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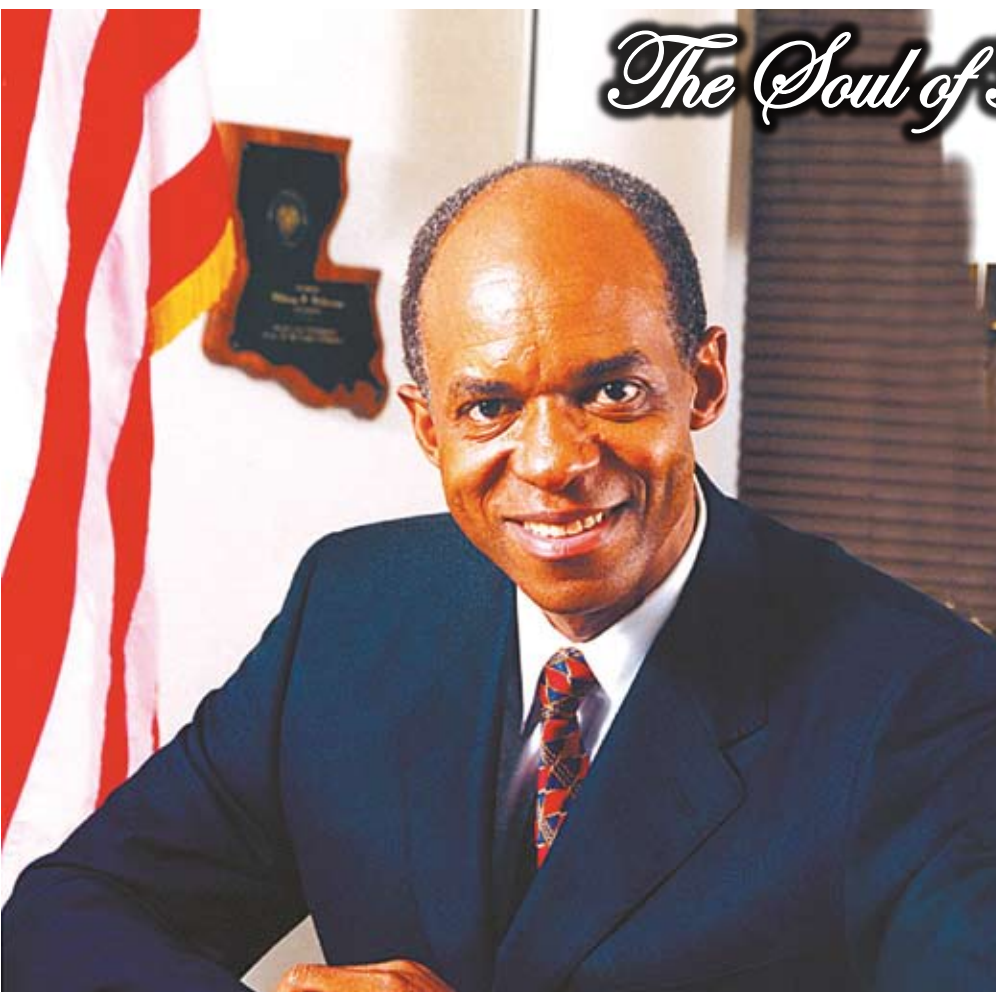
Data Zone

Page 8



Big Fun at the Bayou!

December 02, 2006 40th Year Volume 36 www.ladatanews.com



The Soul of New Orleans

William Jefferson and Karen Carter Face Off

Page 2

Cast your Vote!

December 9, 2006



NewsMaker | Data News Weekly
Page 6 Win's Ethnic Pulitzer

COVER STORY

William Jefferson and Karen Carter Face Off

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

By Edwin Buggage

As December 9th is fast approaching which is the day the run-off election that will determine who will represent the Louisiana 2nd Congressional District. For the past sixteen years the powerful and seemingly unbeatable Congressman William Jefferson brokered his way into becoming a powerful and influential figure in Washington D.C. now faces his biggest challenge in State Representative Karen Carter. This race has been a no holds barred affair, where the incumbent faced a slew of challengers before placing first in the primary. Now it is down to the wire, but who will the voters decide is the best candidate will it be the upstart Karen Carter or will it be the incumbent William Jefferson. Data News Weekly interviewed both candidates in a Data News Exclusive.



After placing first in the primary Congressman Jefferson talks to a crowded room of supporters while surrounded by his family.



Candidate Karen Carter speaking to supporters.

Karen Carter Interview:

EB: How does feel to be in the run-off?
KC: It feels great obviously I'm humbled by the opportunity to serve people. I think the folks of this region deserve something better than what they've had past and I'm excited about the opportunity to possibly serve in Washington and get some things done to get people home and get some things done to rebuild our community and people's lives.
EB: How do you feel about the Democrats having a majority in the House and the

Senate and do you think that will expedite the recovery of the region?
KC: There's no question the Democrats taking control of the House and the Senate will be instrumental in the recovery effort here in this region. I think that Nancy Pelosi has expressed in words and through her actions that she is committed with Joe Lieberman and others on the Senate side to make the recovery a priority moving forward and so obviously being a Democrat I think it's important that that has happened and I think we can build partnerships.

William Jefferson Interview:

EB: How does it feel to be in the run-off?
WJ: It feels good. Of course we would have liked to win straight out on November 7th but this is a good time for us. We feel good about the campaign.
EB: How do you feel about the Democrats having a majority both the House and the Senate, and do you think that will expedite the recovery of the region?
WJ: Democrats have committed

to our recovery much more than the Republicans. Democrats have already committed to creating a federal Disaster Insurance program that would cover all disasters. The Democratic Caucus came here in August to honor those lost and recommit themselves to the recovery of the region. Republicans never made those efforts and so yes, I believe our recovery can be expedited with Democrats leading Congress.
EB: What legislation are you working on presently?

Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA		
Cover Story page 2	Newsmaker page 4	Opinion page 10
	State & Local News page 5	Health News page 12
	National News page 6	Dollars and Sense page 12
	Data Zone page 8	Sports page 15

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COVER STORY

Karen Carter, Continued from previous page.

Of course Nancy Pelosi unseated my opponent the incumbent from the Ways and Means Committee before she became the Speaker of the House. I think it's important on our part to make sure we send credible and respected leadership from the district that can work with her to get good things done in the recovery.

EB: What is it that Karen Carter brings to the table that William Jefferson does not?

KC: Number one is integrity, ethics and honesty. There is no question that there is a cloud of suspicion associated with the incumbent and my ethics and integrity have never been questioned. Although he has tried project that issue and challenged me on that and everyone knows that I have been transparent and accountable in all of my dealings. I'm proud of my record which is one of honesty and integrity and ethics and that's the biggest distinction.

EB: What are your feelings about the situation surrounding the slow process of the Louisiana Road Home Program?

KC: At the state level they have created a bureaucracy another part of government that is making it very difficult for people to access the money they need to return

home and it's unacceptable and we really have to work in partnership with the Governor Blanco to improve that program it's just not getting the job done and there's no excuse for it. I know she has been making attempts to change the policies as she identifies problems, but of course this is the first time that anyone has had to deal with so its no time to cast blame but the thing we have to do as elected leaders is to work together get immediate relief to people. But the situation with the program I am not happy with it in fact we are routinely identifying problems with the program and trying to resolve them.

EB: In a previous interview your opponent stated he has not been convicted of any crime, and that his record as a U.S. Congressman is filled with accomplishments and accolades for his service. Is there anything other than his recent troubles that you can state that would deem him unfit to serve in the U.S. Congress?

KC: Let me first say this the legal battles and the legal woes that the incumbent faces will be handled and managed by the United States Justice Department and that is very different from the decision we

William Jefferson, Continued from previous page.

WJ: The most important is a bill that would allow citizens and businesses to sue the Army Corps of Engineers for damages incurred in a disaster in which they admit fault or an independent committee finds them liable. This is the only way our people will be made whole.

EB: What are your feelings about the Louisiana Road Home Program?

WJ: It's just not working and our state legislators, like Rep. Karen Carter, need to be more accountable for the billions of dollars that we sent from Congress. We provided \$11 billion for the Road Home Program and it's bogged down in bureaucracy and red tape on the state level. That's not acceptable. We wanted to give the states flexibility in distributing the money but they also need to be accountable. In the future, Congress may have to put stricter regulations on how and when the money is distributed.

EB: Race has become a factor in this race; in your opinion how great is the racial divide in the city of New Orleans?

WJ: The racial divide in this city is significant and deserves more attention. It is necessary for all our citizens to return and as we've seen in some plans there

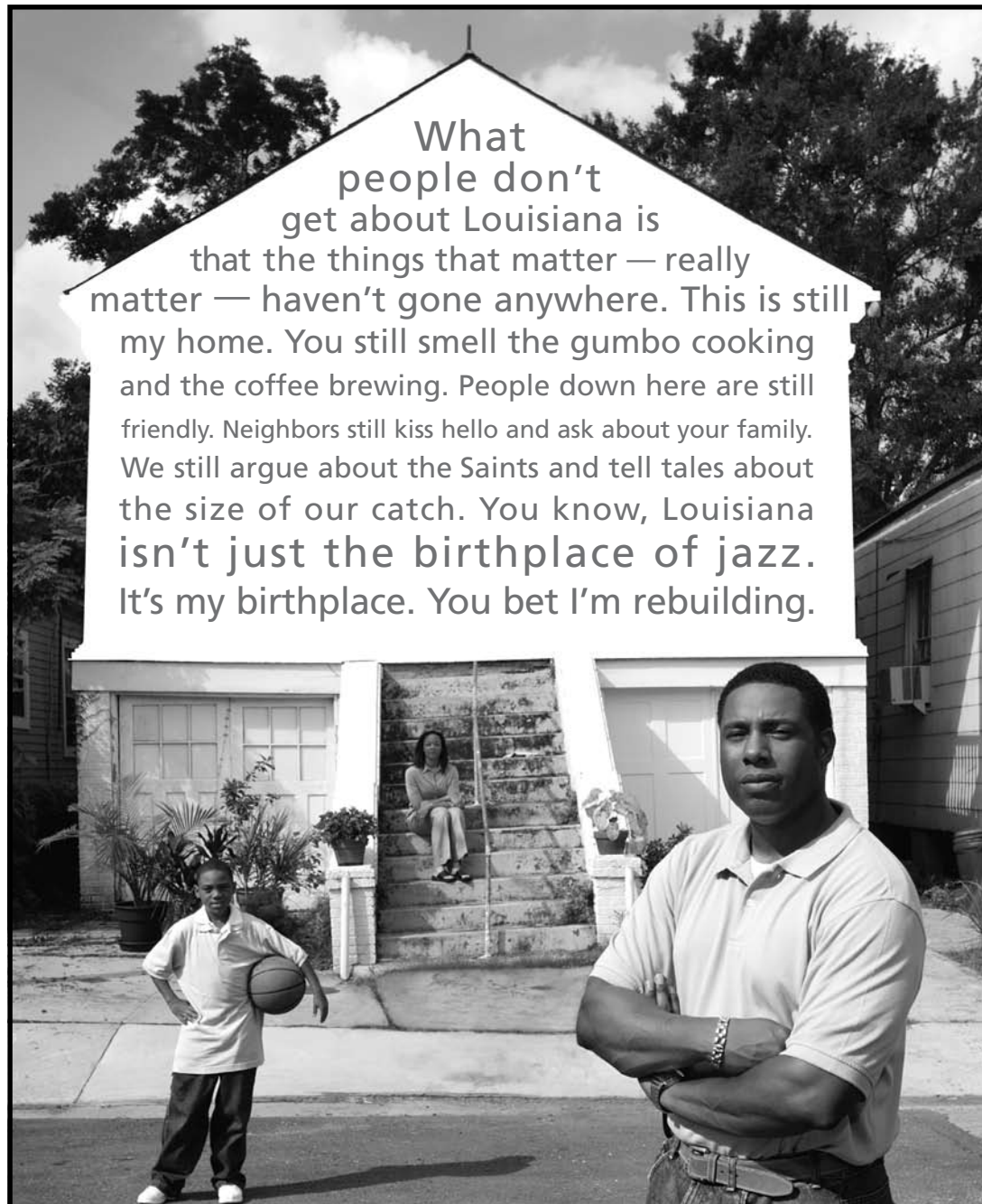
are those who want to turn majority black neighborhoods to Green Space. When ideas like that arise, it's very difficult not to think there is a racial element involved in the planning process. But I want all of our citizens to come home and will continue working in Congress to make it happen.

EB: Your opponent has talked about bringing back integrity and credibility to the 2nd District; what do you think are her greatest political liabilities?

WJ: Her lack of leadership as Chair of the Insurance Committee and her voting record in the State Legislature, which is terribly out of step with this district, are her biggest liabilities. She served as Chairperson of the Insurance Committee; yet, she has not made any positive steps to hold insurance companies accountable nor has she provided any real reform for our state Citizens Fair Plan Insurance Program – which is now hiking rates up to 200% in some cases. That's unacceptable and she should address her negligence. Also, she supports same sex marriage, abortion on demand, late term abortion, and has said that we should invest Social Security dollars into the stock market. Her voting record does not serve the interests

Continued page 14.

Continued page 14.



What people don't get about Louisiana is that the things that matter — really matter — haven't gone anywhere. This is still my home. You still smell the gumbo cooking and the coffee brewing. People down here are still friendly. Neighbors still kiss hello and ask about your family. We still argue about the Saints and tell tales about the size of our catch. You know, Louisiana isn't just the birthplace of jazz. It's my birthplace. You bet I'm rebuilding.

Homeowners affected by Hurricane Rita or Katrina may be eligible to receive up to \$150,000 in compensation for their losses to get them back into their homes. *The Road Home* Housing Assistance Centers are open and applications are currently being processed. If you have already registered, you will receive an application packet in the mail. To start your application for Governor Blanco's *Road Home* program, visit www.road2LA.org or call 1-888-ROAD-2-LA (1-888-762-3252).



NEWSMAKER

Data News Weekly is a Winner at the First National Ethnic Media Awards

Senator Clinton Salutes New America Media Award Winners



DC House Rep Eleanor Holmes Norton presents Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones with the Award for Excellence in Communications.



Publisher Terry Jones, Sandy Close Executive Director of New America Media and Data News Weekly VP Glenn Jones at the National Ethnic Media Awards.

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton opened the First National Ethnic Media Awards on November 15th, with a powerful tribute to ethnic media's role in American journalism.

"A fresh political wind is blowing in Washington," Clinton said. "Ethnic media represent the way the new Washington needs to connect to the new America," Clinton said.

Clinton headed a cast of Washington heavyweights who participated in the event, including Washington Post Executive Editor Len Downie, FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps, District of Columbia Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, two veteran Congresspeople from NAM's home base, Mike Honda and Barbara Lee of California, and Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club. NBC-WRC news anchor Pat Lawson Muse served as the evening's emcee.

"Ethnic media has come to Washington. Our challenge here is about making mainstream media more ethnic and ethnic media more mainstream," said Sandy Close, executive director of New America Media.

As close to a dozen runners-up took the stage for a bow, the Washington Post's Len Downie marveled at the youthfulness and diversity of the honorees. Ethnic media is a force in American journalism that will energize all of us, he remarked.

Data News Weekly was bestowed the prestigious award for Excellence in Communication, for its coverage during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and was honored for being able to get back up and publishing in as few as 2 weeks following the storm.

The awards banquet, which drew a sellout crowd of over 500 to the elegant Grand Ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel, gave out 23 first-place awards with cash prizes to ethnic media journalists from across the country.

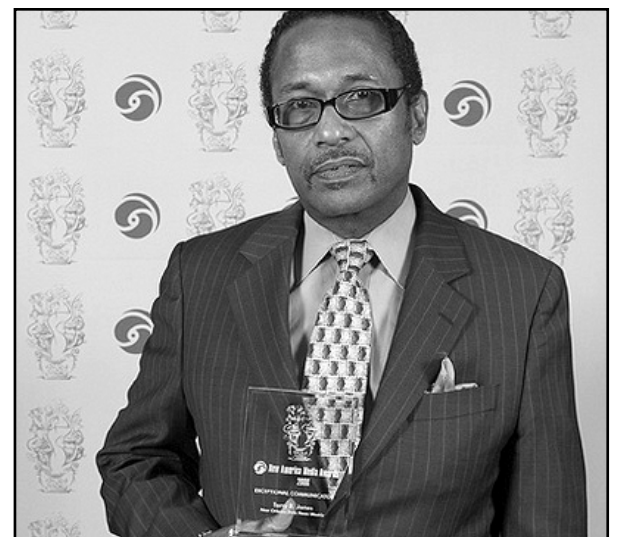
"The Mayflower Hotel was the most appropriate venue for ethnic media's historic landing in Washington," Close said. "You come to a place, you meet people, you begin to participate – and all of a sudden you feel you belong."

The award winners, their guests and dozens of ethnic media people attended the various all day workshops the next day, where topics ranged from covering issues of the elderly to the future of the ethnic vote.

Workshop presenters included Data News Weekly Publisher, Terry Jones, noted pollster Sergio Bendixen, Simon Rosenberg of New Democratic Network, and Gloria Tristani of Benton Foundation as well as representatives of NAM sponsors including AARP, Freddie Mac, Hewitt, The California Endowment, the National

Academy of Social Insurance, WETA-FM and the American Association of Advertising Agencies.

Participants raved about sessions. "The marketing workshop was the best I've attended in 20 years," said Anh Do, English-language editor of the Vietnamese daily, Nguoi Viet.



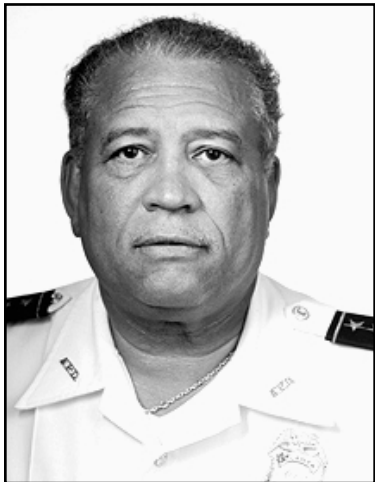
Publisher Terry B. Jones accepted the Exceptional Communicator Award. After Hurricane Katrina, Jones kept publishing the New Orleans Data News Weekly from Atlanta, Ga. to re-connect the displaced African American community

STATE & LOCAL

Anger mounts in Atlanta over police killing of elderly woman



88 year old Kathryn Johnston of Atlanta who was gunned down in her home by APD, may have been the victim of mistaken identity, in this national headline case focusing on "no knock warrants" and police cover-ups.



Former Police Chief Richard Pennington calls for a thorough investigation by the FBI and Georgia Bureau of Investigations (GBI) into the tragic shooting death of a 88 year old woman in her home by undercover narcotics officers. Preliminary evidence is pointing to irregularities in the accounts of the officers involved, and may point to improper procedures with grave consequences.

Over 300 attend protest to vent frustration; former New Orleans police chief appeals for calm

Former New Orleans and current Atlanta Police Chief Richard Pennington pleaded for calm in print and in person yesterday as Atlanta residents protested the death of an 92-year-old woman who was gunned down in a shootout with narcotics officers which has now moved into the spotlight as a national interest story.

"This tragic incident has shaken this community to its core, and the residents deserve honest answers," Pennington stated in a recent editorial. "But I must ask for patience and calm as we get to the bottom of the events of Nov. 21."

That evening, according to police accounts, plainclothes officers stormed the house of Kathryn Johnston, whose age was reported as 92. They had obtained a warrant that didn't require them to knock, and they were looking for drugs. Johnston was fatally shot by officers who have said that they were returning her gunfire. Three officers were struck; none of their wounds was life-threatening.

A day after Pennington turned the investigation over to the FBI - Johnston's friends and family gathered for her funeral.

After sundown, more than 300 people, including members of the New Black Panther Party for Self Defense, gathered at Lindsey Street Baptist Church in Johnston's traditionally black northwest Atlanta neighborhood to vent their frustration.

Pennington, the former Police Chief of New Orleans, standing near the altar in his blue uniform, listened calmly as scores of people stepped to a microphone to vent

their frustrations.

"You need to talk to your people, man, because they're killing us!" shouted Benjamin Hayes, 34.

Pennington bowed his head. "I've got your concern," he said softly.

Afterward, he told a reporter that he understood the community's frustration. "They were upset. ... I felt they had to take their anger out on someone. I'm a big boy," he said.

Since the shooting, questions have arisen about the officers' story. In their application for the warrant, police officers said they watched a confidential informant buy drugs from Johnston's modest, yellow-brick house. But this week, a man who claimed to be the informant told a local TV station that police had asked him to lie.

"They were going to pay me just to cover it up," said the man, who was not identified. "They called me immediately after the shooting to ask me, I mean to tell me, 'Here's what you need to do. You need to cover our ass' - and that's exactly how he said it, you know? It's all on you, man."

In the newspaper article, Pennington acknowledged that "many people are understandably suspicious that the Atlanta Police Department is trying to cover up the facts surrounding this case," but he promised that the "complete truth" would be revealed in the federal investigation.

Pennington has placed seven narcotics investigators and a police sergeant on paid leave. He also said the department will review its policy on "no knock" warrants, as well as the use of confidential informants.

Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin said that turning over the case to the federal government

was an "honest attempt to be transparent."

"The community deserves the truth, and I am confident that this will be accomplished through the thorough investigation," she said.

Like Johnston, Pennington and Franklin are African-American. But many of the people who attended the funeral and protest saw her death as part of a familiar

black encounter with institutional racism: Edward O. DuBose, the president of the Georgia State Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, called the incident an example of "police brutality and lawlessness against African-Americans."

Concern over police shootings was running high in the Atlanta

area before the incident. This month in suburban DeKalb County, prosecutors asked a grand jury to review police investigations of 12 fatal officer-involved shootings since Jan. 1. Nearly all of the suspects killed by the county police were black. A protest over those shootings is planned for today.

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STATE & LOCAL

Sen. Landrieu Selected For Senate Homeland Security Committee

Will lead FEMA and Stafford Act reform, increased national preparedness.



WASHINGTON – United States Senator Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., announced that she has been selected to sit on the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs when the 110th Congress convenes in January. The chief oversight body of the United States Senate, the committee's principal jurisdiction is the Department of Homeland Security, which includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The committee also covers issues involving customs, ports, hurricane evacuation, the Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration.

"The Homeland Security Committee, in addition to the Appropriations, Energy and Small Business Committees on which I also sit, is an ideal combination for Louisiana," said Sen. Landrieu, who will retain each of her current committee assignments. "It puts us in a powerful position to advance and protect Louisiana's future in a range of vitally important areas.

"In particular, we must address what we have learned from the disastrous federal response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the flooding that followed. One

of my goals as a member of the committee is a complete overhaul of the Stafford Act, which governs federal assistance to state and local governments in times of disaster. The law is antiquated and needs significant reform, just as the structure and management procedures of FEMA need a major overhaul."

"Senator Landrieu is my choice to join Democrats on the Homeland Security Committee, as she is a strong and effective voice on behalf of FEMA reform and national disaster preparedness," said Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Her hard work and experience dealing with hurricane recovery from both Katrina and Rita has made her one of the nation's most informed voices on vital homeland security, emergency management and hurricane protection issues. This new position will permit her to use that experience to improve this government's policies on emergency management and preparedness for the people of Louisiana and all Americans."

"Through her tireless work on behalf of those devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Senator Landrieu has been working closely with the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for over a year," said Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., the committee's expected new chairman. "I am thrilled to welcome her officially to this Committee and I know that she will bring with her powerful insights into how we can improve our federal disaster preparation and response systems to ensure that no region will ever suffer

again as the Gulf Coast did last year."

With Louisiana's port system among the largest in the world, handling 40 percent of all U.S. imports and exports, Sen. Landrieu will also work to address security vulnerabilities at America's ports and other vital elements of the nation's homeland security. Sen. Landrieu brings to the task her past experience as chairman of the Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a position she held on 9/11.

"The worldwide terror attacks of the last five years remind us that America faces a global enemy that respects no boundaries of geography or morality," Sen. Landrieu added. "Whether the next disaster is caused by nature or terrorists, we must ensure that our nation has the resources and leadership to prepare and respond appropriately."

Earlier this year, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee released "A Nation Still Unprepared," the most comprehensive report to date analyzing the federal government's failed response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In the months since, Sen. Landrieu has worked closely with the committee's leadership to reform and reinvent the nation's troubled disaster response infrastructure. She hopes to continue this work in the new Congress, fighting for a new national commitment to preparedness before the next national disaster strikes, be it natural or manmade.

"After taking stock of the government's lackluster preparation for and response to last year's catastrophe, many of us said 'never again,'" Sen. Landrieu said. "That is the promise Louisiana and America deserve, and it is the promise I will work to fulfill as a member of the Homeland Security committee."

Judge Orders FEMA to Resume Housing Benefits for Katrina Victims

WASHINGTON – Condemning the bureaucracy at the Federal Emergency Management Agency as "Kafkaesque," a federal judge Wednesday ordered the government to immediately resume housing payments to Gulf Coast residents who lost their homes to Hurricane Katrina.

Barely six months after Katrina ravaged the region, FEMA ended benefit payments to several thousand families still in temporary housing and unable to return to their homes.

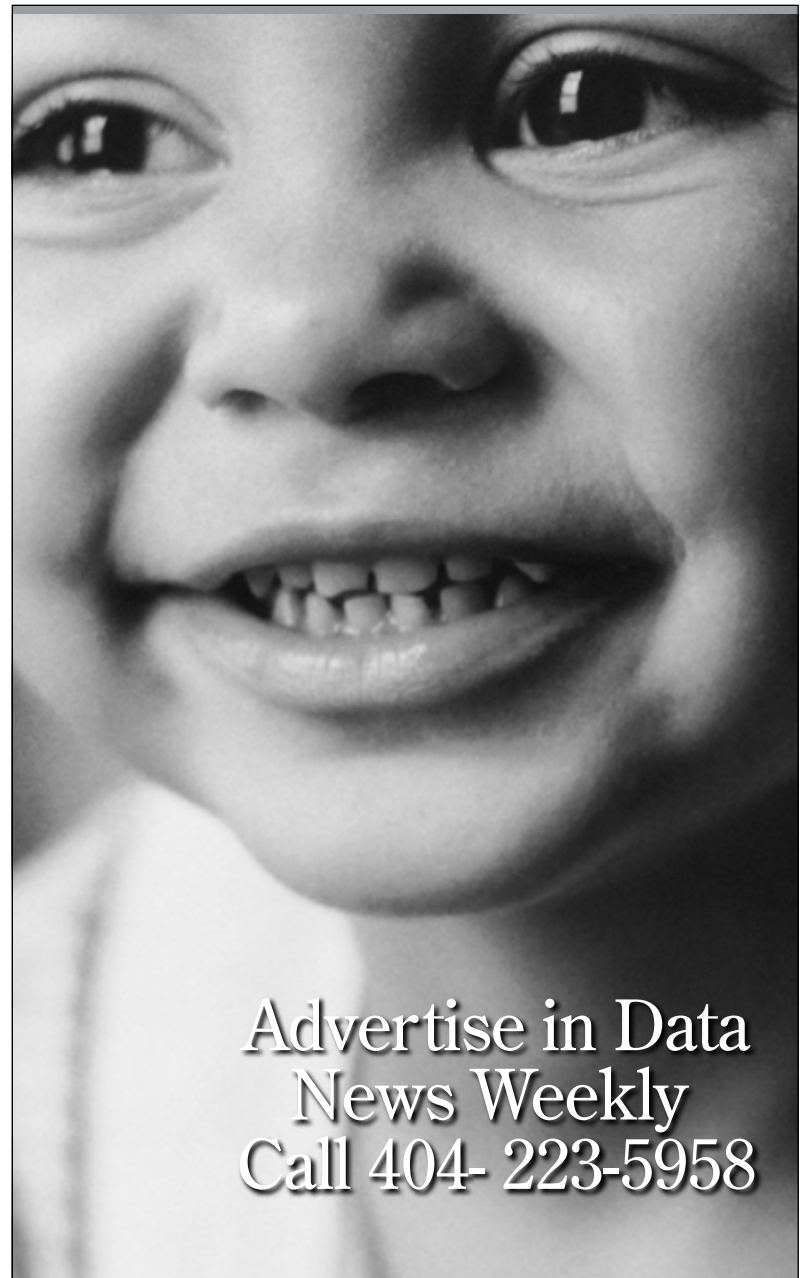
U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon said the agency had violated the evacuees' rights by not adequately explaining why it was ending the benefits, making it difficult for storm victims to appeal the decisions.

"It is unfortunate, if not incredible, that FEMA and

its counsel could not devise a sufficient notice system to spare these beleaguered evacuees the added burden of federal litigation to vindicate their constitutional rights," he wrote.

Leon ordered the agency to explain its actions, restore short-term benefits to evacuees who had been cut off and give them the two months of housing payments they would have received after payments finally stopped in August 2006. The ruling affects 11,000 families, mostly in Louisiana and Texas...

Under FEMA's transitional housing program for victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, evacuees were entitled to financial assistance either for 18 months or to a maximum of \$26,200.



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NATIONAL NEWS

Coretta and Martin King Reunited



Standing by the new crypt which will house Mrs. King next to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the King Center in Atlanta are l to r, Dexter King, Yolanda King, Rev. Bernice King and Rev. Martin Luther King, III.

Dennis M. Byron Jr.
Special to the NNPA from the
Atlanta Voice

ATLANTA (NNPA) – On November 20, Atlanta hosted yet another historical event regarding Martin Luther King Jr. and his family. Ten months after her passing, the final resting place of Coretta Scott King next to her husband, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was unveiled at the grounds of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in a marble crypt now big enough for both of them.

Coretta Scott King, 78, died on Jan. 30 due to complications from a stroke and ovarian cancer. From the time of her passing, it took 10 months for Mrs. King to reach her final burial place in the crypt.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had been relocated more than once since he had been assassinated in Memphis in 1968. He was first buried at the South-View Cemetery in Atlanta next to the graves of his mother, father and maternal grandparents. Once the King Center was erected under the direction of Mrs. King, she placed Martin Luther King Jr.'s body in the center of the grounds next to the Ebenezer Baptist Church, the famous location where King preached.

Every since the 1980 legislation, there was always the plan that once Coretta Scott King had passed, she would join her husband at the site.

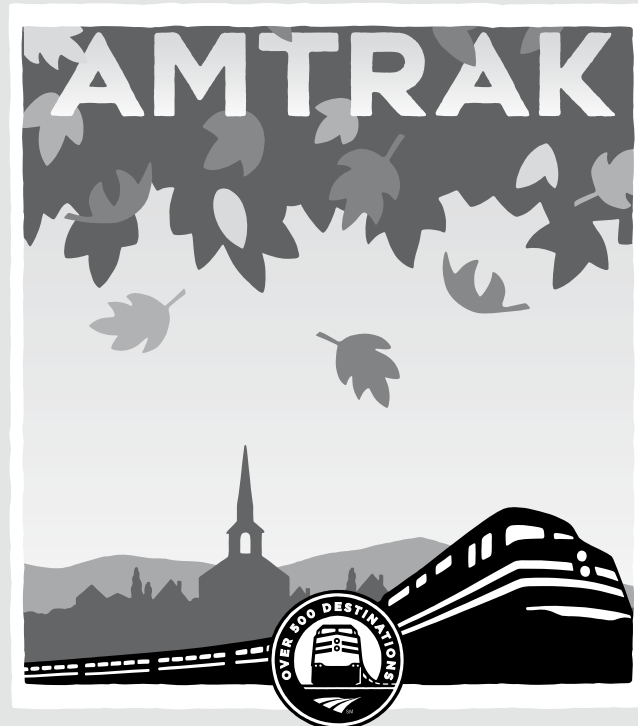
Mrs. King's relocation was way ahead of schedule, with plans to have her placed next to her husband on December 31. The overall goal was to have them united before Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on January 15, 2007. Before having a big enough space to accommodate them, Coretta Scott's body was resting directly in front of her husband's tomb in a marble crypt since February. The recent relocation privately took place behind a partition to block viewing from the public.

The last time the King crypt received this much attention was when President George W. Bush visited the location during Martin Luther King Jr.'s 75th birthday in 2004. Even though Bush managed to place a wreath on King's crypt, about 700 protestors jeered the president; chanted "Bush go home!;" and burned him in effigy, largely because of his relations with civil rights leaders, his role in war and lack of support for affirmative action.

Since then, calm has resided and only positive events have taken place at the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

The beautiful crypt, which is surrounded by a reflecting pool, now houses one of the most famous tandems in history that can finally rest in peace.

Continued on page 15.



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DATA ZONE

Bayou Classic Rolls Through!

Photos by Jamie Jones

This year the Bayou Classic has returned to New Orleans and as always is much more than a football game, it is a cultural event that bring people from all over the country. Here are some of the sights and highlights as we recap the Bayou Classic returning to the Crescent City.



Southern University Marching Band during halftime show.

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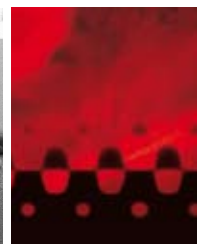
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OPINION

A Darftly Draft Proposal



Harry C. Alford
NNPA Columnist

"BEYOND THE RHETORIC"

Oh, how I remember the draft. It was that law that rounded up many of my friends and relatives and took them off to fight for the military industrial complex. Many came back in coffins while others came back with physical and mental scars that would haunt them and their loved ones for a lifetime. The draft was racist and totally unfair. Those with money and connections could finesse around it. The disadvantaged were easy prey for a system hell bent on power at any cost (someone else's cost).

Gays are not officially allowed in the military but the draft grabbed them as fast as anyone else. Communists and militants like the Black Panthers were not allowed in the military but the draft rounded them up and forced them in also. The maximum age for the draft was 26 but I witnessed men 30 and older being forced in. The real unfortunate would find themselves being loaded onto a bus that was headed for Camp Pendleton or Parris Island for Marine Corps duty instead of the Army. It was cruel, ruthless and even murderous.

I and my group of unfortunates almost faced a very big double cross. We were college graduates with low draft numbers lured to apply for Officer Candidate School, in lieu of the normal enlisted status via the draft that was certain. Once we got in, they declared the Officer School Class cancelled and we would have to do three years of enlisted service as opposed to the two years via the normal draft. However, we got lucky. One of us was connected to Senator Barry Goldwater – his mother was his secretary. He called her and Barry Goldwater got on the line. He said, "They can't lie to you guys like that. I will have it turned around by tomorrow." This was one Senator you could trust. By 11 the next morning, we were back on track to Officer Candidate School. This was my first experience with political power. I never forgot or under appreciated it.

Such was the trickery of the draft that fueled the fires of the Vietnam War. We got into the war because there was a draft. It is a mechanism that pumps the manpower

and makes it easy to create enough military personnel. It is tempting to Congress to go to war when they know they have enough troops to go into battle. If there were a draft going on now, we would also be in Iran or Syria or both. The faces of battle would be basically Brown or Black as the upper- and middle-class Whites would create deferments.

When Congressman Charles Rangel wrote a bill to restore the draft, the above flashed into the minds of most members of the House of Representatives and they voted against it 400 – 2. It was a pure stomping. But the old draft isn't what Congressman Rangel is talking about. The upcoming chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee has another scheme for the draft.

This nation is seriously deep in debt. We owe the world more than \$12 trillion and don't have a clue how we are going to get out of it. There are two simple options that no one will face. 1) They can tax us out of it. But no American public is going to take that pain without voting out the entire Congress and 2) We can seriously cut down our spending. But no pork barrel addicted Congress is going to bring itself to facing up to this. You can't make a "crack head" voluntarily put down a crack pipe.

So here is Rangel's new option. Let's have a nouveau draft. Let's force young Americans to work in our airports, highways, borders, national parks, etc. at very low wages and still have a heavily populated military ready for Halliburton and "the boys" when they need more non-bid contracts. We can work our way out of this humungous debt by hiring able bodied men and women to work for "peanuts" on government jobs. Replace the lucrative GS pay schedule (federal employees) with the super cheap E-Pay schedule (enlisted troops). This is so slick and cunning.

America, please wake up to this scheme and call it what it is: A plain old evil and despicable draft that is no better than the previous one. We must not discuss it or even debate the merits. There are no merits. Our youth did not get us in this debt mess and shame on us to stick them with the bill. Cut the pork. Run our government with accountability.

Harry C. Alford is the President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce. Website: www.nationalbcc.org. Email: president@nationalbcc.org.

Debasing Racism Is a Process for the Motivated



Eddie Francis
Data Columnist

On the heels of the Michael Richards comedy show tirade controversy a white conservative friend of mine asked me the obvious question. "Eddie, I've got to know what you think of what he said!" she exclaimed. There is no way she asked that question out of sheer curiosity. She was looking for a debate. It was no problem since we constantly debate, anyway.

This time was different, however. There was tension in the discussion, not the usual flow disrupted by harmless ribbing. Dare I say that there was even anger present? As debates normally do, ours took several turns away from the Richards situation. She left an impression on me when she said, "Guys like Louis Farrakhan, Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson are just as bad as white racist." For the record, we're still cool.

I explained to my friend that black folks still live in fear of dying at the hands of racists. Skinheads, Ku Klux Klansmen and your garden variety psychopathic racist have made it clear that they believe America is a better land without black people, homosexual men and Jews. I don't recall anyone from the Nation of Islam randomly killing white people. Has Rainbow/PUSH put out any contracts on white people? Has a member of the National Action Network lynched or hanged anyone in order to send their message of disapproval or dominance?

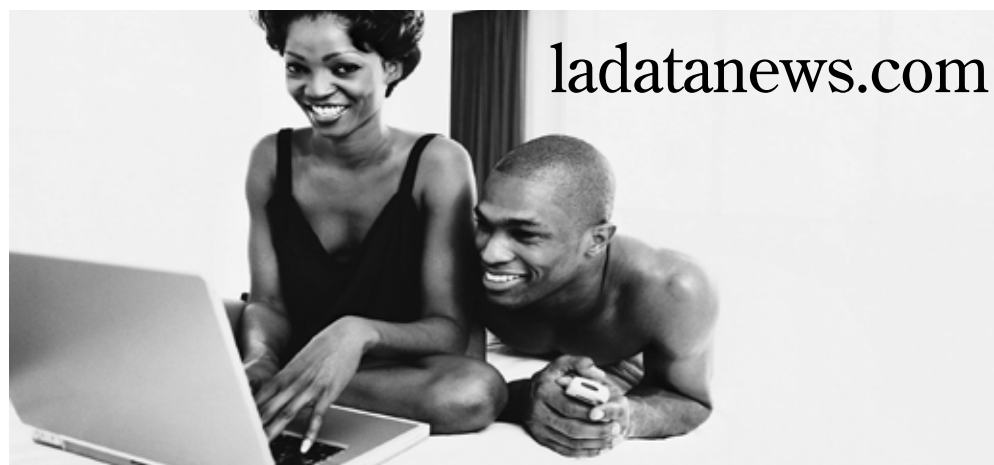
I don't always agree with these men. But in no way do they belong in the same sentence with David Duke or any other

white racist. I explained to her that I personally feel quite a bit of discomfort when I travel to certain parts of the country, not to mention other parts of Louisiana.

Like most black folks, I have received stares. Whether they have been out of curiosity or contempt, I have felt them crawl all over me like ants. I can honestly say that I have been to places in which I have seen a town's shrine to the Confederacy. Many white Americans say that they live in fear when they are in the 'hood. African-Americans only make up 12% of the entire nation. Do the math.

Despite the tension we agreed that it is up to genuinely good people to continue to address racism honestly and effectively. For my part, I believe that black folks need to get out of the neck rolling, wild-eyed "I'm a scary black person" mentality. Understand that increasingly white people are leaving behind the cowering "Don't hurt me, black man" mentality. Let's face it, those have become cultural clichés.

As uncomfortable as the thought may be for many of us, black folks have to continue to be leaders in the discussion of racism. Whether he is a racist or not, the Michael Richards of the world will continue to say what they feel they have to say for whatever reason. We have to maintain the same intelligence, dignity and faith that carried many a warrior through the Civil Rights Movement. It is only with that temperament that we can build on the words of Tony Brown, "If we fail to unite there will be no black or white winners, only American losers."



COMMENTARY

The Crazy Aunt Congress Won't Let Out of the Closet



Marc Morial
President & CEO
National Urban League

In light of the recent elections, the U.S. Congress appears poised to look more and more like America - at least in its leadership. African-American lawmakers are expected to have more clout than they have ever had before on Capitol Hill. A total of five Black U.S. Representatives will chair House committees, including New York Rep. Charles Rangel (Ways and Means), Michigan Rep. John Conyers (Judiciary) and Florida Rep. Alcee Hastings (Intelligence). And Virginia Rep. James Clyburn will serve in the House leadership as majority whip. Yet, as more and more minorities rise to the top of the institution, their ranks are pretty meager among congressional staff members who play a major role in crafting national policy - especially at the senior level and in the U.S. Senate.

Last August, a report by the Congressional Management Foundation found that only 20 percent of U.S. House staffers are people of color. But where the lack of diversity is most evident is in the Senate where only 6 percent of 4,100 employees nationwide are of color, according to a June 2006 analysis by DiversityInc magazine. That compares to nearly 30 percent of the general population and 34 percent of the magazine's top 50 companies for diversity.

"When I leave [my office] and walk around other offices, I find myself, frankly, in a situation that I'm all too familiar with, where I'm one of the few African Americans at the table," observed Michael Strautmanis, chief counsel for Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., whose office is 20-percent people of color, to DiversityInc.

The subject appears to be in the words of 1992 presidential candidate Ross Perot the "crazy aunt in the attic" who no one wants to talk about. Unlike corporate America, congressional lawmakers aren't subject to most

labor laws. They don't even have to divulge their hiring practices to the public because they're exempt from the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. In essence, they aren't accountable to the American public for their internal labor policies. So, they're their own islands to some extent. They can hire whom they want without justification.

Of senior-level staff in the U.S. Senate, about 7.6 percent are people of color - 2.9 percent black, 2.8 percent Asian and 1.9 percent Latino. This compares to 24 percent of managers (9.7 percent black, 7.2 percent Asian American and 6.4 percent Latino) and 15 percent of senior-level executives (6.1 percent black, 4.8 percent Asian American and 3.8 percent Latino) at companies in the magazine's so-called Top 50 for Diversity.

In the early 1990s, redistricting paved the way for the election of 13 more African American members of Congress, leading to an increase in number of employees of color. It also expanded the pool of qualified candidates for mid- and senior-level positions. Still, especially in the Senate, limited networking and candidate pools as well as hiring from within have contributed to the difficulty faced by minorities trying to shatter the congressional glass ceiling.

The fault crosses party lines, according to DiversityInc. "Democrats, who historically have considered themselves the champions of people of color, are no better than the Republicans. With a few exceptions, senators of both parties refused to discuss their diversity problem," the story stated. So, senators will still talk the talk about the benefits of diversity but won't walk the walk. And even if they don't talk the talk, they should walk the walk - not just for the sake of the people they represent but for the nation as a whole.

In her June 2006 Roll Call editorial, Donna L. Brazile called upon lawmakers to take a hard look at the example they are setting for those they've told to clean their acts up. Americans of color, Brazile wrote, would "like to have a seat or even a folding chair - at the table when policies that impact our communities, as well as our nation, are being brought up."

At the National Urban League, we've made it our mission to help Congress increase its diversity by helping identify and place

qualified African Americans in congressional offices. It's about time the U.S. Congress brought its diversity problem out of the attic - if not for the sake of minorities

attempting to make a name for themselves on Capitol Hill but for the integrity and effectiveness of our nation's laws. Capitol Hill should look like the model of

diversity not like a members-only country club.

Marc H. Morial is President and CEO of the National Urban League



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HEALTH NEWS

Obesity is a Gateway to Serious Health Problems



Larry Lucas
Data Columnist

We've all heard about the dangers of "gateway drugs" such as marijuana and alcohol – that using these substances may lead to much bigger problems like chemical abuse, risky behavior and other concerns. But what you might not realize is that when it comes to your wellness, obesity is a similarly precarious gateway to poor health and potentially life-threatening diseases.

For many people, health problems can be traced to poor diet and exercise habits – two factors which primarily contribute to obesity. Yet despite an onslaught of public education campaigns, far too many of us just aren't getting the message. Last month, at the final session of the Centers for Disease Control's National Health Promotion Conference, a report was released that said the obesity epidemic for adults continues to skyrocket in all states, for both genders and among all racial and ethnic groups.

Obesity in America has reached massive proportions and the impact on the African American community is particularly profound. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) more than half of African American adults are overweight or obese.

Being overweight isn't just a vanity issue. It can steal years – and in some cases whole decades – from your life. According to the NIH, young African American men with a body mass index greater than 45 could lose up to 20 years of life; African American women, up to 5.

While there are many kinds of medicines to treat obesity-linked diseases such as certain types of diabetes and high cholesterol, they aren't the solution. The goal should be to prevent, not treat, these conditions and that can be done through improved diets, portion control and more exercise.

I'm not suggesting that all your health problems could be solved if you just stop eating greasy cheeseburgers and delicious milk shakes. But consider this: according to the Centers for Disease Control being overweight or obese can lead to hypertension, type 2 diabetes, heart

disease, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, respiratory problems and some cancers. For women, it can also jeopardize reproductive health.

What's also startling is that obesity contributes as much or more to the development of a group of chronic diseases – including cancer – as does smoking, according to a report published by RAND Corporation researchers in the British journal called Public Health.

It's thought one possible explanation for why extra weight leads to increased cancer risk is that fat cells produce a form of estrogen that promotes rapid division of cells, increasing chances of a random genetic error while cells are replicating, which can lead to cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. In addition, fat centered on the abdomen may increase insulin and insulin-like growth factors in the blood, which may also increase cancer risk.

The good news is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports health outcomes related to these diseases often can be improved through weight loss or, at a minimum, no further weight gain. Even a modest weight loss of 10 to 20 pounds can bring significant health improvements, such as lowering blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

There are easy ways to help reduce the health risks associated with obesity and being overweight. First, start with goals that are measurable, specific and attainable. While it's wonderful to say you're going to "eat healthier," a better goal would be to "eat five servings of fruits or vegetables five days a week." This holds you to an unambiguous standard, but is also forgiving.

Exercise is, of course, another key component to improving your health. As with aiming to eat healthier, your exercise goals should also be specific, measurable and attainable. There are easy ways to squeeze an extra 30 minutes of physical activity into your day, such as:

- Walk or bike to your destination.
- Exercise at lunch with your workmates, family, or friends.
- Walk to visit co-workers instead of sending an email.
- Go dancing with your spouse or friends.

I know it's not always easy to choose the salad over the double cheeseburger, but you owe it to yourself and your loved ones to pick the salad more often than not. Consider it a kind of insurance for a longer, healthier life.

Larry Lucas is the deputy vice president for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA).

DOLLARS & SENSE

Your Age and Your Finances

At different stages of life, different financial issues may be most important.



Donald Smith
Data Columnist
GE-35655 (04/06) (Exp.04/08")

Managing your finances is a lifelong process. It usually begins with savings—ideally as a child. Once you have a regular income of your own and have started saving on a regular basis, you'll have to decide how to invest the money you are saving.

Investors in their twenties are often advised to put more of their savings in investments that have potential to grow. Even though these investments may carry more risk of loss, a younger person has time to potentially make up any losses they may experience early on. Conversely, those who are investing for more immediate goals are often advised to put more of their savings in fixed income investments. These may not grow as fast but are less likely to lose money.

Strategies For Common Life Events

Everyone lives their lives differently, and everyone has complicated emotions about money, so investment decisions are highly personal and unique to each individual. Nonetheless, throughout their lives, most investors face some similar situations. Where are you in the cycle? The following are examples of common life events and some things you might consider when making investment decisions.

Your first full-time job

- Start a savings account to build a cash reserve.
- Start a retirement fund and make regular monthly contributions, no matter how small.

- Marriage**
- Examine your joint investment contributions and allocations, taking into account your combined income and expenses.
 - Consider opening a short-term investment account specifically to help fund your down payment on your home and pay closing and moving costs.
- Children**
- If you don't yet have life insurance, now's the time.
 - Start a college savings fund.
- New job**
- Review your investment strategy and asset allocation to accommodate a new salary and a different benefits package.
 - Consider rolling over your previous company's 401(k) plan into your new employer's plan or a Rollover IRA.
- Within 10 years of retirement**
- Review your retirement fund asset allocation to accommodate the shorter time frame for your investments.
 - Increase savings for retirement.
- Retirement**
- Study your distribution options to maximize assets and tax benefits.
 - Reallocate your investments to provide the income you need while still potentially offering some growth in capital to help beat inflation and fund your later years.

For more help at every stage of your financial life cycle, talk to your financial professional.

AXA Advisors, LLC does not provide legal or tax advice. Please consult your tax or legal advisor regarding your individual situation.

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NATIONAL NEWS

School Deseg Cases Inspire Student Activism

By: Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – Two Supreme Court cases jeopardizing the principles of the Brown v. Board of Education desegregation in elementary and secondary public schools are set to be heard next week, drawing students from around the country who have organized protests to stake out the court during the Dec. 4 hearings.

“Now, more than ever, we have got to be rebuilding a new civil rights movement,” says Shanta Driver, a lawyer who serves as national co-chair of BAMN (By Any Means Necessary), the Michigan-based group that led a march and rally of 50,000 outside the Supreme Court during the University of Michigan cases that resulted in the reaffirmation of affirmative action in higher education.

BAMN also fought against the recent attack on affirmative action in Michigan, led by conservative Ward Connerly. But Connerly's Proposal 2 survived the Nov. 7 referendum.

“We lost affirmative action in Michigan. And what is clear is that if we are going to have any impact on being able to defeat this onslaught of racist attacks by the Right wing now, it's got to be the mobilization of a new civil rights movement. And that is only going to happen if young people are the foot soldiers and the generals of such a movement. So, this is just another step in that process of building this new movement to assure we have a chance of winning,” Driver says.

The two cases are Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District and Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education (Kentucky).

“In a sense, what's at stake here is a fairly narrow set of situations where voluntary integration efforts are still being made in public schools,” says Ted Shaw, director-counsel and president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. “In another sense though, the impact of this is potentially enormous because what our adversaries are trying to do is stop all attempts to address school desegregation on

a voluntary basis. And that's part of a broader attempt to stop all voluntary efforts to do anything about racial inequality.”

Shaw says although the Supreme Court doesn't necessarily consider public protests, the student demonstrations could have an immeasurable impact on public sentiment and education on the case.

“When people demonstrate how passionately they feel about this issue, that's a positive thing,” says Shaw. “I think that the country pays attention to what people demonstrate for and what they care about. So, when there are marches and thousands and thousands of people and even more gathered, it certainly doesn't hurt.”

Driver says she has no clear estimate on how many youth will show up.

“Howard [University] students are coming. We know that there are 16 universities from North Carolina... There are five different schools in Michigan. They're coming from Purdue. There are students from Atlanta coming. There are a hundred students from California coming, Black and Latino high school and college students. We've booked 10 different high school buses from Detroit. We're getting e-mails every day. We're hoping for a significant turnout. This is going to be a real significant event.”

According to a story published in “The Hilltop,” Howard University's student newspaper, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the Howard University Student Association, the Howard Chapter of the NAACP, Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the University Graduate Student Association held an organizing meeting with students early this month.

The mobilization stirs memories of three years ago when more than 2,000 Howard students marched to the Supreme Court for the two University of Michigan cases, camping outside the court all night in order to take turns going inside.

“Today our main goal is to get as many people here as possible. But really, we are helping the event on December 4,” Sable Nelson, president of the Howard

chapter of the NAACP, is quoted in the Hilltop article. “We have three committees that we're heading up, policies and regulations, doing community outreach, as well as doing political action so that people are informed.”

Legal experts say the two cases, are just as important as the University Michigan decisions, rulings in which the justices upheld the university's law school affirmative program, but struck down a more numbers-oriented undergraduate admissions process.

Tension over the new cases by civil rights leaders is especially high because swing voter Sandra Day O'Connor has retired from the court. Justices Clarence Thomas, Antonin Scalia, new appointee Samuel Alito and new Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. are the court's most ardent conservatives. David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer and Justice John Paul Stephens are considered liberals, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy possibly emerging as the court's new swing voter.

The cases before the court were upheld as constitutional by federal appeals courts. The U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in the Jefferson County, Kentucky case and the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in the Seattle case, ruled that the programs did not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, meaning that race may be considered as a factor in the placement of students. An adverse ruling by the reconstituted Supreme Court, however, could have the affect of overturning the desegregation mandates set forth in the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas.

“Concerned about how these trends were affecting their own children and community, locally-elected school boards in Louisville and Seattle adopted student assignment measures to foster integrated, diverse schools,” says a statement issued by the LDF. “In doing so, they joined hundreds of other communities around the country that have also taken steps to see that children from different backgrounds learn to live, play, and solve problems together. When the Court rules

on these cases this Term, it has an opportunity either to give these communities the ability to preserve some measure of racial integration in public schools, or to end the era of Brown.”

Both the Louisville and Seattle lawsuits were filed by parents of White students who complained that their children weren't allowed to attend the schools of their choice.

Jefferson County's school-assignment program ensures that each school's enrollment is between 15 percent and 50 percent African-American. The aim of the Louisville plan is to diversify a school district that is 58 percent White and 36 percent African-American.

In Seattle, Kathleen Brose claims her daughter, Elisabeth, was separated from her friends in 2000 when she was denied her choice of a high school because she is White. In Jefferson County, the district used what they called a “tiebreaker” system by using race to determine where a student should be assigned.

Shaw says the cases are as important to Brown as the University of Michigan cases were to affirmative action.

“Michigan, in a sense, was about the promise of Brown because the promise of Brown, broadly speaking, was to open opportunities to those who had been excluded historically because of their race. And to that extent, Michigan was about the promise of Brown,” he says. “These two cases, in a sense, are more directly [related to] Brown verses Board of Education because Brown dealt on its face with elementary and secondary school desegregation. And these two cases are about what is left of Brown's mandate to desegregate elementary and secondary schools. And the truth of the matter is that there's very little effort to mandate.”

ADVERTISER

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SPORTS

Seasons Greetings



Jaguars George Rocks Homecoming Debut



Photo by Joshua Halley

Jaguars cornerback Jarmaul George plants into GSU running back Ab Kuan at the two yard line to prevent Kuan from scoring a potential game-winning touchdown. George's defensive play allowed the Jaguars to keep their 21-17 lead that gave the Jaguars the victory and the 17-16 lead in the Bayou Classic series.

By Ty Green

When former L.B. Landry star safety Jarmaul George returned to the "Big Easy" for the 33rd Annual Bayou Classic in the Superdome he just wanted to play well before the 250 family and friends who were there to cheer him on. For him as has many New Orleanians so much has changed during the past year which was filled with much joy and pain; nearly six weeks ago George experienced the ultimate joy becoming a father, "The birth of my little girl is the best thing to ever happen in my life." On the day of the classic in front of a crowd of 47,136 in attendance George would experience another high, as he made a game stopping tackle that secured the 21-17 victory by the Southern Jaguars over their arch nemesis the Grambling State Tigers. He said after the game that this was the play of his life.

As the classic has returned to the city and while attendance was low compared to previous years, George's spirit and emotions were high after the Jags victory which is a far cry from two weeks ago when I interviewed the junior standout after a blowout loss to conference champions Arkansas A&M. As tears welled from his eyes about his game saving tackle he says, "This is the best game I ever played." "I read the running back just before the play started." Continuing his thought as he recounts his heroic tackle, "It was either going to be a first down for them or a big fourth down

conversion; either way I was prepared to play."

George and the Jaguars defense didn't seem prepared at the start of the game, allowing the Tigers to move the ball at will. In fact, neither team's offense showed signs of life until the second quarter, when Grambling scored first on a seven yard scoring pass from Brandon Landers to Clyde Edwards giving GSU a 7-0 lead. The Jags responded, as the brilliant freshmen quarterback Bryant Lee who was also selected as the games MVP led the SU offense on an 80 yard ten play scoring drive capped by a 15 yard run by Darren Coates to hit pay dirt tying the score 7-7 in this battle between the cats for bragging rights in the Bayou State.

As the game progressed the tide turned and the Jaguars gained momentum, Lee dipped and darted his way into the Tigers defense giving Southern its first lead 14-7. Grambling not to be denied fought back fiercely as running back Ab Kuan's scored on a sizzling twelve yard run up the gut of SU's defense tying the score at 14-14 with :09 seconds in the 3rd period. After the game Kuan said, "We didn't run the ball as much as I'd like to, but the bottom line is that we didn't run it well enough to get the job done today."

In the fourth period Grambling took a 17-14 lead on a 36 yard field goal by Tim Manuel. The Jaguar defense and special teams began to

dominate in the closing moments stopping GSU on two possessions then forcing a muffed punt to set up what would seemingly put the Jaguars up for good with Kendall Anderson plunging into the end zone nearly halfway through the fourth quarter as Southern led 21-17.

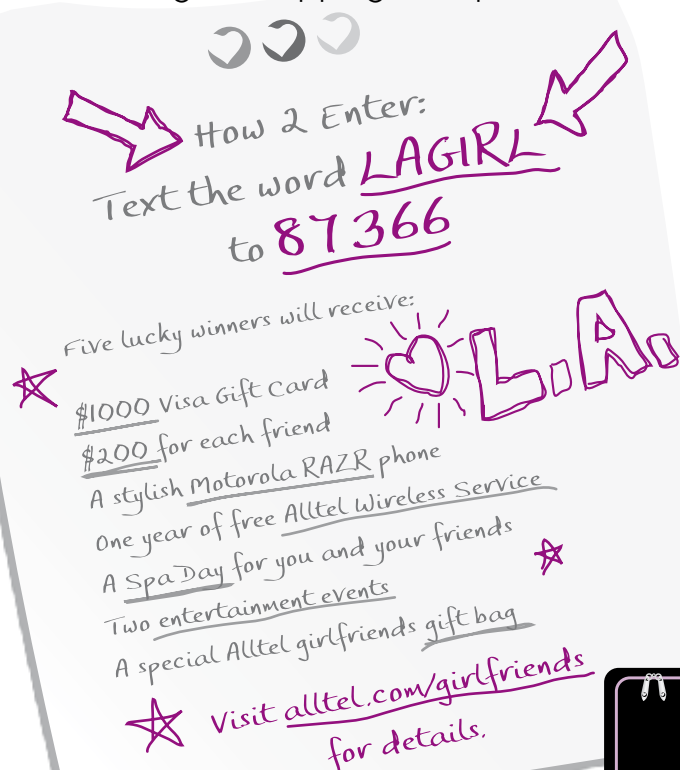
The door was slowly closing on the Grambling State Tigers, but in this clash of the titans we can always expect the unexpected as Grambling roared down the field and was inside the Southern five yard line in what possibly could be a game winning touchdown as the clock ticked down. On a fourth down and short Kuan attempted to scamper for a first down, and was rocked by Southern's Jarmaul George to seal the victory for SU. A gleeful and tearful George speaking of his homecoming said, "This is the game I wanted my family to see." But it was not only a game seen by his family but the nation witnessed George and the Jaguar defense rock the Tigers offense for a game winner in this nail biter that went down to the wire. This day was truly an emotional day for the city as it welcomes back the classic. And this was also a day where a triumphant Jarmaul George shed tears of joy for an amazing performance in front of his family on this his homecoming where he truly rocked. But now that his season is over the only crying and rocking he expects to see will be that of his new born baby girl.

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Located on Fulton Street
Opens at 5:30 pm Sun – Thurs & 7 pm Fri & Sat
Serving Rustic Mediterranean Menu by Todd English
504-533-6117

Monday, December 4
5:30pm ~ Numa Woods
8pm ~ Hot Club of New Orleans

Tuesday, December 5
5:30pm ~ Numa Woods
8pm ~ Ingrid Lucia

Wednesday, December 6
5:30pm ~ Walter Cunningham
8pm ~ Todd Duke

Thursday, December 7
5:30pm ~ Walter Cunningham
8pm ~ Banu Gibson &
New Orleans Jazz

Friday, December 8
7pm ~ Fred Sanders
9:30pm ~ George French

Saturday, December 9
7pm ~ Richard Knox
9:30pm ~ Leah Chase

Sunday, December 10
5:30pm ~ Larry Sieberth
8pm ~ Pfister Sister

Entertainment subject to change.