



Goose Creek SC NAACP Branch #56A3 June 2008 Newsletter

NAACP Chooses Benjamin T. Jealous as National President-Elect

Human rights activist & former black newspaper editor will become 17th leader of civil rights group



Benjamin Todd Jealous

The NAACP National Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of Benjamin T. Jealous as National President-elect. He is the 17th person chosen to lead the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization in its 99-year history.

Jealous, 35, comes to the NAACP from the San Francisco-based Rosenberg Foundation*, where he's served as president since 2005.

"Ben Jealous has spent his professional life working for and raising money for the very social justice concerns for which the NAACP advocates," said NAACP National Board of Directors Chairman Julian Bond. "He is a perfect match. He is intergenerational and his presence is a demonstration that the nearly 100-year old NAACP attracts the best and brightest. We are looking forward to a great future under his leadership."

Jealous' career path includes leadership positions with Amnesty International, where he directed its U.S. Domestic Human Rights Program from 2002 to 2005.

Prior to that, he served as executive director of the National Newspaper Publishers Association--a federation of more than 200 black community newspapers in 38 states. He is former managing editor of the *Jackson Advocate*, the oldest black-owned weekly newspaper in Mississippi that has been a long-time fierce champion of civil rights and the disenfranchised. Jealous was mentored by the *Advocate's* publisher, the late Charles Tisdale, who was attacked as a teenager for helping found a local NAACP unit. The *Jackson Advocate* was torched repeatedly for its principled stances on civil rights.

As a community organizer on civil rights lawsuits in the '90s, Jealous worked in Mississippi to gain equitable funding for the state's historically black colleges and universities. For the NAACP Legal Defense Fund he organized churches and residents to fight against the elimination of obstetric services at St. Luke's Women's Hospital in Harlem, New York.

Jealous also served as program director for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. At 14, he organized his first voter registration drive.

"As an advocate who has spent his entire adult life working for civil and human rights organizations, and as a black parent raising a young child in this country, I am intimately invested in the future successes of the NAACP," Jealous said. "As a fifth-generation member of the NAACP, I know this mighty Association's fundamentals are strong. I see great opportunities to increase the NAACP's role as a positive force in the collective life of black people and our nation. I am humbled and enthused at the prospects being afforded me by this experience."

The California native attended public and parochial schools in Monterey County. He holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and a master's degree in social policy from Oxford University where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is married to constitutional law professor and former NAACP Legal Defense Fund litigator Lia Epperson and is the dedicated father of Morgan, 2.

Jealous will officially begin his tenure as president Sept. 1. □

Read more about our president elect on pages 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 11.

SC Primary Election is June 10th



**Andrea Glover
Branch President**

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Dick Gregory

**Dick Gregory is 2008 SC State Conference
 NAACP Freedom Fund Celebration
 Keynote Speaker**

Gregory, Richard Claxton 'Dick' (Born, October 12, 1932, St. Louis, Mo.), African American comedian and civil rights activist whose social satire changed the way white Americans perceived African American comedians since he first performed in public. Dick Gregory entered the national comedy scene in 1961 when Chicago's Playboy Club (as a direct request from publisher Hugh Hefner) booked him as a replacement for white comedian, Professor Irwin Corey.

Gregory's activism continued into the 1990s. In response to published allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had supplied cocaine to predominantly African American areas in Los Angeles, thus spurring the crack epidemic, Gregory protested at CIA headquarters and was arrested. In 1992 he began a program called "Campaign for Human Dignity" to fight crime in St. Louis neighborhoods.

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Tickets are \$85.00 each or \$650* for a table of 8
 *for NAACP members only

BRANCH MEETINGS

Goose Creek NAACP meets the first Monday of the month at Abraham Masonic Building 206 Liberty Hall Rd Goose Creek, SC.

6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Executive Meeting

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM General Meeting

Monday July 7, 2008

Monday Aug 4, 2008

Monday Sep 8, 2008

Please attend and bring a friend

Local Author Damon L. Fordham will be at our July Meeting



Damon L. Fordham

Damon Lamar Fordham was born in Spartanburg, SC. He received his Master's Degree in history from the College of Charleston and the Citadel, and his undergraduate degrees at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He currently teaches United States and African-American History at Springfield College and Charleston Southern University in Charleston, SC and has taught US History and African-American Studies at the College of Charleston. *The author of True Stories of Black South Carolina* (History Press, 2008), he was a weekly columnist for the *Charleston Coastal Times* from 1994 to 1998, as well as the coauthor of *Born to Serve-The Story of the WBEMC in South Carolina* in 2006. He conducted research for the book *Sweetgrass Baskets and the Gullah Tradition* by Joyce Coakley in 2006.

Mr. Fordham will discuss his book and sign copies.



We Have our Nominees!



After a year of campaigning and months of primaries, **Senator Barack Obama** is now the presumptive nominee for the Democratic Party along with **Senator John McCain**, the presumptive nominee for the Republican party!

Congratulations to all of you who made this possible!

Both candidates are scheduled to be at the 99th NAACP National Convention in Cincinnati July 12 - 17, 2008



New Ideas Needed to Invigorate the NAACP

May 19, 2008
By George E. Curry

The votes are in and now it's time to rally behind the candidate. No, I am not talking about presidential politics. I am referring to the NAACP's decision to hire 35-year-old Benjamin Jealous as its next president.

Prior to the selection, I made no secret of my belief that another finalist, Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III of Dallas, would have made a better and more dynamic leader. I still feel that way. But now that the NAACP board has decided otherwise, this is no time to walk away from our oldest civil rights organization.

Supporting the NAACP does not mean it should be above criticism, however. The idea of having an up-or-down vote on a single candidate for president – the one favored all along by Board Chair Julian Bond – rather than allowing the board to vote on all three finalists was an exercise in raw political power, not fairness. And Julian Bond's decision to lobby for having tarnished primary ballots counted in Michigan and Florida represents the first time in my memory that he has been on the wrong side of a major public policy issue.

Still, despite the asinine talk about our living in a post-civil rights or post-racial society, our major civil rights organizations are needed in this era of Jim Crow, Esquire. The National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium reports that although White men make up only 48 percent of the college-educated workforce, they hold 85 percent of the tenured college faculty positions, 86 percent of law firm partnerships, more than 90 percent of the top jobs in the news media, and 96 percent of CEO positions

Obviously, there is still plenty of work to do.

Although NAACP insiders didn't like it at the time, immediate past president Bruce Gordon did the association a favor two years ago when he revealed that contrary to the claim that the NAACP has 500,000 members – a number the group has been using since 1946, according to Baltimore Sun – the actual figure is less than 300,000. The NAACP likes to claim their membership numbers are roughly twice that, but they arrive at that bogus conclusion by counting people that have interacted with the NAACP electronically.

As I wrote at the time of the Gordon disclosure, the low figures is a reflection on us, not the NAACP. With a Black population of 38 million, there's no excuse for not having more than 1 million dues-paying members. Of course, this lack of support is not limited to the NAACP. We fail to fully support the Black institutions that support us, including the Black Press.

The Census Bureau reports that there are more than 2 million Blacks living in New York City. Yet, according to a report last year by the Project for Excellence in Journalism, there were only 13,175 paid subscribers to the Amsterdam News in 2006. And that represented a decline of almost 30 percent over two years.

If the NAACP is going to grow its membership under Jealous, it will need to move away from some of the antics that grab headlines, but accomplish little else. During last year's national convention in Detroit, for example, thousands of delegates participated in a mock funeral organized by the local chapter to bury the N-word. The next time there is a funeral to bury

anything, we should first make sure it is dead. And the N-word is far from dead.

According to a recent study by the Parents Television Council titled, "The Rap on Rap," the dreaded N-word had to be bleeped more than any other expletive from videos studied on BET and MTV. In Greenwood, Miss., a White member of the city council sent out an e-mail recently referring to a highly respected Black leader as an "ole" N-word. Not only is the N-word not dead, it is not even injured.

If there is an area that Jealous may be able to make an immediate improvement in, it will be forming coalitions with other Black professional organizations. He has the contacts and inclination to bring about needed improvement in that area. The days of a civil rights organization being everything to everybody – if there was ever such a day – is over. It's time to turn to the experts in our community instead of pretending that civil rights groups have all of the answers.

There are some things the NAACP does better than any other organization. Its ACT-SO program, highlighting academic achievement, is exceptional. And the NAACP Civil Rights Report Card is an indispensable research tool for holding elected leaders accountable. Creating substantive and relevant programs is the key to bringing in new members, not resorting to gimmicks.

Ben Jealous is young, smart and committed. While he was not my first choice for the job, I'm hoping that he proves me wrong. □

Special thanks to Mr. Curry for sharing this article with us.

George E. Curry, former editor-in-chief of Emerge magazine and the NNPA News Service, is a keynote speaker, moderator, and media coach. Mr. Curry is also a life member of the NAACP. He can be reached through his Web site, www.georgecurry.com.

Chairman Julian Bond says, Jealous "is a perfect match"



"Ben Jealous has spent his professional life working for and raising money for the very social justice concerns for which the NAACP advocates," NAACP Chairman Julian Bond said in a statement. "He is a perfect match. . . . We are looking forward to a great future under his leadership."

SC Primary is June 10, 2008





New NAACP president reveals plans

Richmond Free Press

Editor's note: This article and excerpts of the interview with Mr. Jealous was sent to us by the Richmond Free Press



**Benjamin Todd Jealous
NAACP President/CEO Elect**

Benjamin Todd Jealous assessed the blessings, privileges and "monumental challenges" that face the NAACP, its members — and the nation.

Then he gave the message he wants to send to bring about solutions to escalating problems burdening people.

The message:

"If you've been involved, get more involved. If you've checked out, check in. We need to make the world better for the sake of our children so their children no longer will have to face the same problems."

Mr. Jealous, the newly named national president of the NAACP, made those comments Tuesday in response to a question asked in an exclusive Free Press interview.

The NAACP chose Mr. Jealous, a 35-year-old activist and former news executive, as its president on Saturday, making him the youngest leader in the 99-year history of the nation's largest civil rights organization.

The NAACP's 64-member board met for eight hours before selecting Mr. Jealous in the early morning last Saturday. He was formally introduced later Saturday and will take over as president in mid-September.

Though he is not a politician, minister or civil rights icon, Mr. Jealous provides the organi-

zation with a young but connected chief familiar with black leadership and social justice issues.

He takes the helm as the NAACP's 17th president just months before the organization's centennial anniversary, and as the group looks to boost its coffers.

Mr. Jealous succeeds Bruce S. Gordon, who resigned abruptly in March 2007. Mr. Gordon, a retired Verizon executive, left after 19 months, citing clashes with board members over management style and the NAACP's mission as his reasons for leaving. Dennis Courtland Hayes had been serving as interim president and chief executive officer.

The NAACP has yet to recover from the staff cuts that occurred after Mr. Hayes was moved up to interim president. Staff was cut from 117 to around 70 people and seven regional offices were closed to overcome a \$3 million deficit.

Mr. Jealous was born in Pacific Grove, Calif. He was educated at Columbia University and Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

He began his professional life in 1991 with the NAACP, where he worked as a community organizer with the Legal Defense Fund.

During the mid-1990s, Mr. Jealous was managing editor of the crusading Jackson Advocate, Mississippi's oldest black newspaper.

From 1999 to 2002, Mr. Jealous led the country's largest group of black community newspapers as executive director of the Washington-based National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Mr. Jealous left the publishers association for Amnesty International to direct its U.S. Human Rights Program, for which he successfully lobbied for federal legislation against prison rape, public disapproval of racial profiling after Sept. 11, and exposure of widespread sentencing of children to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Since 2005, Mr. Jealous has served as president of the Rosenberg Foundation, a private institution that supports civil and human rights advocacy. His experiences caught the atten-

tion of the NAACP's search committee, and Mr. Jealous said mentors encouraged him to take the job.

Mr. Jealous — whose resume doesn't reflect a record of longevity in the workplace — said he's ready to settle in for the long haul. He has spent much of his life in California but has roots in Baltimore, where the NAACP is based. His mother was born in Baltimore, and his parents met while teaching at a junior high school in the city.

Excerpts from the Free Press interview:

Q: What will be your top priority?

A: *To strengthen the national office so it can provide support to state conferences, local college branches.*

Q: What role do you see the NAACP playing in economic justice?

A: *That's an important issue. One big area involves employment. We have so many people who come out of jails and prisons with a big scarlet "F" on them. If people have paid their debt to society, they need a second chance for an opportunity to support their families and earn an honest living. We need to do more to make this happen.*

Q: How will your administration differ from Bruce Gordon's, particularly in terms of corporate influence?

A: *With regard to corporations, we welcome their support. They have been partners with us in desegregating offices and boardrooms and have stood with us to defend affirmative action. But how do we convince people that we cannot be influenced? We need to generate more balance in our fundraising. We need to get more support from regular people. We also need more support from major donors, but for nearly 100 years we always have relied on people who write small checks. We need to get back to that.*

Q: What role do you see the NAACP playing in the November election?

A: *We can expect a surge in the black vote. And whenever there is such a surge, we can expect more fraud, intimidation and chicanery. As a reporter in Jackson, Miss., I investigated many cases of voter fraud. We must do as*

See president reveals plans on Page 5



president reveals plans from pg 4

much as we can to protect the vote as we do to get out the vote. We know what can happen from the 2000 election, and we must be prepared to make sure that the people who vote have their votes counted.

Q: What needs to be done to grow the NAACP's membership?

A: *We need to do more in community organizing and reaching out to people to involve them in pushing for change and seeking solutions.* □

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Special thanks to Raymond H. Boone, founder, editor and publisher of the Richmond Free Press for permission to reprint this article. Mr. Boone is a life member of the NAACP. Article originally appeared in Richmond Free Press May 22--24, 2008

FIVE REASONS TO JOIN THE NAACP

1. The fight for freedom is not free! Your membership will help fund initiatives and programs to support our mission of racial equality and equal justice
2. A membership in the NAACP is your opportunity to give back to the organization that has done more to change this country for the betterment of people of color, women, and the disenfranchised than any other in the nation's history
3. Your membership in the NAACP makes you a part of a force of 300,000 people who stand for the freedoms guaranteed in our nation's constitution
4. Your membership in the NAACP makes a direct and positive impact in your community when you join your local Unit
5. Your membership in the NAACP will give you access to our upcoming benefits program that provides discounts on products and services across the country



The NAACP's Centennial in 2009 provides a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the NAACP to celebrate its history, increase its support base, expand its outreach and issue a moral challenge for global development. Shortly before his death, Gloster B. Current, former NAACP Director of Branches, reminded us how amazing it was that the NAACP has continued to exist despite the efforts to curtail, discredit and destroy it. Many similar organizations have fallen by the wayside while the NAACP has been able to continue to grow and maintain its effectiveness.

Ways Your Unit Can Celebrate:

Through the Fire - Local units would be asked to identify those students who courageously forged the path integrating elementary, middle and high schools in their communities and recognize them for their bravery during some special event.

Truth in Reconciliation on Desegregation - This can be done in conjunction with the *Through the Fire* recognition. This is an opportunity to create a dialogue with not only black students who integrated schools but also white students, teachers and administrators who courageously supported them. This discussion should focus on the affects of desegregation from both perspectives.

The Naming Project - Everyday in communities across America streets, public buildings, parks etc. are named in recognition of local citizens who have made an impact on their community. During the Centennial Year of the NAACP we are asking local units to identify those trailblazers in their community in different areas to advocate

for the naming of streets, public buildings, parks etc. to honor their memory and dedication to the cause of civil rights.

Library Involvement - Encourage units to contact local libraries and schedule book readings of famous NAACPers as well as books written on the NAACP. In addition, propose essay writing contest locally – "What would the world be without the NAACP?" More importantly, create a plan to collect NAACP paraphernalia and documents from NAACPers and formally donate the collection to your local library or college/university.

NAACP Local Centennial Balls - NAACP Units at the state conference and local levels will be encouraged to host Centennial Balls as black tie affairs as fundraisers and celebrations of the centennial. A model program will designed and distributed to local units for planning and implementation.

Centennial Birthday Members - We ask each Unit to identify those members of NAACP who are 100 years or more so they can be recognized in their communities and at the 2009 Convention.

Tribute to Brutalized and Fallen Heroes As a part of the centennial celebration, we must find some way to honor the perseverance and courage of civil rights workers and local NAACP leaders who sacrificed their physical safety – even their lives – to ensure the rights we have today.

The strength of the NAACP continues to be in its local units. They are the heart of soul of the Association and are on the front line everyday fighting battles. □



NAACP signals start of new era

By Jean Marbella
Baltimore Sun Columnist
May 20, 2008

He's very Obama, isn't he?

The Ivy creds. The biracial parent-age. The lawyer wife. The victory, after some contentious balloting, of his more youthful candidacy over the more establishment one.

The selection of Benjamin Jealous this weekend as the new president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People puts a decidedly fresh face on an organization that many have criticized as too rooted in the past. At 35, he is the civil rights organization's youngest president ever, and by picking him, board members seem to be saying, "This is not your father's NAACP."

What makes his rise noteworthy is that, like Barack Obama, Jealous didn't come up through church activism, the traditional launching pad for previous generations of black leaders. Neither arrives with "the reverend" title before his name, which had become almost standard, from Martin Luther King Jr. to Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton..

And, in fact, a bone of contention in his selection - which took place at a closed-door meeting of the NAACP board at a BWI hotel this weekend - appears to have been a lingering desire among some members to rally behind a more traditional choice, the Rev. Frederick D. Haynes III, pastor of a megachurch in Dallas.

Haynes is described by the *Dallas Morning News* as a protégé of Obama's controversial former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and apparently had the support of at least several fellow ministers on the

NAACP board. One of them complained to *The Sun's* Kelly Brewington of an "anti-preacher sentiment" among his colleagues. And another minister, the Rev. Wendell Anthony of Detroit, issued a news release after the vote to note that while the new president had "a great deal of potential," Jealous was not his first choice and that he would have preferred Haynes.

The board ultimately went with Jealous - by a 34-21 vote, Brewington was told - but the fact that picking the president took eight hours, until 3 in the morning Saturday, reflects a considerable split.

But in a year in which change is in the air - or at least at Obama rallies - the selection has created buzz about a group that some had dismissed as no longer relevant.

At 38, Lester Spence, a Johns Hopkins professor who specializes in black politics, is closer in age to the hip-hop generation that figures often in his research than to the 1960s-era civil rights movement - as is Jealous.

"He wasn't even thought of when Martin Luther King was killed," Spence said. "He wasn't born until '72."

By choosing someone from a more technocratic than a church-based background, Spence said, the NAACP is starting to make good on its talk over recent years of looking toward the future and embracing youth.

"If we're going to modernize, we have to get rid of the tendency to rely on our pastors to do our political work," Spence said. "We have to have some semblance of a division of church and state in our black politics."

Spence says the NAACP still has its work cut out for it - what modern organization has a cumbersome 64-member board these days? - but thinks it might be able to attract a younger membership with Jealous at the helm.

For all the talk of change, though, Jealous doesn't represent a complete break from the past: His parents were active in desegregation efforts, and he has worked as an organizer with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Plus, he has the support of one of the lions of the civil rights movement, Julian Bond, the NAACP chairman.

"He is someone immersed in the civil rights culture, so this is a continuation," said Ronald Walters, the director of the Center for African-American Leadership at the University of Maryland. "The departure is the age factor. You've got to say they're sending a signal of generational change."

Walters knows Jealous from a leadership forum that brings together the heads of the 25 top black organizations - the new NAACP president previously headed a national group of black newspapers - and remembers him as someone who frequently was the young-

est person in the room.

"For a young man, he has a very extensive national network of contacts," said Walters, who is a life member of the NAACP.

With the NAACP coming off of several years of budgetary struggles, Walters thinks Jealous' background in running other organizations will serve him well in his new job.

"The fact that he comes from a foundation background," Walters said, means "he knows where the money is."

Now, if only Jealous, whose mother's family is from Baltimore, would consider keeping the national headquarters here rather than moving to Washington, as Bond has long planned. □

Special thanks to Jean Marbella and the Baltimore Sun Newspaper for permission to reprint this article. Article first appeared May 20, 2008 at

June 10th is SC Primary Election Date

YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU!



To REGISTER, VOTE and Get EVERYONE You Know To Do So Also!



Fighting "Anti-Miscegenation" Laws

Remembering Mildred Loving, Unsung Hero of the Civil Rights Movement

By Mark A. Huddle, Ph.D.

(Editor's note: Article was originally posted May 9, 2008 on www.counterpunch.org)



Mark Andrew Huddle, Ph.D.

On May 2, Mildred Loving died from complications of pneumonia at the age of 68. The unassuming Mrs. Loving would have scoffed at the notion that she was a hero of the Civil Rights Movement. But for

millions of Americans the *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) case—which outlawed bans on interracial marriage—has resonated to the present as their declaration of independence.

The Lovings' story began in June 1958 when they were married in Washington, DC. Richard Perry Loving and Mildred Delores Jeter of Central Point, Virginia crossed into the District to evade their state's Racial Integrity Act, a law that defined the marriage of a white man and African American woman as a felony. Five weeks later on July 11, the newly-married couple was rousted from their bed by the Caroline County, Virginia sheriff and two deputies and arrested for violating the 1924 law. In a plea agreement, they pleaded guilty in return for a one-year suspended jail sentence and an agreement not to return to the state together for twenty-five years.

The couple moved to Washington, started a family, and struggled to make ends meet. Eventually the isolation from family and friends proved too much. In 1963 Mildred Loving contacted the American Civil Liberties Union which agreed to take the case. Eventually *Loving v. Virginia* was argued before the Supreme Court of the United States on April 10, 1967. Chief Justice Earl Warren delivered the opinion of the Court on June 12. Warren put the question succinctly: did the "statutory scheme adopted by the State of Virginia to prevent marriages between persons solely on the basis of racial classifications" violate the "Equal Protection and Due Process Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment?" The Court concluded that the Virginia law directly contradicted the "central meaning" of those constitutional safeguards and was therefore unconstitutional.

The Lovings were always quick to note that while they were glad their case proved so helpful to so many people their main concern was

the welfare of their own family. "We are doing it for us," Richard Loving told an interviewer in 1966. But the *Loving* decision eventually impacted millions.

So-called "anti-miscegenation laws" were one of the more tenacious vestiges of Jim Crow. The last state to strike anti-miscegenation statutes from its organic law was Alabama which waited until 2000 to do so. In the decades since the ruling, there has been a marked increase in mixed race marriages and by the 1990s we were in the midst of an interracial baby-boom. Also of particular importance to the growth of the mixed-race population was the Immigration Act of 1965 that eliminated many of the racist immigration restrictions from earlier legislation and contributed to the "browning of America." Census 2000, the first to allow Americans to check more than one box for racial identity, counted 7.3 million people, about 3 percent of the population, as interracial. The most striking fact of all from the data is that 41 percent of that mixed race population was under the age of eighteen.

It is also notable that this profound demographic shift would have such a powerful resonance in the marketplace where corporate powerhouses from Nike to the Gap have embraced interracialism in their marketing campaigns. It has been over a decade since Tiger Woods took advantage of an appearance on *Oprah* to introduce the world to his "Cablinasian" heritage. While Woods was simply pointing out that he could just as easily be considered an Asian-American golf champion as an African American golf champion, his performance proved a marketing bonanza for Nike who has made Asia the fastest growing market for golfing equipment and apparel in the world. Since then celebrities from Halle Barry to Mariah Carey, to Johnny Depp have publicly embraced (and cashed in on) their mixed-race identities.

Of course there is no better example of the emergence of a mixed race America than the candidacy of US Senator Barack Obama. When Obama was born in 1961 his parents union was still considered illegal in sixteen states. On the campaign trail, he frequently invokes the experiences of his white mother and Kenyan father and his own subsequent rise as a new American Dream narrative and his own achievements as a road-map towards "a more perfect union."

But what Barack Obama has also noted is that while his crazy-quilt genealogy might inspire

hope, it does nothing to challenge race as a totalizing apparatus of power. In his much celebrated Philadelphia speech on race, Obama spoke of a generation of African Americans, people such as the Reverend Jeremiah Wright, who knew the sting of Jim Crow and who felt the narrowing of opportunities in the black community most acutely. Their bitterness had often turned to rage. Likewise, the Senator spoke of white ethnics and working-class voters who have proven susceptible to the Siren's song of conservative politicians and talk-show hosts who would exploit their fears for the future by playing the race card. Obama's recent struggles in Ohio and Pennsylvania have once more illuminated those racial fault-lines.



Mildred and Richard Lovings

This is why we should take a moment to remember Mildred and Richard Loving. Certainly their fight and ultimate triumph has proven to be so important to so many

people. June 12, the day that Earl Warren's decision in the *Loving* case was handed down, is observed as an informal holiday by mixed race couples across the nation. But more importantly, it was the willingness of the Lovings to confront that apparatus of power—to refuse to be cowed in the face of injustice that inspires and is so instructive. When attorney Bernard Cohen tried to explain the legal intricacies of their case, he remembered Richard Loving's simple reply: "Mr. Cohen, tell the court I love my wife, and it is just unfair that I can't live with her in Virginia." In a political age that is so often characterized by its hard-bitten cynicism, it is easy to forget the transformative power of love.□

Mark A. Huddle is an assistant professor of history at St. Bonaventure University. This essay is excerpted from his forthcoming book, "The Paradox of Color: Mixed Race Americans and the Burden of History," which will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press. He can be reached at: MHUDDLE@sbu.edu

Special thanks to Dr. Huddle and

counterpunch
edited by alexander cockburn and jeffrey st.clair



What they're saying about Benjamin Todd Jealous

Mother: Ann Todd Jealous



Lia Epperson



"I am glad a new President/CEO has finally been selected and this matter can be put to rest. Mr. Jealous is young but only 3 years younger than Mr. Walter White when he took over leadership of the organization in 1931. Walter White rendered fine leadership to the NAACP until his death in 1955. Like Mr. Jealous was the youngest of the three finalist he is a seasoned civil rights advocate with a background in the priority issues of the NAACP, including voter registration and education. I believe he will be a good leader.

"I believe he will bring enthusiasm and a proven civil rights background to the position. Mr. Jealous understands the importance of ensuring equitable practices. He has spent a better part of his life fighting for the cause of justice. He comes from a family who directly participated in the civil rights movement. I believe he truly believes in the organization and its rich history. He believes the struggle still continues and we must unite on every front to ensure each citizen has a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Jealous said he would make financial stability a priority for the organization and planned to use his personal relationships with top foundations in the nation to raise funds. He also said he would focus on supporting the NAACP's nearly 2,000 local units and on using technology more effectively to 'pull people into this movement,'" the article said. I believe this is a positive and progressive start for Mr. Jealous."

**Andrea Glover, President
Goose Creek NAACP Branch**



"I have high hopes that we will move forward with this appointment. Mr. Jealous' youth should be good for bringing youth back to the organization, but there is so much more that is needed and I hope he has the ability to pull it all together."

**James Gallman, Member
NAACP National Board of Directors
President Aiken SC NAACP Branch**



"Benjamin Todd Jealous' age, coupled with his energy and knowledge of civil rights will bring a new dimension of activism to the NAACP. The potential to increase memberships, targeting many within his age range, and raise money for the organization can only increase the capacity and viability of the NAACP which former National Board Chairman Benjamin G Spottswood said was, "the largest and oldest, the baddest and the boldest, the most loved and most hated, the most feared and revered, the most cussed and the most discussed civil rights organization in America."

**Madie Robinson, Member
NAACP National Board of Directors
President Florence NAACP Branch**



"It is with a great deal of pride that I join other NAACPers in welcoming our recently elected President/CEO, Mr. Benjamin Jealous into the NAACP family. This time is of particular importance because we are approaching the NAACP Centennial Celebration activities. The first 100 years of our beloved organization signals that even though we have made many strides in this struggle for freedom, we still have many more injustices to address. We look forward to our new President- Elect joining us in this effort.

The widening disparity gaps that persist between Blacks, Hispanics and Whites in the areas of Education, Health, Economic Development, Wealth, Housing, Voter Empowerment, Criminal/Juvenile Justice serve to remind us of the many challenges that we still face.

I must take this opportunity to thank our NAACP staff and all of the thousands of volunteers that give of their time, talent and resources on a daily basis to ensure that this fight for freedom continues.

I am excited about the vision and leadership skills that Mr. Jealous will bring with him. Together, I know that we will keep the torch of freedom burning brightly."

**Adora Obi Nweze, Member
NAACP National Board of Directors
President Florida NAACP Conference**



There is a new day dawning and the generation that came of age after the major victories of the civil rights movement of the 50s and 60s are seizing the baton of leadership. We will look back on his selection as President and CEO as a watershed moment where there was a changing of guards. The future of the Association is bright.

The American Heart Association is excited about the opportunity to collaborate and partner with the NAACP to eliminate health outcome disparities.

**The Reverend Dr. Francys Johnson
VP, The American Heart Association
Former Director NAACP Region V**





**GOOSE CREEK NAACP
HEALTH COMMITTEE
NANCY JAMES, Chairperson**



**POLITICAL ACTION
COMMITTEE
ROBERT NEWTON, Chairman**

Heart Disease, Diabetes, Cancer, Stroke, and Obesity

The African American community is disproportionately affected by heart disease, diabetes, cancer, stroke, and obesity.

Obesity is a risk factor for many diseases which disproportionately impact minority populations, including heart disease, some cancers, diabetes, and stroke,

Researchers think it's because we don't exercise enough or eat a healthy diet, which increases the risks for hypertension (high blood pressure), high cholesterol, and type 2 diabetes. These conditions lead to disease of the heart, diabetes, cancer, stroke, and obesity.

Recent studies have shown that small lifestyle changes, such as an exercise routine, can prevent or lessen the conditions that lead to heart disease, diabetes, some cancers, stroke, and obesity.

Just 30 Minutes a Day

Experts say just 30 minutes of activity on most days will help you stay healthier. Adding exercise into your life may be easier than you think.

You don't have to exercise hard and you can break up the 30 minutes into shorter chunks. Just make sure you exercise for at least 10 minutes at a time and get your heart rate up. Work out hard enough that you lightly sweat and your heart beats faster, but not so hard that you can't talk while exercising.

Good activities for exercising include:

- **Walking -**
To get benefit, you must walk briskly—fast enough to make your pulse and breathing increase, but not so fast that you can't talk comfortably.
- **Slide and Step Aerobics**
- **Swimming and/or Water Aerobics**
- **Running or jogging**
- **Bicycling**

You can increase your exercise activity in simple ways. These suggestions can get you started, and you can probably think of additional ways.

Add a few extra steps to your everyday activities:

- **Park farther than usual from your workplace (or get off the bus or subway before your stop).**
- **Take the stairs rather than the elevator for one or two floors.**
- **Take a lap around the outside of the grocery store before going in.**

Healthy Eating

A healthy diet helps improve your overall health and well being. By committing to eating better, you can reduce your risk of many chronic diseases – including heart disease, diabetes, osteoporosis and certain cancers – while increasing your energy and stamina. Healthy eating can even lower “bad” LDL cholesterol.

Always consult a doctor before beginning an exercise routine

**Deadlines for voting absentee in the
June 10 State Primaries**

Persons qualified to vote an absentee ballot in the South Carolina State Primaries:

- Persons who will be outside their county of residence on Election Day
- Members of the Uniformed Services or Merchant Marine, and their spouses and dependents residing with them
- Persons who, for reasons of employment, will not be able to vote on election day
- Physically disabled persons
- Persons sixty-five years of age or older
- Persons serving as a juror in state or federal court on Election Day
- Persons admitted to the hospital as emergency patients on day of election or within a four-day period before the election
- Persons with a death or funeral in the family within three days before the election
- Persons confined to a jail or pre-trial facility pending disposition of arrest or trial
- Persons attending sick or physically disabled persons
- Certified poll watchers, poll managers, and county election officials working on Election Day
- Persons who, for religious reasons, do not wish to take part in the electoral process on a Saturday

How to vote an absentee ballot:

In Person - Visit your county voter registration office, complete an application, and cast your ballot. You may vote absentee in person up until 5:00 p.m., Monday, June 9.

By Mail - Step 1: Contact your county voter registration office to request an absentee ballot application. Voters (or their immediate family members) may make the request in person or by phone, mail, e-mail, or fax. An authorized representative may also make the request, but only in person or by mail. An authorized representative is a registered voter who, with a voter's permission, can request an absentee ballot application on behalf of a voter who qualifies because of illness or disability. Candidates and paid campaign workers, who are not family, may not serve as authorized representatives.

Step 2: Return the application to your county voter registration office by 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 6.

Step 3: You will be mailed an absentee ballot. Vote the ballot following ballot instructions and return it to your county voter registration office by 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 10. The ballot may be mailed or hand-delivered. If hand delivered by someone other than the voter or post office, that person must complete an authorization form. Candidates and paid campaign workers, who are not family, may not hand deliver absentee ballots.

Registered voters may vote in either party's primary, but NOT both.



Remember Malcolm

By Edmund W. Lewis, Editor
The Louisiana Weekly

(Editor's note: Article originally posted in The Louisiana Weekly May 12, 2008)



May 12, 2008-New Orleans, LA Monday, May 19, will mark the 83rd anniversary of the birth of Malcolm X, one of the world's most committed and visionary freedom fighters. Even more than four decades after his death, Malcolm continues to provide a sterling example to young brothers trying to find their way out of the maddening darkness that too often defines the lives of African men in America.

Malcolm had every reason in the world to give up but never did. He endured domestic terrorist attacks on his family by white supremacists in Omaha, Nebraska and Lansing, Michigan; the brutal murder of his father, Earl Little, a Garveyite follower; an emotional breakdown by his mother Louise Norton Little, and the dissolution of his family by social workers.

In spite of it all, young Malcolm Little managed to continue to excel academically, graduating at the top of his junior high school class. He might have gone on to become a lawyer if one of his favorite teachers hadn't killed that dream by telling him that such a vocation was "no realistic goal for a n*gger." Soon thereafter, his decline began, as often happens today in the lives of many children of color. After dropping out of high school, Malcolm worked a series of dead-end jobs before turning to a life of petty crime.

Later in life, he made no secret of his involvement with drugs, illegal gambling, prostitution and burglary.

One of his burglary jobs landed him behind bars in 1946 where

he began to turn his life around thanks to the many books he read and the ennobling teachings of Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad. By the time he was paroled in 1952, Brother Malcolm had rejected the slave name "Little" and replaced it with an "X" to represent the African heritage stolen from him and other Africans in America by their European oppressors.

He evolved from being a bonafide menace to society to becoming one of African America's most respected and committed freedom fighters. Although he only had an eighth-grade education, his time behind bars gave him an opportunity to slow down and feed his mind. Those seeking to uplift communities of color today can learn from that aspect of his story today. Malcolm's ability to read and his hunger for knowledge and truth enabled him to do battle with white supremacists and accommodating Blacks alike. He never backed down from an intellectual challenge and always held his own in debates because he had truth and conviction on his side.

When he was wrong or mistaken about some aspect of the plight of Africans in America, he was the first to admit it. While his assassins may have taken his life, they could never kill his revolutionary spirit. That spirit lives on today in the men, women and children who carry on in the liberation struggle. Listed below are some of the things he said about race relations in the U.S. and the struggle

for liberation and justice:

"I believe that there will ultimately be a clash between the oppressed and those that do the oppressing. I believe that there will be a clash between those that want freedom, justice and equality for everyone and those who want to continue the systems of exploitation."

€ "Education is our passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today."

"If you're not ready to die for it, put the word 'freedom' out of your vocabulary."

"I for one believe that if you give people a thorough understanding of what confronts them and the basic causes that produce it, they'll create their own program, and when the people create a program, you get action."

"I believe in the brotherhood of man, all men, but I don't believe in brotherhood with anybody who doesn't want brotherhood with me. I believe in treating people right, but I'm not going to waste my time trying to treat somebody right who doesn't know how to return the treatment."

"If violence is wrong in America, violence is wrong abroad. If it is wrong to be violent defending Black women and Black children and Black babies and Black men, then it is wrong for America to draft us, and make us violent in defense of her. And if it is right for America to draft us, and teach us how to be violent in defense of her,

then it is right for you and me to do whatever is necessary to defend our own people right her in this country."

Malcolm's contributions have never been as widely celebrated as the annual Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday.

But they are every bit as important and should be remembered and celebrated in some meaningful way each year.

The thing is, we don't need the government to give us permission to celebrate and honor the memory and legacy of Malcolm X.

Every time we get disillusioned about conditions in the city's public schools and corruption in the school system, we should remember Malcolm's mantra about achieving our goals and objectives "by any means necessary."

Every time we get frustrated about fighting for a livable wage, affordable health care, decent education and things that others take for granted, we should remember Malcolm and all the others who never stopped fighting for us.

Every time we grow weary from policing the police and holding elected officials' feet to the fire, we should remember Malcolm, Marcus, Martin, Medgar and all the freedom fighters who didn't know what it meant to quit.

Every time we get tired or discouraged about fighting an uphill battle for our children's future, we should remember Malcolm and all he sacrificed

Continued on next page



Remember Malcolm Con't

because he loved us so.

Perhaps the celebrated actor/activist Ossie Davis, who passed away several years ago, best described what El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz meant to African America. In his eulogy of Malcolm, Davis said: "Malcolm was our manhood, our living, Black manhood! This was his meaning to his people. And, in honoring him, we honor the best in ourselves. Last year, from Africa, he wrote these words to a friend: 'My journey,' he says, 'is almost ended, and I have a much broader scope than when I started out, which I believe will add new life and dimension to our struggle for freedom and honor and dignity in the States. I am writing these things so that you will know for a fact the tremendous sympathy and support we have among the African States for our Human Rights struggle. The main thing is that we keep a United Front wherein our most valuable time and energy will not be wasted fighting each other.' However we may have differed from him - or with each other about him and his value as a man - let his going from us serve only to bring us together, now."

Amen.?□

Special thanks to The Louisiana Weekly and Edmund W. Lewis, Editor for permission to reprint this article.

"...I always had a deep affection for Malcolm and felt that he had a great ability to put his finger on the existence and the root of the problem. He was an eloquent spokesman for his point of view and no one can honestly doubt that Malcolm had a great concern for the problems we face as a race."

-- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in a telegram to Betty Shabazz after the murder of Malcolm X

**Saturday, May 17, 2008
NAACP Names New
35-Year Old CEO**

By Rosetta Thurman



Rosetta Thurman

The NAACP may have made one of their best strategic moves in recent years by hiring someone under 40 to lead the still relevant, but ailing civil rights organization. Benjamin Todd Jealous was named President/CEO of the NAACP this week. He is only 35 years old, the youngest leader to ever take the reins of the organization in its 99 years in existence. His appointment is not without controversy, as the NAACP's 64-member board was apparently quite divided, but he made the cut. Benjamin was most recently President of the Rosenberg Foundation a private foundation supporting advocacy efforts to make significant improvements in the lives of California's working families and immigrants. He also served as Director of US Human Rights Program at Amnesty International.

I'm actually pretty excited to see where Benjamin will take us! As the Atlanta Journal-Constitution proclaims, the "new, young NAACP chief may bridge generation." Indeed, Benjamin says he will use his youth to his advantage in leading the organization (my bold emphasis):

Jealous said he will make financial stability a priority for the organization and plans to use his personal relationships with top foundations around the country to build fund-raising. He said he will also focus on supporting the NAACP's nearly 2,000 local units across the country and on using technology more effectively to "pull people into this movement."

He points to his youth as an asset in recruiting new members and said he thinks he can work to create consensus among the board's various factions.

Hey now, maybe it's time to renew your NAACP membership...□

Special Thanks to Rosetta Thurman for sharing this article with Goose Creek NAACP.

Visit Rosetta's web site at: www.thurmanconsulting.org/
Or Email Rosetta at:

Charleston Group Led By The NAACP Wants Arthur Ravenel Off School Board

CHARLESTON June 1, 2008 Hilery Douglas, Chairman Charleston County School Board last week said that there is no debate about what happened.

"The facts are well established and documented," he said. "We know that a board member, in speaking openly to staff at district headquarters, used a demeaning and discriminatory term to describe the superintendent. He did this not once, but twice. And he threatened the superintendent's job, saying she'd be history if she didn't put something on the agenda."

Nelson Rivers III, the national director of field operations for the NAACP and a Burke High graduate, said Ravenel isn't going to change at the age of 81, and that it's time for the community to do something about it.

Dot Scott, president of the Charleston branch, said the group got involved because it's committed to issues of race and gender, and Ravenel's behavior

was sexist. That aside, she said no one else had spoken out about his totally inappropriate comments — she said that's because people are afraid of him — and the NAACP would be remiss not to take a stance.



Scott said she'd like the school board to censure Ravenel for his profane words and threatening behavior, and condemn Vice Chairwoman Nancy Cook and board member Ray Toler for 'their complicity in trying to hide the truth.' Cook and Toler were with Ravenel when he made the comments but have said they didn't hear him use the word 'bitch.'

Scott said she'd like to see Cook, who she's previously asked to step down for suggesting sterilization as a potential solution to societal problems, and Toler give up their board positions, but they were focusing their attention on Ravenel because he's the one who made the comments.□

Rally and Town Hall Meeting Planned

TOWN HALL MEETING: At 7 p.m. Thursday June 5, 2008 at Macedonia AME Church, 341 East Bay St., to talk about the way the school board sets policy and makes decisions, Scott said.

RALLY: At 5:15 p.m. Monday June 9 at 75 Calhoun St., before the Charleston County School Board meeting, to "make it plain that Ravenel's profane words and threatening behavior do not represent what's good for Charleston County," said Dot Scott, president of the Charleston branch of the NAACP.



Goose Creek, SC
Branch # 56A3

NAACP CREEK CONNECTION

Upcoming Events

June 6, 2008 - SC State NAACP Freedom Fund
June 10, 2008 SC Primary Election
June 14, 2008 - Ridgeville Branch NAACP 17TH
June 27, 2008 - SC State NAACP Freedom Fund
Freedom Fund Banquet
July 12-17, 2008 - 99th NAACP Convention
Cincinnati, OH
July 30 - August 3, 2008 - ACT-SO 30th
Anniversary Competition - Orlando, FL

**NAACP LAUNCHES 4TH OPERATION BIKE WEEK JUSTICE
TO MONITOR TREATMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AT Myrtle Beach**
Hotline will assist those who may experience unfair treatment over three-day event

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will again keep a close watch on the City of Myrtle Beach (S.C.) and local businesses this holiday weekend as annual Black Bike Week festivities get underway.



For the fourth consecutive year the NAACP will conduct Operation Bike Week Justice to monitor activities in the resort town during Black Bike Week, the annual Memorial Day weekend gathering of African American motorcycle enthusiasts. Throughout the weekend, NAACP teams will be monitoring police activity and treatment of African American visitors, observing the practices of local businesses and watching traffic patterns.

In recent years, the NAACP and African Americans have filed and settled federal lawsuits against the City of Myrtle Beach and areas businesses for unequal treatment of Black Bike Week visitors compared to those who attend Harley Week, traditionally held one week earlier and a predominately white event.

"Any form of racial discrimination against Black Bike Week visitors will not be tolerated," said NAACP Field Operations Chief Rev. Nelson B. Rivers, III, and a native South Carolinian. "Closing businesses or refusing to provide equal services to Black Bike Week visitors that are provided to visitors at other times of the year, not only makes no economic sense, it is against the law."

Again this year, a complaint hotline will be activated for individuals to report closed restaurants, police misconduct or other unfair treatment. Black Bike Week attendees can report incidents by calling (888) 362-8683 or by visiting Sandy Grove Baptist Church located at 1008 Carver Street [in Myrtle Beach] to file a complaint in person. Calls in previous years listed complaints against businesses for increased prices and noted police misconduct, frivolous charges and large fines for minor offenses.

Some progress has been made the last two years. Two more undisclosed settlements with offending businesses were reached recently. However, the NAACP remains concerned about the disproportionate number of arrests and the quality of police training in response to such large gatherings. Additionally, several establishments remain closed and continue to engage in discriminatory practices despite being aware of the lawsuits and Operation Bike Week Justice.