

# An African American Newsletter



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MySpace is a social networking website offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music, and videos. MySpace also features an internal search engine and an internal e-mail system. It is headquartered in Santa Monica, California, USA, while its parent company is headquartered in New York City. According to Alexa Internet, it is currently the world's fourth most popular English-language website, the sixth most popular website in any language, and the third most popular website in the United States, though it has topped the chart on various weeks (note it is possible that other websites have a greater number of unique visitors). The service has gradually gained more popularity than similar websites to achieve nearly 80 percent of visits to online social networking websites. It has become an increasingly influential part of contemporary poplar culture, especially in English speaking countries. The company employs 300 staff, is

owned by News Corporation, and does not disclose revenues or profits separately from News Corporation. With the 100 millionth account being created on August 9, 2006 and a news story claiming 106 million accounts on September 8, 2006, the site reportedly attracts new registrations at a rate of 230,000 per day. The current

MySpace service was founded in July 2003 by Tom Anderson (an alumnus of both the University of California, Berkeley and the University of California, Los Angeles), the current president and CEO, Chris DeWolfe (a graduate of University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business), and a small team of programmers. It was partially owned by Intermix Media, which was bought in July 2005 for US\$580 million by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation (the parent company of Fox Broadcasting and other media enterprises). Of this amount, approx. US\$327m has been attributed to the value of MySpace according to the financial advisor fairness opinion.

The corporate history of MySpace as well as the status of Tom Anderson as a MySpace founder has been a matter of some public dispute.

In January 2006, Fox announced plans to launch a UK version of MySpace in a bid to "tap into the UK music scene" which they have since done (see MySpace International). They also plan to launch in China and possibly other countries.



YouTube is a popular free video sharing Web site which lets users upload, view, and share video clips. Founded in February 2005 by three employees of PayPal, the San Bruno-based service utilizes Adobe Flash technology to display video. The wide variety of site content includes movie and TV clips and music videos. YouTube has also become a means of promoting bands and their music. One such example is OK Go which got a huge radio hit and an MTV Video Music Awards performance out of the treadmill video for Here It Goes Again. The wide variety of site content includes movie and TV clips and music videos, as well as amateur content such as videoblogging. Currently staffed by 67 employees, the company was named TIME magazine's "Invention of the Year" for 2006. In October 2006, Google, Inc., announced that it had reached a deal to acquire the company for \$1.65 billion USD in Google's stock. The deal closed on 13 November 2006.

# Coming: Huge expansion of the Internet

If you ever had to make a computer or printer communicate on a network, you probably ran into IP addresses, unique Internet Protocol addresses that look like this: 192.168.1.1.

But what you might not realize is that every computer and network device such as a router or printer, has to have a unique address and, as you might guess, eventually we'll run out of these addresses.

An upgrade called Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) was developed a decade ago but hasn't been used in the United States. China and Asia, however, are

starting to upgrade their systems to take advantage of IPv6.

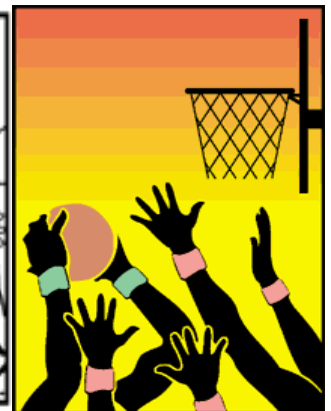
The Defense Department and the White House plan to spend billions of dollars to make the upgrade. When the IPv6 is operational in the U.S., it will open up a huge new span of addresses (340 undecillion or more than the number 340 with 36 zeroes behind it) and a new world of Internet capabilities, according to Business Week. The advance will allow every electronic device to be connected to the Internet and will change the way we live our lives. In the military, for example, commanders will be able to peer down a soldier's rifle scope.



**MAMA'S BOYZ**

**WWW.MAMASBOYZ.COM**

**JERRY CRAFT**



## What the homes of the future will look like

The National Association of Home Builders predicts homes of the future will look like this:

- \* Ceilings will be high and flat or have decorative panels or domes.

- \* Living rooms will be gone, replaced by a den, parlor, or library.

- \* Dual closets will be standard in the master bedroom.

- \* Entry doors will be at least 6 inches wider than the 3-foot doors of today.

- \* Bigger garages with front-to-back parking.

- \* Open floor plans defined by ceiling panels, floor cov-

- erings, or pillars.

- \* Shower stalls will be bigger and may have multiple shower heads.

- \* Outdoor kitchens and fireplaces will be common.

- \* Staircases will move from the front of the house to the middle.



# Excessive Internet use can cause problems

In a Stanford University survey, one in 20 U.S. adults report that their relationships have suffered because of their excessive use of the Internet. Another 12 percent say they stay online longer than they would like to, and 14 percent say it's hard to stay offline for more than a few days.

Psychiatrist Eias Aboujaoude, who led the study, says this is not a new type of addiction. But it does have some things in common with addiction.

Spending too much time on the Internet creates problems. Sometimes people start spending

time there because they are depressed and lonely. Then they become problematic users. There is no typical case or reason. It can affect people across all age brackets, classes, and education levels.

The psychiatrist says the overuse doesn't usually come from gambling or porn. It includes chat, email, special interest Web sites, games, and more. The psychological appeal is that it is always available. Though it satisfies people's need for connectedness, it can lead to isolation from the real world.

Aboujaoude says, "If you are convinced your virtual

existence is more valuable than your real life, who am I to necessarily argue the opposite?"



"You guys go ahead. I think I've found something here on ebay."

<http://www.myspace.com/ernestcooper>

<http://www.myspace.com/ctsmooth>

<http://www.myspace.com/pjcrowder>

<http://www.myspace.com/thepersuadersLtd>

<http://www.myspace.com/bluemagicmusic>

<http://www.myspace.com/therealwhispers>

<http://www.myspace.com/lucianomusic>

[http://www.myspace.com/onie\\_p](http://www.myspace.com/onie_p)

<http://www.myspace.com/lhamea>

<http://www.myspace.com/drdre>

<http://www.myspace.com/criceforpresident>

<http://www.myspace.com/quincyjones>



## What's Going On January 2007



## MASS MEDIA RECORDS

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## BLACK HISTORY

### Emancipation Proclamation

January 1, 1863 - President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This historic document led to the end of slavery in the United States during the Civil War. It declared freedom for slaves in all areas of the Confederacy that were still in rebellion against the Union. The Emancipation Proclamation also provided the use of Blacks in the Union Army and Navy. As a result, it greatly influenced the North's victory.



# WATCH NIGHT

Happy New Year to all.

This is a tradition for African American that has taken place New Years eve since 1863.

Many of you who live or grew up in Black communities in the United States have probably heard of "Watch Night Services," the gathering of the faithful in church on New Year's Eve. The service usually begins anywhere from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and ends at midnight with the entrance of the New Year. Some folks come to church first, before going out to celebrate. For others, church is the only New Year's Eve event. Like many others, I always assumed that Watch Night was a fairly standard Christian religious service -- made a bit more Afro centric because that's what happens when elements of Christianity become linked with the Black Church. Still, it seemed that predominately White Christian churches did not include Watch Night services on their calendars, but focused instead on Christmas Eve programs. In fact, there were instances where clergy in mainline denominations wondered aloud about the propriety of linking religious services with a secular holiday like New Year's Eve.

However, there is a reason for the importance of New Year's Eve services in African American congregations. The Watch Night Services in Black communities that we celebrate today can be traced back to gatherings on December 31, 1862, also known as "Freedom's Eve." On that night, Blacks came together in churches and private homes all across the nation, anxiously awaiting news that the Emancipation Proclamation actually had become law. Then, at the stroke of midnight, it was January 1, 1863, and all slaves in the Confederate States were declared legally free. When the news was received, there were prayers, shouts and songs of joy as people fell to their knees and thanked God. Black folks have gathered in churches annually on New Year's Eve ever since, praising God for bringing us safely through another year.

It's been 141 years since that first Freedom's Eve and many of us were never taught the African American history of Watch Night, but tradition still brings us together at this time every year to celebrate "how we got over."

## The King Day of Service. A day ON, not a day OFF

Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, was first celebrated in 1986. But many who wished to honor King wanted his day to be more than a play-filled holiday.

They wanted it to represent all that King stood for including brotherhood, nonviolence, and reconciliation.

In 1994, Senator Harris Wofford and Congressman John Lewis co-authored the King Holiday and Service Act, which was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. This Act was to encourage people of all races to volunteer in some way on this day.

The King Day of Service is a way to show an understanding and regard for the teachings of King by trying to solve social

problems.

Americans of every age and background can become involved in a project to help their community.

One can join an organized service project, volunteer at a school, church, or local shelter, or help repair a roof, shovel snow, cook a meal, or go to the grocery store for a neighbor.

In 2006, the Philadelphia region hosted the largest King Day of Service boasting some 50,000 volunteers and 600 service projects. Volunteers, numbered at 2500, gathered at Martin Luther King High School and constructed a "House in a Box" that was trucked to Lafayette, La., and given to a family left homeless by Hurricane Katrina.

In Washington, D.C., more than 400 volunteers performed a variety of services for 170 homeless families.

Want to help others but don't know how? Visit [mlkday.gov](http://mlkday.gov) for information on a list of projects (by state) that are planned in Martin Luther King, Jr.'s name for 2007. Volunteer!

*"I have a dream..."*



**"Honoring a Martyr for Peace"  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.  
January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968**



**Martin Luther King Jr.**  
Jan. 15, 1929 - Apr. 4, 1968