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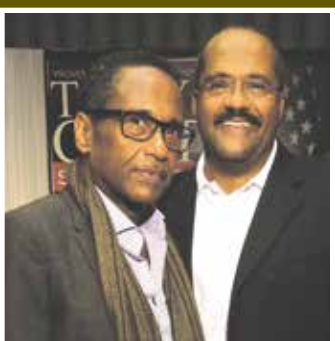
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

42nd Annual Bayou Classic



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It's Bayou Classic Time Are You Ready?



By Data News Weekly Staff

Tigers Jags Historic Rivalry – 2015 marks the 42nd annual meeting of HBCU rivals Southern Uni-

versity and Grambling State University

The Bayou Classic is a football game and so much more! The Bayou Classic commemorates historically Black colleges and universities, academic achieve-

ment, tradition, sportsmanship, marching bands, and friendly competition. The “Classic” is an exhibition of the high standards of academic achievement deeply embedded in the traditions of the two institutions.

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Grambling State University and Southern University are public, four-year institutions of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). Both are recognized for their academics and athletics, and their rivalry is on display each year during the Bayou Classic. Grambling State University is located in Grambling, Louisiana, and Southern University is located in Baton Rouge.

Grambling State University

Grambling State University combines the academic strengths of a major university with the benefits of a small college, a combination that enables our students to grow and learn in a serene and positive environment.

Grambling State University offers more than 800 courses and 68 degree programs in five colleges, including an honors college, two professional schools, a graduate school, and a Division of Continuing Education. National and local employers recruit graduates from Grambling's excellent nursing, computer science, teacher education, and other programs.

In addition to being one of the country's top producers of African-American graduates and the top producer of Computer Information Science graduates in Louisiana, Grambling is the home of the internationally renowned Tiger Marching Band and the "winningest" coach in college football, the legendary football coach Eddie Robinson, Sr., whose tenure is memorialized in a campus museum, funded and operated by the State of Louisiana.

Southern University

Southern University and A&M College is a comprehensive institution offering four-year, graduate, professional, and doctorate degree programs, fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The Univer-

sity today is part of the only Historically Black Land Grant University System in the United States.

Southern University is committed to a broad program of research and creative work to inspire faculty and students in a quest for knowledge and to aid society in resolving its scientific, technological, socioeconomic, and cultural problems.

Southern University has one of the most celebrated athletic programs in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC), including 14 NCAA recognized sports in addition to the university's intramural program. The campus is also the home of the world-traveled Southern University Marching Band, the renowned Dancing Dolls, and SU Cheerleaders.

The Bayou Classic Team announced today that the 42nd Annual Bayou Classic will once again be broadcast on NBC, but this year will move to the broadcast company's cable network – NBC Sports Network. The agreement between The Bayou Classic and NBC Sports Group extends the broadcast of the Bayou Classic on NBC Sports Network for another year.

NBC Television

NBC Sports Group has been the home of The Bayou Classic since 1991. The Bayou Classic has been televised nationally by NBC. The national broadcast attracts an audience of four to five million viewers.

"The landscape of television sports is changing and it is important to us that The Bayou Classic continue to be an integral part of that landscape," said Dottie Belletto, President of New Orleans Convention Company, Inc. (NOCCI), the Management Firm of the 42nd Annual Bayou Classic. "Coming off one of Bayou Classic's best and most dramatic seasons in decades, we could not be more proud to extend this historic partnership and are excited that this extension offers enhanced opportunities that

allow us to bring The Bayou Classic to fans on more platforms than ever before."

Also new for 2015, the kickoff time for the Annual Bayou Classic has been moved from its traditional 1:30 pm CST to a new kickoff time of 4:00 pm CST. This is also a change from earlier dissemination of a 2:00 pm CST kickoff.

"This later kickoff time makes this the first time The Bayou Classic will see a prime-time matchup both in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome and on broadcast," added Belletto. "While our relationship with NBC Sports is longstanding, this new relationship opens up additional avenues to expand the breadth of Bayou Classic-related sports programming both in the game broadcast and in advance promotions and marketing efforts."

The Bayou Classic Events

The Bayou Classic is more than a football game. This annual event is one of the country's greatest college sports rivalries, bringing the fans and Alumni of Southern University and Grambling State University to New Orleans each

November. A week of events featuring a parade, fan festival and the Battle of the Bands culminates with Saturday's Bayou Classic football match-up.

The Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade

Presented in partnership with the French Market
Thursday, November 26, 2015
Mercedes-Benz Superdome to the French Market
3:30 pm

Career & College Fair

Friday, November 27, 2015
Hyatt Regency Hotel
10:00am - 2:00pm

The Battle of the Bands & Greek Show

Presented by Sheen Magazine
Greek Show

The Battle of the Bands

Presented by USMC
Friday, November 27, 2015
Mercedes-Benz Superdome
6:00pm - 10:00pm

TrueBLUE Donor Appreciation Gala

Presented by the Southern University System Foundation
Friday, November 27, 2015
Hyatt Regency Hotel - Empire Ballroom
Featured artist: Rachell Ferrell
8:30pm - 12:30 am
For more information, please call (225) 771-3911

Fan Fest

Presented By Cox Louisiana
Saturday, November 28, 2015
Champions Square
11:30 am - 3:30 pm

The 42nd Annual Bayou Classic

Southern University Jaguars vs. Grambling State University Tigers
Saturday, November 28, 2015
Mercedes-Benz Superdome
4:00 pm CST

Gospel Brunch

Sunday, November 29, 2015
House of Blues
10:00am



Results of the Runoff

The return to the polls yields big results for Data Endorsed Candidates

By Charlie Turner
@charliemichio
Data News Weekly
Staff Writer
Photo by Glenn Summers

For those who did not receive 50% or more of the vote during the open primary were subject to a 'run-off election' where the two highest vote-getters go head to head. With the exception of David Vitter, every other runoff candidate belongs to the Democratic Party.

Louisiana Governorship: John Bel Edwards Defeats David Vitter

A Democrat will be the next Governor of Louisiana, a prospect that seemed unthinkable in a state that seemed to only get redder. Statehouses all over the South seemed beyond the reach for Democrats as moderate voices disappeared

in lieu of Tea-Party Republicans. When Mary Landrieu lost her senate seat in 2014, everyone was reminded of the steady GOP takeover of the American south that began with the backlash from the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

During those 2014 midterms, Sen. David Vitter appeared to be one of, if not the most, powerful politicians in Louisiana. He was a loud and disruptive force in DC who increasingly became a voice for conservatives and anti-Obama sentiment. All the while Bobby Jindal's building absenteeism in office, controversial budget proposals and refusal to expand Medicaid seemed to make him more divisive by the day. Once the budget busted in 2015 and Jindal's blind Presidential ambitions were exposed, Vitter's stature atop the state's Republican leadership seemed cemented.

But ultimately, Jindal's descent to a 20% approval rating, 55% amongst Republicans, may have been what doomed Vitter who has near identical policy views as the term-limited Governor.

Attacks on Vitter's involvement in the DC-madam prostitution ring clearly did not help the senator's poll numbers, but it is difficult to say if they were the main reason for his defeat considering his smooth 2010 reelection. It is possible that voters simply act on different priorities in senate races compared to gubernatorial ones. But what seems undeniable is that Jindal is leaving behind a desire for political change from a conservative ideologue, which did not bode well for Vitter.

Besides bringing a new political party to the statehouse, an Edwards Administration will bring a push for Medicaid expansion, a higher minimum wage and more

investment in higher education. If Edwards can get this conservative state's congress to cooperate on such measures is another conversation. But he has momentum behind him and a willingness to challenge the network of business tax credits and industry groups that defined the Jindal administration. Edwards is far from a radical progressive but does offer a change from the tea-party politics that have defined many statehouses over the past ten years, Louisiana included.

State Senate 7th District: Troy Carter Defeats Jeff Arnold

Rep. Arnold has a reputation for being a fierce advocate for Algiers even if it meant alienating the Mayor or his colleagues. His name recognition and political following easily got him past the primary, but not enough to beat Troy Carter in the runoff. Carter is a diplomat who has been successful in passing legislation on both the state and city level. His parliamentary skills coupled with his affable persona should make him an effective senator in Baton Rouge.

State Representative 100th District: John Bagneris Defeats Alicia Plummer Clivens

Bagneris beat Clivens despite her allegations that he owes over \$200,000 in tax debts. While his family name (brother of mayoral candidate Hon. Michael Bagneris) surely helped his candidacy he is

a community leader and a knowledgeable legislator in his own right. He plans on bringing commercial centers back to NOLA East with empowered traditional public schools to prevent children from having to commute to charters in other neighborhoods.

State Representative 99th District: Jimmy Harris Defeats Ray Crawford

Jimmy Harris, longtime aide to US Rep. Cedric Richmond, handily beat the politically unknown Rev. Crawford to represent large swaths of the Ninth Ward. Like many politicians representing the Lower Ninth, Harris wants to focus efforts on developing the blighted neighborhood. He supports using certain tax incentives to encourage economic activity. But with a budget deficit largely caused by generous tax credits, it may prove hard to use such a legislative tool right now.

Member of School Board District 1: John Brown Defeats Keith Barney

Brown gets elected to a full term on the School Board after being appointed to replace Ira Thomas who was indicted on corruption charges. The board is in the middle overhauling the fully charter school system that has faced criticism for a lack of oversight. Brown will be in a position to affect a school system teetering between private and public management.

Election Night Highlights on Data Zone Page 7

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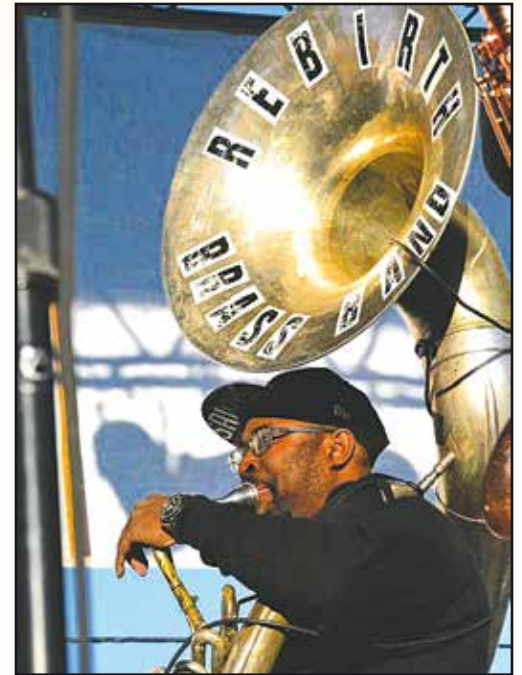
Shoot Ya Best Shot!

9th Annual Oak Street Po Boy Festival

By Kichea S. Burt
Data News Weekly Contributor

Last Sunday, the Oak Street business corridor in the neighborhood of Carrollton was transformed into one of the most unique festivals in the world, the Oak Street Po-Boy Festival! This event featured some of the finest restaurants, artists and musicians in the Crescent City, all coming together in appreciation of one of New Orleans most distinct and delicious creations... The legendary Po-Boy Sandwich.

Over 40 different food vendors were serving up their own take on this tasty classic while some of the best local bands in town provide the soundtrack. On top of all the fantastic food and music, Po-Boy Fest is also excited to add the return of an Arts Market! Food, Music, Art and Oak Street? Doesn't get much better!



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

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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Victory Night!

Photos By Glenn Summers
Data News Weekly Contributor



Governor-Elect Edwards in the second-line



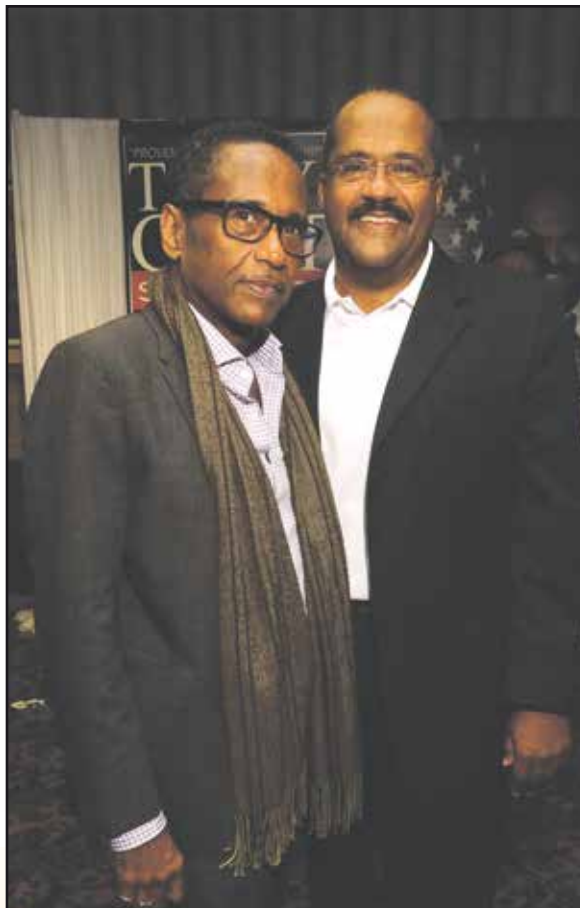
Terry Jones, Publisher, Data News Weekly and Governor-Elect John Bel Edwards



Governor-Elect Edwards in the second-line



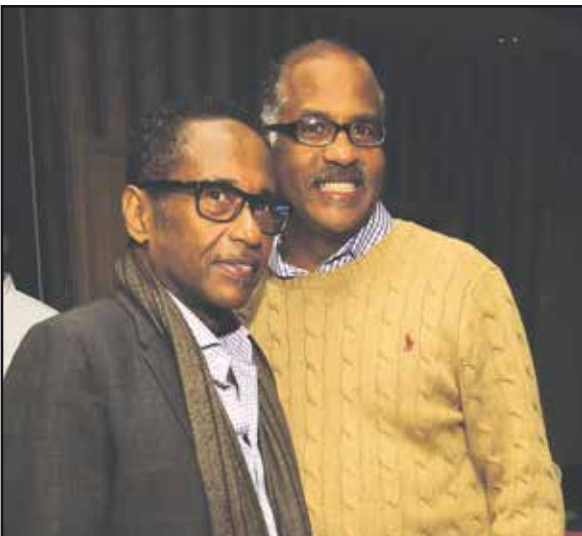
City Councilman Jared Brossett and Terry Jones



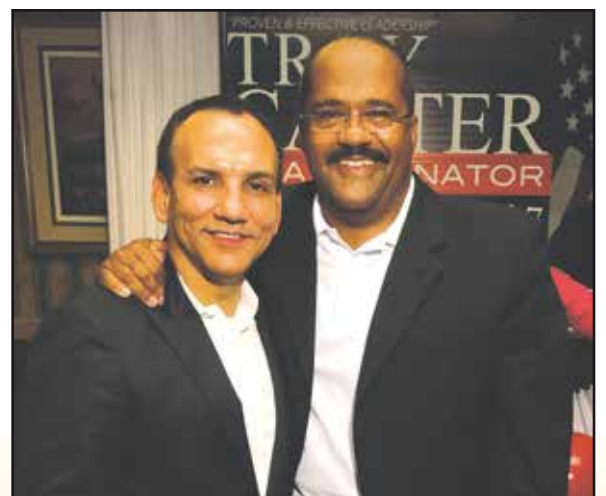
Terry Jones and Troy Carter, State Senator-Elect for District 7



Governor-Elect Edwards and his brother who introduced him



Terry Jones and Cedric Smith



Blair Boutte', Blair Bail Bondsman and Senator-Elect Troy Carter

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

Stop the Trivialization and Preservation of Slavery and Racism



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

As one of the co-founders of the evolving environmental justice movement worldwide, I am always interested in how some people today who have amassed billionaire financial status view racism, slavery and the issues of diversity and inclusion. But first, let me state for the record, I believe in economic empowerment and freedom for all people.

Especially for people of African descent that have experienced cen-

turies of oppression and economic injustice, we should be always aware of the challenges and responsibilities to advance the cause of freedom and human dignity.

Usually the standard principles of preservation and conservation are used by people who are committed to caring for the protection of natural resources. Also conservationists and preservationists are supposed to help people to enjoy and appreciate the magnificent bounty of all of creation. Wow, these are lofty terms.

So how is it that there is a billionaire named Louis Moore Bacon who prides himself as a conservationist, but yet finds himself now at center of expanding allegations of racist actions in the Bahamas as well as in the United States? Why would a very successful businessman whose family was involved in the founding and funding of the Con-

federacy prior to, during, and after the Civil War take unprecedented steps to “preserve” and “conserve” former slave plantations?

In fact, the National Audubon Society, one of the world’s leading conservation organizations, is now weighing an urgent request to strip New York hedge fund giant Louis Bacon of an Audubon Society award that he received in 2013 for his work in the Bahamas. Bacon had attempted to preserve a historic slave plantation in the Bahamas and the Audubon Society originally thought that Bacon was up to something positive and good.

But in a recent letter to Audubon CEO David Yarnold, famed civil rights and high-powered African American lawyer, William H. “Billy” Murphy Jr., has challenged the Audubon Society and demanded that the unjustified award to Bacon be rescinded. Attorney Mur-

phy represents Vivian Whyly, a 53-year-old native Bahamian of African descent whose ancestors were brought to Bahamas in slave ships and then worked and died as slaves on the former Whyly Plantation at Clifton Point.

A relevant note is that Murphy also successfully represented the family of Freddie Gray this year after Gray died horrifically in Baltimore City police custody. According to Murphy, Bacon misrepresented the facts in getting the award and he also made racist comments in his acceptance speech at the Audubon ceremony. Allegedly Bacon went so far as to praise the slave-justifying novel “Gone with the Wind” as his “holy book.”

“It was Mr. Whyly and a handful of other local activists who spearheaded the 1999 movement to turn the plantation into a heritage park,” Murphy wrote in his letter. The

truth is that many Bahamians took to the streets back in 2013 to protest the Audubon’s actions concerning Bacon and his public proclivities to trivialize the legacy and horror of the slavery of African people.

To my personal surprise as a result of some independent research about Louis Moore Bacon, I also found that he is spending a lot of money in the state of North Carolina to “preserve” and renovate the Orton Slave Plantation in the southeastern region of the state. Orton Plantation at one time was one of the largest and most brutal slave plantations in North America.

Bacon’s motives are not only questionable, but also as more and more research is conducted by Harvard University Professor Henry Louis Gates and other scholars about the quantitative impact of the

Commentary,
Continued on page 9.

Republicans Ignore Black People



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

As I watched the Republican debate on October 10, I thought about Kanye West and the comments he made after Hurricane Katrina decimated New Orleans. He said, “George Bush doesn’t care about Black people”. Later he tiptoed away from the comment by saying he “regretted” it, but he never apologized.

Five years later, in 2010, Bush gave the Today Show’s Matt Lauer an interview. Bush stated that West’s remarks were an “all-time low” in his Presidency. He went on to say, “I didn’t appreciate it then, and I don’t appreciate it now...I resent it.” He then

said that West’s comments were “one of the most disgusting moments” of his Presidency.

Let’s see. Former President Bush took us into Iran, and we’re still there. His actions were partly the cause of the Great Recession. He was widely described as less than intelligent and, in fact, a doofus. But remarks from Kanye West were “one of the most disgusting moments” of his presidency? These remarks suggest that George W. Bush has as little judgment as he was often accused of. Consider Iraq— New Orleans— and a tax code that favored the wealthy. Yet Kanye West’s remarks were an “all-time low?”

Why does this Kanye West kerfuffle remind me of the last Republican debate? Ben Carson is the only person on stage that used the word “Black,” and he said it in connection to increasing the minimum wage, which he opposes. None of the others uttered a peep about African American people, not in terms of entrepreneurship, the wealth gap, nor discrimination in the work-

place. It’s fair to say that none of the moderators asked about race and the economy. But just as the candidates jumped into the conversation when they wanted to, none jumped in after Carson’s remark (a perfect opening).

Kanye West said, “George Bush doesn’t care about Black people.” One might say the same thing for the eight major Republican candidates who stood on stage and ignored Black people. Republicans keep saying they want to reach out to people of color, but ignoring Black people suggests that they are thinking about us as much as George Bush did in 2005.

They did talk about immigration, or the Latino population (Trump isn’t trying to build a wall between the United States and Canada, but between the United States and Mexico). That part of the conversation was, in my opinion, impractical and disparaging. How is the United States going to expel millions of people and then allow them to come back? Each of the candidates talked about shrinking the size of govern-

ment, but building a wall and deporting people would increase the federal payroll.

I’ve had about enough of Marco Rubio’s immigrant parents story. He could score a couple of points by adding comments about involuntary immigrants. Such a comment might suggest to African-Americans that they at least slightly get some of the race issues that plague our country, but those candidates ignore African Americans on one hand, and offer rhetoric about including African Americans on the other.

The moderators of this debate—Fox Business staff Neil Cavuto and Maria Bartiromo, along with the Wall Street Journal’s Gerard Baker did a great job in keeping things moving forward and imposing time limits (although many ignored the bell that Cavuto said would ring when time was up.) And then there’s the to-be-expected interrupting and crosstalk. There were far fewer personal attacks. The debate showed that none of the candidates had devel-

oped comprehensive policy positions. All that was missing for me was a question about race and the economy.

Race is a low priority for all of the candidates, Democratic and Republican, in the 2016 election. The Democrats will say some of the appropriate things because they have no choice but to recognize that African Americans are part of their base. The Republicans talk diversity, but they don’t practice it, and haven’t figured out how to weave a narrative about race into their conversations.

Kanye West said that George W. Bush “doesn’t care about Black people.” This group of candidates ignores Black people and behaves as if there are no consequences when they turn their backs on the ones they might woo later.

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist based in Washington, DC. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” will be released in November 2015 and is available for preorder at www.julianne-malveaux.com.

Laying Down the Right Tracks



By Alexia Pierre
Data News Weekly Columnist

One of the secrets behind the growth of gospel rap is business-minded small producers scattered between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. These talented musicians perfect the sounds of local gospel rap artists at late night and weekend sessions. Their studios are the spaces that have created a network of performers who support each other's ministries by performing together or collaborating on tracks.

It's the producers like Victor "Vick" Smith whose helped gospel artists to find their unique sound, style and calling. Smith was introduced to music at an early age. He said his father was one of the lead singers at Jimmy Swaggart Ministries. However, Smith found his love for music in the seventh grade. He saw his first live concert for the band in his middle school then. The band was playing the original Batman theme song, but with a twist, he recalled. The characters for the Batman cartoon ran around the stage during the performance, he said. Prior to this performance, Smith said he wanted to be a scientist. A year later, he joined the school's band and played what he thought was an unattractive baritone horn. His band director presented Smith with a brand new baritone horn, which he could not afford, in front

the whole class. It was the start of a new passion for him.

"From there, it was a no brainer that music was going to be a part of my life forever," Smith said. He now owns a gospel record label, Sanctified Sound, LLC in Baton Rouge, La, which he founded in 2003. He is a producer for artists from New Orleans to cities across the Gulf Coast who want to use their talents to minister to others through gospel music.

"I'm helping people fulfill what God has mandated them to do," Smith said. The label doesn't just support gospel rappers, but singers as well. Smith said that rap is just a tool for reaching the lost, he said. "The music is no more important than a t-shirt. A t-shirt is just like a CD. It has your message on it—it has the message God has placed in your heart," he said.

Smith said he was inspired to explore his musical talents for good. The songs "What Do You See?" by The Ambassador, of the group, Cross Movement, and "Controversy All Star" by Lil Raskull, were particularly transformative for him in making a decision to pursue gospel music.

Smith, who also produces his own rap songs, adds that gospel rappers are successful not because of the money or fame but because they get to "minister on stage." Christian rappers, he said, define success differently than how the television portrays it. "Our priorities are not trying to get the big house, the notoriety [or] trying to get on television," he said. Gospel rappers are trying to reach those that are on a "different level."

Everything being played in the church right now was not accepted in the past. Smith recalls being one



Producers like Victor "Vick" Smith (pictured above) have helped gospel artists to find their unique sound, style and calling.

of the first bands to play the drums in his church around 1998. Smith said he could feel the disapproval and he had the same feeling when he rapped in church. Churches must understand the culture we live in today. "The same way [senior Christians] got reached, they should allow the youth of today to be reached. You have to meet

them at their level so that you can win them for Christ," Smith said. "Just like Paul said, 'I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some,'" Smith said. The way one preaches the gospel changes, however the message stays the same, only the delivery adjusts, he added. "God is just not at a spe-

cific level, he is omnipresent, he is everywhere, he is all," he said.

The recording studio for rap and Hip-Hop is often considered a place where artists must be able to dig deep within their creative souls to create music that touches the listeners. Artists who work with Smith say he sets the right tone to capture their music during recording sessions. "The studio itself is a great work environment, always peaceful, and orderly," said recording artist, Michael "A.V." Mitchell. Mitchell has been recording with Sanctified Sound, LLC for some years. Mitchell is also a radio disc jockey for WXOK radio and a motivational speaker.

Smith sees his work as a producer as both an enterprise, but also a mentorship and development of the talent he works with. "God told me to develop talent. Now I own a business that is developing talent," Smith said.

Stay tuned for next week's column as we continue to share opinions and highlights of the local gospel scene.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

Transatlantic Slave Trade on Africans and African Americans, we have to be vigilant and concerned about any scheme to desensitize, trivialize or to downplay the actual genocidal realities of African slavery.

The Audubon Society should immediately rescind the award to Bacon and should itself repent for improperly vetting what was actually happening in the Bahamas. Yet there is the larger looming issue: Racism, Slavery, Injustice and Inequality must be forever challenged. Each generation must rise to the occasion of advancing the cause for freedom, justice, equality and empowerment.

No matter how much money someone may have, there is never a justification for the trivialization and preservation of slavery and racism.

Dr. 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/drbcfc>.

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The REAL ID Act

By Tatyana Aubert

Traveling during the holiday season can be a frustrating experience. But Louisiana residents say they are worried that they could be turned away by a Transportation Security Administration agent because their state ID does not meet the REAL ID Act requirements. This is the dilemma facing holiday travelers in Louisiana who don't want to take the chance that their identification could be rejected at another airport. The state was granted an additional extension on compliance to the new federal standards on Oct. 10, 2015. The extension allows residents to use their driver's licenses for identification for flights at least until the end of the year. But the uncertainty still prompted a swell in the numbers of residents apply-

ing for passports for this holiday season despite the extension.

The REAL ID Act was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005 to provide a higher level of security for identification across the country with regards to state identifications and driver's licenses. Governor Bobby Jindal vetoed the legislation in April, 2014 arguing that it violated the privacy of Louisiana citizens and added an unnecessary layer of federal oversight.

"The Eagle Forum, the Louisiana Family Forum, and the Tea Party of Louisiana have asked for a veto of the bill due to concerns about whether it will compromise Louisiana's sovereignty over what is fundamentally a state method of identification," said Gov. Bobby Jindal in a letter in 2014 explaining why he chose to reject the legisla-



The move by the former 2016 Republican presidential candidate has not been without controversy. Louisiana's representatives in Congress were responsible for securing that the state received an additional extension this month, despite Jindal's firm stance not to comply with REAL ID standards. "All states are required to share the information of our licensed citizens with all states, including their driving history and records and Governor Jindal is only concerned about the citizens privacy," said Alexis Nicaud, the deputy communications director at the Office of Gov. Bobby Jindal. New York, Minnesota and New Hampshire are also among the list of states that are non-compliant with the requirements of the REAL ID Act.

Fortunately for travelers, and government officials who must use state IDs, the Department of Homeland Security announced it will accept non-compliant identification from states that have received extensions. The DHS said it will review its current implementation schedule by the end of 2015, and provide the public with at least 3 months notice to any changes for deadlines. In the meantime, the October extension allows federal agencies to accept Louisiana drivers' licenses until October 10, 2016. Fearing that they may not be able to travel, Louisiana residents have been rushing into local DMVs and post offices to obtain a passport in order for them to travel. Residents say they are also concerned about what any consequences of not having identification that meets the federal standards.

The REAL ID Act was created to improve the security standards for identifications for access to federal facilities, nuclear power plants, and

for boarding commercial planes. Those without the REAL ID identification will have to go through extra layers of security in order to enter facilities and to board planes. The change also means additional costs for residents. Louisiana standard drivers license cost \$32.25, but the cost for a passport is \$110 and a \$60 additional fee for expedited service. In order to receive a passport, citizens must submit an application, provide evidence of citizenship, and a recent photo. The U.S. Department of State estimates that only 46-percent of Americans own passports.

Without a change to REAL IDs, a lot of residents would have no acceptable form of identification to travel by air.

"Most important thing people need to know is that it takes four to six weeks to get your passport but if you want to rush it, that will be an additional \$100," said Calla Victoria, who recently went through the process to get her passport, as a result of the state's non-compliance. Victoria said residents should also expect to dedicate time to the process. She spent an entire day going through the paces to receive a passport at the Carrollton Avenue Post Office. "Louisiana citizens should also know what is needed when getting a passport because it's going to take the whole day," she added.

Residents expressed their frustrations while waiting in the Metairie post office in October. "This is ridiculous, why should I need a passport just to go to another state. And plus passports are so expensive," said Chantell Sarah, a student at Southern University of New Orleans. Sarah said she had plans to fly home at the beginning of the

New Year, but was concerned because she has a Louisiana driver's license "What if one of your family members who lived in another state becomes ill and you want to visit them but can't because you need a passport that you can't afford to get," Sarah said.

The DHS has tried to stagger the implementation of the REAL ID Act in order to provide citizens and states the opportunity to comply. To date, the DHS has sought to enforce the first four phases on the REAL ID Act. Phase one was enforced on April 21, 2014, and restricted access to areas operated by the DHS' headquarters in Washington, D.C. Phase two, which was enforced on July 21, 2014, restricted areas for all federal facilities and nuclear power plants. Phase three, which was enforced on January 19, 2015, required new identification for semi-restricted areas for most federal facilities and military security facilities. Phase four will go into effect in 2016. This phase would restrict those without the required drivers license from boarding federally regulated commercial aircrafts.

"Customers have been coming in applying for passports and we also hosted a passport fair regarding the REAL ID Act," said Lisa Smith, an employee at the US Post Office in Metairie, La. The passport fair was held Sept. 26 and Sept. 27, 2015 at the Esplanade Mall in Kenner, La. Residents were given the opportunity to renew or apply for their passport at the all-day fair. So far, there are no passport fairs scheduled for the near future.

The election of a new governor for Louisiana means that the state would likely revisit its decision not to comply, observers say. The REAL ID compliant licenses would carry a barcode and security device, as well as a star in the upper right-hand corner that will signal that the identification was approved by the TSA. For those states that are compliant with the new act, residents would simply follow the same procedures in place for applying for a standard driver's license.

"I think that it's an inconvenience because DMV employees are already over-worked and now there is more added to the process," said Rebecca Conrad, a customer service representative at the Office of Motor Vehicles in Metairie, La.

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West Speaks on Obama, Black Lives Matter

By Lagloria Wheatfall
Special to the NNPA News
Wire from The Houston
Defender

NNPA Newswire (HOUSTON) – Dr. Cornel West, an outspoken activist, author and professor, recently shared his views on pressing issues during a speech at the University of Houston-Downtown.

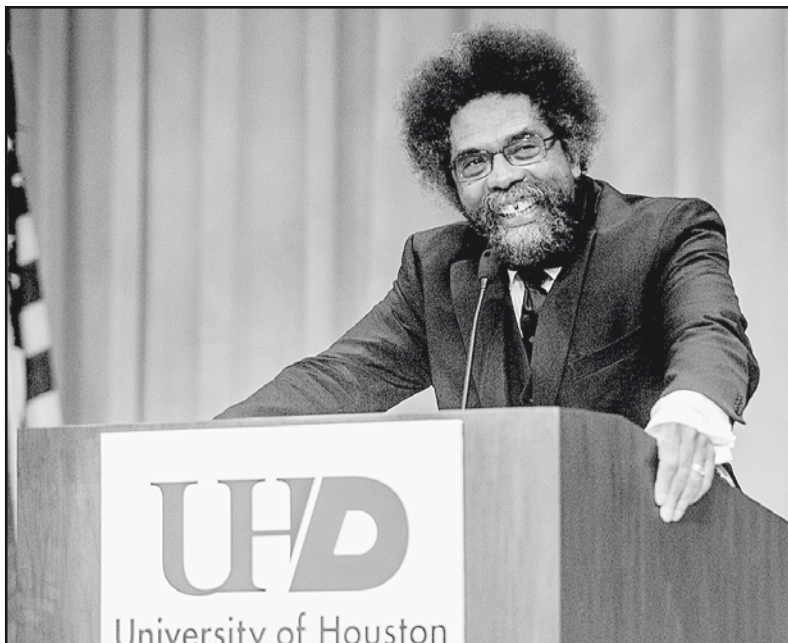
West, a professor of philosophy and Christian practice at Union Theological Seminary and professor emeritus at Princeton University, addressed topics ranging from the Black Lives Matter movement to peace in the Middle East.

He also commended educators, saying that, “being a teacher is a sacred calling.” He urged students to “be a long-distance runner in your education as you learn how to Socratically engage in critical reflection.”

West praised UHD as a university where students can learn to think independently.

“What kind of courage did you exemplify in the short time you were here?” he asked. “Did you have the courage to think critically for yourself? That’s the difference between high-quality education and cheap schooling. University of Houston-Downtown is not about cheap schooling. You want what the Greeks call paideia, that deep education, that turning of the soul.”

As an important figure in Black intellectualism, West has written more than 20 books and has edited



Dr. Cornel West addressed topics ranging from the Black Lives Matter movement to peace in the Middle East during a speech at the University of Houston-Downtown in Houston, Texas. (John Everett/Houston Defender)

13. He has been a frequent guest on “Real Time With Bill Maher,” CNN, C-Span and “Democracy Now.”

West joined forces with broadcaster Tavis Smiley for a Poverty Tour, where they visited various American cities to bring attention to economic injustice. West and Smiley have been vocal critics of President Obama, with West calling him a “Rockefeller Republican in blackface.”

In an interview with the Houston Defender, West shared more of his thoughts.

HD: How do you think the Black Lives Matter Movement should prioritize its agenda? How would you

advise organizers to move forward?

CW: The Black Lives Matter movement must stay in the streets as well as put pressure on the powers that be on the inside. We need an inside-outside strategy. We can just be solely outside and have no impact inside. We need both fronts.

Secondly, we have to recognize that when we talk about police brutality, and the accountability of police, we’re talking about being able to send police to jail when they kill innocent people. We’re not talking about just training, we’re not just talking about diversity exposure, but we’re talking about legal accountability.

Of course we agree with a fair trial but that’s the kind of pressure we’re talking about because we have to change the culture of police departments. They think that somehow they can get away with it. No, they need to go to jail the same way as if we kill anybody, we need to go to jail.

HD: What should be done to strengthen police relations in the African-American community?

CW: It would be nice if we had just control of the police in Black communities. And that does not necessarily mean just add more Black police, because we all know that some Black police officers don’t always do the right thing and some white police do, do the right thing. But what we need is more just control in our communities.

HD: How do you respond to African-Americans who say you and Tavis Smiley have unfairly criticized President Obama?

CW: I say you have to keep me and brother Tavis accountable. But Obama’s relation to Wall Street the drones, dropping bombs on innocent people and massive surveillance of each and every one of us is wrong, and I don’t care what color the president is, he just happens to be Black at the moment.

HD: How would you grade the Obama Administration in terms of what it has done for African-Americans on a scale of A to F?

CW: He wouldn’t be on the dean’s list. I’d give him maybe a B minus or C-plus. Yeah, C-plus.

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