

Newsletter of the LCHR

Louisiana Council on Human Relations

James D. Wilson, Jr., Editor
Paul Y. Burns, Assistant Editor

Volume 46, Issue 3
April, May, June 2010

2010 Oliver-Sigur Humanitarian Awards Presented to Victor Bussie and Dr. George Diggs

Victor Bussie

Bussie has long been affiliated with the liberal wing

most significant non-elected “official” in his Louisi

Bussie credits much of his later activism to influenc

books. There finally came a time when they

finish our education but also thousands of

World War II, was a fireman in Shreveport before

public figures inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame in Winnfield, La. He is a former recipient of the “Racial Justice Award” given by the Baton Rouge Young Women’s Christian Association and in 1998, Bussie was named a “Living Legend” by the Louisiana Public Broadcasting Ser

In addition to being named a “Friend of Education”

Clausen described Bussie as “an individual who has

and a voice of support for higher education.”

**LCHR Board of Directors
Quarterly Meeting
July 24, 10am
1709 E. Simcoe, Lafayette, La.**

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Dr. George Diggs by Joseph McCarty

for the faint of heart. Yet in a time when most psy

born of Dr. George Diggs and Rosetta Diggs. His

ducted a family practice clinic in Baton Rouge for

Eva, a Creole belle of Breaux Bridge. They have two

to pursue a specialty practice, and chose the field of

financial opportunities awaiting outside of Louisiana,

LCHR Position Papers

An LCHR committee consisting of Paul Y. Burns, Chair; Marjorie Green; and Richard Haymaker has

LCHR Board of Directors. The current position papers, along with each paper's date of adoption or latest date of revision, are posted on the LCHR website:

Baton Rouge, LA 70808. The committee envisions

The current position papers are: Affirmative Action, Death Penalty, Race Relations in America, Prison Reform, Poverty, Labor Organizations, Police-Community Relations, Women's Rights, Discrimination on Basis of Ethnic/National Origin, Formation of Local Councils of LCHR, Education, Disenfranchisement of Felons, Labor, Institutional Racism, and War

LCHR - BRCHR Oral History

Baton Rouge Council Human Relations and current member of the LCHR Board of Directors, we now have oral histories of LCHR and its only remaining chapter, BRCHR.

Paul Y. Burns was interviewed May 26, 2010 by a

LCHR was formed in 1964 and the BRCHR was

Burns joined the BRCHR in April 1965 and served

ber of LCHR's Advisory Board in 1966 and has been

Diggs, Sr.'s practice was nearly exclusively direct

Lake Charles lost a psychiatrist he filled in there for

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck and refu

George is not an imposing figure. He loves to eat,

in the final wave of the polio epidemic of the mid-1950's. This prevented him from athletic attainment,

spirit. Education is of paramount importance in his

and developments in the field.

he is flying to North Carolina to watch George the III

dean's list.

Working in the public sector, Dr. George's rate of pay

ing to local charities and finding ways to help needy

Colorblind Racism

education gaps, but Barack Obama's election, with oppression in the United States. Right?

Michelle Alexander says "Wrong!" in her new eye-
The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness

The term, Alexander writes, "refers not only to the

labeled criminals both in and out of prison."

A Review:

more than what was once dismissed as "absurd" con-
make her central point: that the "war on drugs" spe-
cifically targets black and brown people, resulting in
the creation of a racially defined underclass in Amer

She examines the interlocking parts of the "new Jim
Crow": the comprehensive system, fueled by the war

(like supporters of LCHR) to see mass incarcera-
are officially race-neutral. "Of all the reasons that

denial."

The New Jim Crow

Southern Prosecutors Keep Blacks Off Juries

study by the Equal Justice Initiative in eight South
jury box. You can't kick someone off a jury simply

tor was asked to explain why he'd "struck" 11 out of
nished reasons: the proposed jurors were "arrogant,"
or too "vocal," or lacking in "sophistication." These

The Equal Justice Initiative notes that levers other than the jury system are needed to address the injustices of today enabling?

March for America

Reform is needed now. Families are torn apart by

Child Hungry Remains a Serious Problem in La.

A recent report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, found that nearly one in five children in Louisiana younger than 18 doesn't have enough

measured the state's childhood hunger rate at 19.6 percent. That figure gave Louisiana a much better na

Louisiana Fishers: Livelihood, Tradition, and Culture at Risk

The SMHA Rural Recovery efforts, formed in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike, have been established today to help Louisiana's fishers survive the

Louisiana fisher's life and livelihood are now on hold. Their future earnings are bleak as the fisher considers the loss of the breeding grounds of future seasons' crops. Louisiana fishers are being offered contracts by large cor

Rural Recovery Task Force and Fund. Their strategy

- Educate Louisiana's fishers on the impor

- Provide immediate financial relief to fishers

\$10,000 to help the family fishers and small

interest rate to benefit fishers and fisher-re

tion's past accomplishments demonstrate all

patch to sustain the Louisiana fisher's present

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Tamikia Y. Jones, Assistant Editor

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Possible Police Misconduct in Baton Rouge

For years the Baton Rouge Police Department stonewalled allegations were made by out-of-state police officers that Baton Rouge police officers abused police authority brought to light in 2010. The Baton Rouge Police

The Advocate

The Advocate's favor. The Police Department's stonewalling on this matter of public

independent panel to review the department's practices the department to determine if Baton Rouge police violated people's civil rights.

organ came to assist Baton Rouge Police officers after black Baton Rouge residents.

Baton Rouge Police Department announced that one officer was suspended without pay for three days, one was reprimanded, and three officers were "to be counseled by supervisors." These penalties were

Louisiana Ranks Second-Worst in Extreme Childhood Poverty

June by The Southern Education Foundation.

Mississippi was ranked first in the nation at 13.9 percent of the state's children living in extreme poverty in

The report, "The Worst of Times: Children in Extreme Poverty in the South and Nation," found that

poverty in the Baton Rouge metro area, according to

* West Baton Rouge, 15.5 percent.

* East Baton Rouge, 11.4 percent.

The LCHR / BRCHR is Online at:
www.brchr.org

One BR Motion Revived

A long-discussed One Baton Rouge resolution that recognizes and expresses tolerance for the city's

the council's next regular meeting, on July 28.

The resolution states the city's "strong commitment

into every aspect of Baton Rouge community life so that we all will be enriched by one another."

Walker's support could be critical to passing the reso

cio; the Rev. Chris Andrews of First United Methodist Church; and Rabbi Barry Weinstein to come up

"I voted against it last time because the wording was not right," Walker said. "There is a difference in this One BR resolution and what we looked at last time."

acceptance with the word recognition. "We're not telling anyone they have to accept homosexuality,"

One Baton Rouge resolution.

"The purpose of this is to recognize these people and treat everyone with respect," Walker said. "That's all I'm trying to do."

"I'm happy with the resolution as it stands now," Cascio said. "There's been a lot of talk about it, and I'm ready to get it done." Added Walker, "I think it's

us, and it has to be done in a positive way."

to be different. "My Bible tells me, 'Be ye kind,' " Walker said. "My grandmother always preached that to me."

for reviving the issue. "I think it's important for sym

a community that welcomes all people," Andrews said. "It makes a healthier and richer community for all of us."

e-mails and a phone call to his office seeking com

ing forward. "I think it's a great opportunity for Baton Rouge to present a fresh, positive picture of a Baton Rouge that is open and welcoming to all people and that treats every taxpayer with dignity and respect,"

"This is huge," Serrin said. "I'm very happy that Mr. ally co-sponsor it."

atic. "If the words sexual orientation were omitted, I don't think we would have a problem with it," he

strongly in 2007 against that One Baton Rouge res

Membership Information

(for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010)

Single Membership \$15.00

Family Membership \$20.00

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Street Address _____

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**(Baton Rouge area residents make checks payable to BRCHR,
other residents make checks payable to LCHR.)**

**Send all payment to:
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