

# UMass will put papers of W.E.B. Du Bois online

BOSTON (AP) — The University of Massachusetts in Amherst said Friday it would scan, catalog, digitize and put online papers of civil rights movement pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois.

The university's W.E.B. Du Bois Library has an estimated 100,000 diaries, letters, photographs and other items related to Du Bois, who

helped found the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"What we're looking to do is spark conversation about difficult issues in race, inequality, class and all these things are things that concerned Du Bois," said Robert Cox, director of the special collections at the library. UMass received a

\$200,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to put the collection online during the two-year project, which begins in July.

The collection includes correspondence with other influential African-Americans, such as Booker T. Washington and Langston Hughes, as well as important public figures of his day, such

as Albert Einstein and Mohandas Gandhi.

One of Cox's favorite pieces is a menu signed by those who attended the first meeting of the Niagara Movement, a precursor to the NAACP.

The group was forced to meet in Ontario, Canada, because no restaurant in Buffalo, N.Y., would serve them.

Shirley Graham Du Bois donated her husband's papers to the Amherst campus in 1973. W.E.B. Du Bois was born in nearby Great Barrington in 1868. He died in Ghana in 1963.

Du Bois wrote more than 4,000 articles, essays and books, many of which are now out of print or difficult to find, Cox said.

While dozens of universities have microfilm copies of Du Bois work, the new online archive will allow anyone to search his words from anywhere.

"Once we get the word out there, we're going to reach people who never knew about UMass, never knew about Du Bois," Cox said.

He said it's not just scholars and researchers who are interested in Du Bois' work,

but also community and political activists.

"Du Bois fit that intersection between academia and public action, and the people who use the collection often do the same," Cox said.

Professor Henry Louis Gates Jr., the director of Harvard University's W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African-American Research who edited a compilation of Du Bois' writings, said much of Du Bois' never published works and early drafts are hard to find.

"It's long been obvious to me that no printed editions of his work have even begun to touch the complexity and the vast extent of his writings," Gates said. "Digitizing these works will lead to a renaissance in scholarship about the greatest thinker of African descent in history."

## Seats

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Louisiana has actually lost a more significant portion of the state's population over the last decade than the New Orleans Metro area. "There should only be one Congressional District that stretches from Shreveport to Monroe."

Those Fourth and Fifth Congressional districts are currently held by Republican Congressmen Rodney Alexander and John Fleming.

Previously, the U.S. Justice Department prevented states from diluting minority voting strength under the 1965 Voting Rights Act. However, in a recent 5-4 Supreme Court ruling *Bartlett v. Strickland*, Justice Anthony Kennedy said the landmark civil rights legislation doesn't require states to draw "cross-over" districts, which would include enough voters who would vote for minority candidates to allow the minority bloc to elect a minority candidate.

Commentators immedi-

ately suggested that this could influence the redistricting process in Louisiana, the only former "Jim Crow" state likely to lose a Congressional district.

Not only would merging the 2nd and 3rd Districts provide Democrat Charlie Melançon an easier seat in which to win re-election, providing a reason for White Democrats to support the plan, it would also create a swing seat with a low enough African-American political registration that current GOP incumbent Joseph Cao might have an outside chance at re-election in 2012.

Should a third-party Black contender run in the November 2010, dividing the minority vote between that person and the Democrat nominee, Cao could conceivably win re-election.

Long term, though, it would be nearly impossible for a GOP candidate to hold such a strongly drawn minority seat.

The district Mills proposed could give Cao a fighting chance, however.

There is a historical precedent for the congressional district map that Mills has suggested. The newly drawn South East Louisiana District would closely resemble the seat once held by Democrat Hale Boggs in the 1950s.

Members of the Legislative Black Caucus have sug-

gested that the Second District should stretch along the Mississippi River from New Orleans along the Banks of the Mississippi River to Baton Rouge, similar to the Minority/Majority Public Service Commission seat currently held by Lambert Boissiere III.

*Christopher Tidmore writes for the Louisiana Weekly.*

## Your Horoscope Says... April 9-15

### ARIES

Rev up your engines. This is a fine week for making progress with projects that you've got in the works. Your energy is high and your mind is clear. Use every advantage this week to finish up your works.

Soul Affirmation: I see myself as worthy and deserving a good life.

Lucky Numbers: 13, 28, 40

### TAURUS

A spirit of competition may be troubling you. Let it go. Celebrate differences and get on with the work of creating new hope in the world! Your tendency to speak without considering the full impact on others should be checked this week.

Soul Affirmation: I seek the light-hearted flavor of love this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 18, 19

### GEMINI

Confusion exists over some question, and every time you think you've got the answer, circumstances will change and new information will come to your attention. Don't worry, things are going to clear up and work out. Take it easy. Change the question.

Soul Affirmation: I make myself an inspiration to others this week.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 19, 20

### CANCER

Communications flow smoothly this week and your word is golden. A wild idea for money making could come to you, but you should let the strictly material walk on by. Stick to your current plan and use your imagination for ways to up-level your spiritual outlook.

Soul Affirmation: I celebrate freedom of mind this week.

Lucky Numbers: 33, 42, 49

### LEO

A party or gathering with friends

from the past will give you the opportunity to see how much you are loved. You've made tremendous strides and accomplished much in your life, so be pleased with yourself this week. Pass some of your wisdom along to others.

Soul Affirmation: I give thanks for who I am this week.

Lucky Numbers: 40, 48, 55

### VIRGO

An afterglow will surround you this week if you summon it up from your subconscious, and you may not feel like getting immediately into work-mode on several days this week. It's okay to go with your feelings; the world will wait for a little while. Treasure happy moments.

Soul Affirmation: My smile gives light to everyone I meet this week.

Lucky Numbers: 9, 21, 38

### LIBRA

Your mind will be extra busy this week with thoughts of new projects and the things you want to get done. Best course of action is to clear up pending and overdue items. You'll have a clean slate in no time and will feel genuinely content and ready for the new stuff.

Soul Affirmation: Light from my soul shines in many directions.

Lucky Numbers: 11, 13, 51

### SCORPIO

You should know by now that trying to be in two places at once is very taxing to your nerves! Slow down a bit and trust that you'll get what needs to be done accomplished. Give yourself a head start on all road trips so that you have time to enjoy the view. Love promises much this week. Accept the promise.

Soul Affirmation: My mood is created by the company I keep.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 19, 36

### SAGITTARIUS

A friend from the past could sud-

denly appear in your life. This could be a highly beneficial reunion for both of you. Let bygones be bygones, and renew this friendship. Love isn't used up just because it's shared.

Soul Affirmation: My blessings come through others this week.

Lucky Numbers: 8, 24, 53

### CAPRICORN

Drive the speed limit this week or you could wind up with a ticket. Why rush? Serenity is available if you only stop and listen for it inside of you. Discharge your usual obligations with dignity and silently count your blessings.

Soul Affirmation: Friendships are the shock absorbers on the bumpy road of life.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 52, 53

### AQUARIUS

Trust! —that's what you need to do. Sure people lie sometimes, but when you know their hearts you know what to expect and, therefore, you're not deceived. Be prepared for lots of compliments this week. Most of them will be sincere, so plan to accept them gracefully. You may be planning a summer trip. Make it a nice getaway.

Soul Affirmation: I take a chance on new beginnings.

Lucky Numbers: 22, 28, 29

### PISCES

Live free and large, and cherish good friends. Financial matters are highlighted during working hours. Everything to do with your money, or money under your care, goes smoothly. A party invitation arrives. ...say YES!

Soul Affirmation: I open myself up to the good news that wants to come to me.

Lucky Numbers: 33, 46, 55

## Run-D.M.C.

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Little Anthony and the Imperials, who began their career singing on street corners in Brooklyn, N.Y., opened the program with a gorgeous medley of hits "Tears on My Pillow," "Hurt So Bad," and "I'm Alright." Many in the crowd mouthed the familiar tracks as lead singer Anthony "Little Anthony" Gourdine's falsetto filled the room.

Longtime friend Smokey Robinson presented the doo-wop group, calling their induction "long overdue."

Gourdine thanked his music teacher, "wherever you are" during his induction speech.

"We've been in this now for 50 years, and when we were kids we never imagined in our wildest dreams we'd ever be here," he said. "Now that it's here, the one thing we can look at and say is nobody can ever take this away from us."

## Finance

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"The more we are all empowered with information, tools and resources, the more we all can contribute to making America as good as its promise."

Results of the national, online survey conducted in January by the Blackstone Group were released leading up to the 10th Annual State of the Black Union, being held Feb. 28 in Los Angeles.

A Web panel was used to collect national data for a total of 1,200 respondents split into two sample groups. General Population of 600, ages 18 and over and 600 African-American, ages 18 and over. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.