then life, as we know it, takes over and at a very early age we learn that life is cruel, unpredictable and the only reliable factoid we can count on is that one's kindness will be taken for weakness and your generosity will be viewed as foolish. Life and the people in it will use you if you let it (them). Pain usually comes from an attempt to help somebody who doesn't give a damn about you. Been there, done that. It is the source of many a good per-

son turning bad because people will protect themselves. They will survive. We all eventually learn how to navigate a world, in which we come to believe that nice guys do finish last, takers succeed and in order to win, cheating is definitely in order.

Now comes scripture, with this notion that giving is always better than receiving. I thought about this real hard and realized you don't know what kind of mother or father you'll be until you have children. You can't know what kind of friend you'll be until you are one. You cannot know the depth of your ability to give love until you're head over heels in it. My point is you can't really know yourself as a human being until you genuinely share your life with someone without

fear, without restrictions and without conditions. For many this is tough territory because life and people have been cruel to us. However, only by being a friend will you know true friendship. Only by giving love unconditionally can you know unconditional love. And here it is. Only by being a blessing can you really know and appreciate being a blessed.

It doesn't appear to work any other way. If you go through life existing based on a self-imposed set of criteria for love and friendship, then that's what you'll get; love and friendship with strings attached. You can't expect your prayers to be answered if your prayer life starts and stops with gimme. We block countless blessings, if our prayers

include no one but us and echo only our trials and tribulations. You see God shouldn't have to ask what have we done for Him lately when all He asks of us is to remember to recognize we were made in His image; all of us. "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." John 12:13. Like I said being a blessing is the only road to being blessed. Then and only then can we face the utter nonsense in this world with any kind of clarity. Be a blessing to somebody today, anybody.

**May God bless and
keep you always,**

James,
jaws@dallasweekly.com

Commentary

Good Soil

The Overlooked Aspect of School Reform



Rod Paige
Data News Weekly
Guest Columnist

The importance of the home and community role in student learning has for years been shouted by a small but unwavering group of researchers and reform advocates. But even so, the home and community role in student learning is still largely viewed as a marginal appendage to school based education reform efforts, rather than a significant aspect of overall student learning.

In an email to Jim Windham, president of the Texas Institute for Education Reform, surgeon Dr. Eric Chang-Tung, expressed a view of the significance of home and community's role in student learning which may offer a new way of viewing its significance.

In his email he wrote, "While successful education delivery is

the goal, I personally believe that the substrate (individual student) is more of a problem than the delivery platform (teacher)." Later in the same email, he continued, "I believe that a successful education requires both controlling the teaching platform but also addressing the substrate." He goes on to write, "...there needs to be as much effort spent on the student substrate and environment as the teaching platform. This is missing from the current equation..."

While the term "substrate" is seldom found in education jargon, it is a fixture in the lexis of biochemistry, materials science and engineering, biology, chemistry, geology, and other scientific fields. A search for definitions produces phrases such as: "the surface or material on or from which an organism lives, grows, or obtains its nourishment," or "the earthly material in which an organism lives, or the surface or medium on which an organism grows or is attached."

From a biological point of view, we can easily see the relevance of the term. For instance, it is widely understood that the quality of plants grown in one's garden is significantly affected by the quality of the

“And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

Mark 4:8, Holy Bible,
English Standard Version

garden's soil—the plant's substrate. A gardener knows well that plants grown in a poor environment with inadequate moisture, a deficiency of proper nutrients, and poorly cultivated soil, will not achieve the quality of production desired, no matter how carefully the gardener tends to the plants themselves. For this reason, the gardener not only nurtures the plants by providing proper pruning, appropriate spacing, removal of weeds, and protection from pests, but also goes to great

lengths to improve the soil in which the plants live, grow, or obtain their nourishment. In other words, the gardener cares both for the plants and their substrate.

Similarly, providing a high-quality education for students requires not only effective schools, great teaching, and parental choice, but also attention to the substrate in which students live and grow and from which they obtain their nourishment. Achieving this nation's public-school education goals will

require attention to students' school environment, but to their home and community environments as well.

The education literature is brimming with research and expert opinions supporting the concept that students' home and community play a major role in their academic learning. Research confirms that students are far more likely to be successful in school when their parents constantly express and exhibit the importance of education; check homework; have regular contact with teachers and school administration; attend school events; and have regular discussions with their children about school programs, activities, and classes.

Students who are fortunate enough to live in a home and community environment that consistently supports their educational learning have a heightened potential for academic success because they are rooted in good soil. It is time to make a much more concerted effort to ensure that all children have the high-quality substrate they need to be successful.

Rod Paige served as U.S. Secretary of Education from 2001 through 2005

Ben Carson: Planned Parenthood Preys on Blacks to 'Control Population'

By Lynette Holloway

During a recent interview on Fox News about Planned Parenthood founder Margaret Sanger, Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson resurrected old claims that the group wants to extinguish Blacks through abortion, according to The Washington Post:

"Well, maybe I'm not objective when it comes to Planned Parenthood," Carson told Fox on Aug. 12. "But you know, I know who Margaret Sanger is, and I know that she believed in eugenics, and that she was not particularly enamored with black people. And one of the reasons that you find most of their clinics in black neighborhoods is so that you can find way to control that population. And I think people

should go back and read about Margaret Sanger, who founded this place — a woman who Hillary Clinton by the way says she admires. Look and see what many people in Nazi Germany thought about her."

The Post went on to evaluate Carson's claims, a resurrection of those made during the 2012 presidential race by then-Republican candidate Herman Cain, who accused the group of targeting African-Americans by locating abortion clinics in largely Black communities. Via The Washington Post:

Sanger recruited black leaders to support the effort and, in letters to the project's director, urged that white men who were outsiders should not run the clinics. She said the effort would gain more credibility with greater community involve-

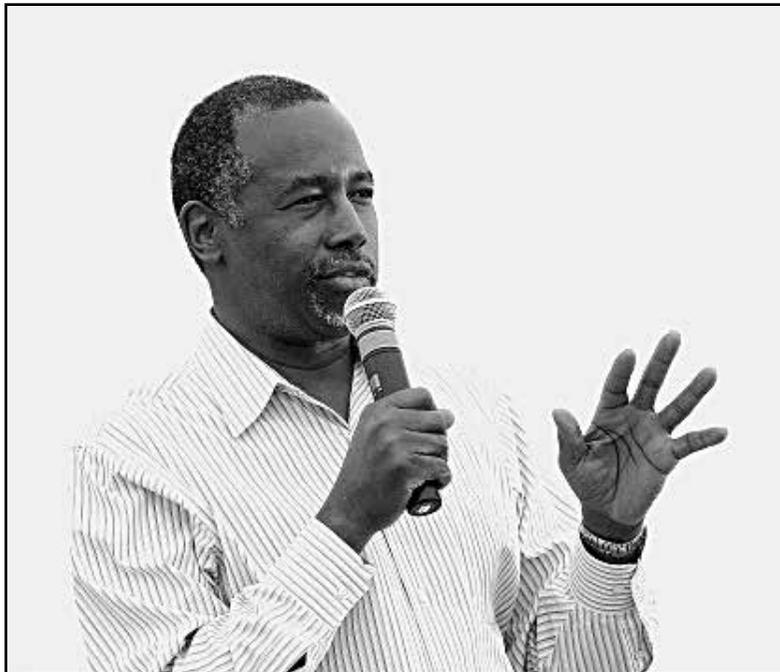


PHOTO CREDIT: Getty

ment, given natural suspicions.

"The minister's work is also important and he should be trained, perhaps by the Federation as to our ideals and the goal that we hope to reach," Sanger wrote in a 1939 letter. "We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population and the minister is the man who can straighten out that idea if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members."

(This inartfully written passage is frequently taken out of context to suggest Sanger was seeking to exterminate blacks.)

The Post notes that it was accused in 2012 of "sugarcoating Sanger's record, in particular for some language on her paternalistic view of Blacks." What do you think?

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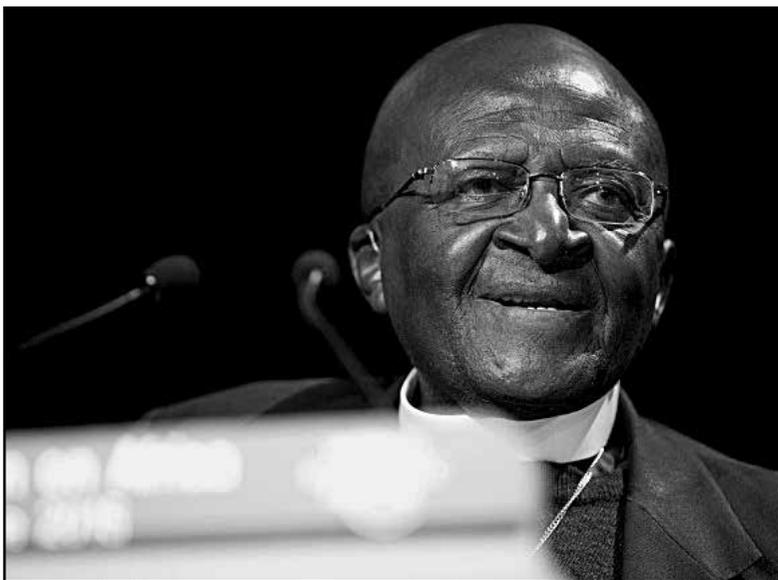


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Archbishop Desmond Tutu Hospitalized



By Lynette Holloway

Eighty-three-year-old Archbishop Desmond Tutu was hospitalized Monday evening in Johannesburg, South Africa for an "inflammation," his daughter said, according to CNN.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has struggled with health problems for years, is expected to remain hospitalized for at least 24 hours, writes the news outlet.

From CNN:

Tutu's daughter, Canon Mpho Tutu, didn't elaborate on the kind of inflammation but said it was unrelated to the infection that sent him to the hospital last month.

In recent weeks, Tutu has struggled with a persistent infection with trips in and out of hospital.

"He is 83, not 38," his daughter said. "So bouncing back from an illness is not quite as easy as it once was."

Commentary, Continued
from page 8.

be wonderful if we would emulate his spirit, his love, and his tenacity as we make our way to economic freedom.

I will close with a portion of Marcus Garvey's letter from the Atlanta prison to which he was sent as a result of trumped-up charges and a "kangaroo court. He was later deported.

"I have sacrificed my home and my loving wife for you. I entrust her to your charge... I have left her penniless and helpless to face the world, because I gave all, but her courage is great, and I know she will hold up for you and me... After my enemies are satisfied, in life or death I shall come back to you to serve even as I have served before. In life I shall be the same; in death I shall be a terror to the foes of Negro liberty. If death has power, then count on me in death to be the real Marcus Garvey I would like to be."

The appropriate way to honor Garvey is by practicing what he did. Honor him by following his example for self-empowerment. Happy Birthday, Marcus Mosiah Garvey!

Jim Clingman, founder of the Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. He can be reached through his website, blackonomics.com. He is the author of Black Dollars Matter: Teach Your Dollars How to Make More Sense, which is available through his website; professionalpublishinghouse.com and Amazon Kindle eBooks.

City to Require "Living Wage"

On Monday, Mayor Mitch Landrieu signed into law an ordinance requiring City contractors and recipients of grants be paid a "living wage" of \$10.55 per hour and provide a minimum of seven paid sick days. On Aug. 6, 2015, the New Orleans City Council unanimously adopted Ordinance Calendar No. 30,550, the "Living Wage Ordinance," authored by District D Councilmember Jared Brossett. City officials said the higher wages will lead to increased levels of business investment, better employee training, higher worker productivity, and lower employee absenteeism and turnover.

"If you work full time, you should be paid a living wage, especially when that work is being completed on behalf of the residents of New Orleans. By signing the living wage ordinance into law, we are unequivocally stating that paychecks should reflect the work performed," Mayor Landrieu said. "Pathways to prosperity can only be realized if jobs are good jobs that pay a good wage. That is why we increased the minimum wage for City employees last year and that is why I am proud to sign the living wage ordinance into law today. Our workers will now be able to better support their families and provide them with more economic security. As we continue to make New Orleans the city we've always dreamed of, we cannot and will not leave anyone behind, and we will continue our aggressive efforts to close the income gap and create equity for all New Orleanians."



Joined by members of the New Orleans City Council and other living wage advocates in New Orleans, Mayor Landrieu on Tuesday signed into law an ordinance requiring City contractors and recipients of grants to pay workers a living wage of \$10.55 per hour and provide a minimum of seven paid sick days a year. The ordinance, authored by Councilmember Jared Brossett and unanimously passed by the City Council on Aug. 6, 2015, goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2016.

District D Councilmember Jared Brossett said, "I am proud that my colleagues joined me to pass the Living Wage Ordinance. As a steward of both public funds and the public trust, I will not condone our taxpayer money going to the perpetuation of poverty. This is the greatest city in the richest nation on earth. The term "working poor" does not belong in our vocabulary. This is a great stride for economic justice and opportunity."

City Council President Jason Williams said, "New Orleans has a number of quality of life issues plaguing her. Poverty and not adequately paying people for a hard day's work is a root cause to most of them. This ordinance is the first

step to addressing this issue."

District B Councilmember LaToya Cantrell said, "The City of New Orleans has taken major steps to improving the quality of life for its residents, from protecting citizens from unhealthy work environments to increasing wages for City Hall employees and city-contracted workers. I applaud my colleagues and Mayor Landrieu for putting these issues on the table and moving them forward."

District E Councilmember James Austin Gray II, said, "This is a step in the right direction. The term 'working poor' is one that we should retire as soon as possible. If you work every day, you have the right to be able to feed, clothe and

educate your children without living in poverty."

This ordinance will apply to contractors with \$25,000 or more in annual City contracts as well as recipients of City financial assistance of \$100,000 or more over any 12-month period.

On January 1 of each year, the "Living Wage" will be adjusted in accordance with the consumer price index, but will never be adjusted downward. Employers that pay their lowest paid employee 30 percent above the required living wage will be exempt from the sick leave requirement.

The ordinance will go into effect Jan. 1, 2016.

Straight Outta Compton, Continued from page 7.

It is a credit to the story by S. Leigh Savidge (Welcome to Death Row), Lan Wenkus (Private Resort) and Andrea Berloff (World Trade Center), which evolved into an astute screenplay by Berloff and newcomer Jonathan Herman, that all the pieces fit so neatly together. You never feel like anything is missing, or that characters aren't saying what's on their mind, or the storytelling is not leading somewhere important. A lot is packed into the brilliant and revealing script.

Casting actors who are not recognizable faces helps the cinema vérité factor. For all practical purposes, they are the rappers, girlfriends and entourage. Corey Hawkins nails the

ethereal essence of Dr. Dre. Casting O'Shea Jackson Jr. as his dad Ice Cube was a stroke of genius and is absolutely haunting. Paul Giamatti as the helpful but devious manager exhibits the right amount of smarm. Burly stuntman-turned-actor R. Marcos Taylor walks like a hardened felon on death row and oozes an evilness that exudes Suge Knight. Jason Mitchell has the widest array of emotions to play as Eazy-E, who is gangsta tough and then extremely vulnerable. If there is a surprise scene-stealer it's Lisa Renee Pitts as Verna. The opening scenes are pivotal and she sets them off perfectly as the exasperated mom who wants her kids to succeed and survive. Her time on screen is short, her performance is huge.

Accolades should be lavished on the technical crew: Joseph Trapanese's (Nightcrawler) compelling score; Matthew Libatique's (Black Swan) perfectly lit cinematography; Billy Fox's (Hustle & Flow) ultra-tight and smart editing; the production design (Shane Valentino), art direction (Christopher Brown) and set decoration (Christopher Carlson, Jeffrey Kushon) that recreates '80 and '90s Compton to a T; and costume design by Kelli Jones (Sons of Anarchy) that is never garish, always suitable, right down to the last gold chain.

The tech credits, acting, and writing are superb, but the lion's share of accolades must go to director F. Gary Gray. From the film's opening sequences you're questioning who

pulled all of this together so perfectly, and it's him. Certainly when a film features an ensemble cast of relatively unknown actors and all give universally strong performances, credit goes to the director for guiding them. There is not one flawed, imperfect, plastic moment in this entire movie. Gray should be proud for realizing all the potential of this historic movie.

This is a monster film. You will walk out feeling like you have been entertained, educated and emotionally fulfilled. Eight months into the year 2015, and this is the only perfect film that has hit the theaters. This is it.

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