

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



FREE COPY

Interview with
Spike Lee

Page 5
DataZone

August 14 - August 20, 2010 45th Year Volume 12 www.ladatanews.com

Keeping The Secondline Tradition Alive

The Soul of New Orleans

Page 2



State & Local
New Season for
the Saints

Page 4

State & Local
Local Teen to Play
Pebble Beach



Page 9

Dancingman504

Keeping the Secondline Tradition Alive



Dancingman 504 aka Darrell Young, describes Secondline as adults acting like kids. It teaches them to find their movement, their freedom. It's not worrying about whether somebody is looking at them or judging them. It's about fun.

By Gary Estwick

Darrell Young glances behind him, taking note of five people on a Wednesday evening at Audubon Park.

Young turns forward and exhales. Warm-ups complete, he raises his yellow T-shirt above his head, revealing a muscular frame akin to a mixed martial arts competitor. He looks behind him again. His face tightens, his body is already perspiring in the summer humidity.

"Hope ya'll ready. My pace. Here we go!"

The 43-year-old New Orleans native yells commands, the foundation of his Second line dance classes. He calls it BrassXcise, a mix of everyday aerobics and one of the city's oldest and most unique cultural jewels - movements that are poetic to some, a travesty, even an embarrassment to others. Still others believe this street strut, usually reserved for uninvited guests of local funerals, is too raw, too natural of a feeling to teach. Its moves too unexplainable. Either you know it or you don't.

Young, aka Dancingman504, disagrees, analyzing century-old movements. First, he teaches heel-to-toe, a variation of the basic two-step. The next thing you know, your arms start moving, your legs follow the beat and you start rocking. Breathing techniques allow your body to trick the brain, telling it you're not tired. After all, you never want to be caught standing still. Stomach in, back straight, chest forward. Now exhale, relax and keep moving.

That's how Young said he's second lined from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Jazz Fest. "So I tell 'em (during classes), 'Y'all keep doing heel-to-toe and I'mma gonna take a rest, Young says. "So they imagine I'm about to stop. I go quicker because it's called catch your breath, not wait for your breath. "My breath is out there, so I go get it and once I catch it, I exhale to it and calm down."

Second line, Young says, is adults acting like kids. It teaches them to find their movement, their freedom. It's not worrying about whether somebody is looking at them or judging them. It's about fun. Structured chaos. True to the dance, he doesn't teach it to certain songs because

Cover photo: © Pompo Bresciani

Continued next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary	8
Newsmaker	4	State & Local News . . .	9
Data Zone	5	National News	10

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347
Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622

editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones CEO/Publisher Glenn Jones	Contributors Helena Andrews Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. Edwin Buggage Hazel Trice Edney Gary Estwick Cheryl Mainor Julianne Malveaux New Orleanians Fine Photography politicsdaily.com
VP Advertising & Marketing Cheryl Mainor Managing Editor Edwin Buggage Editor Dionne Character	Art Direction & Production MainorMedia.com Editorial Submissions datanewseditor@bellsouth.net Advertising Inquiries datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Arts & Entertainment Editor Melanie Mainor Copy Editor Intern June Hazeur Accounting	

Please call (504) 309-9913 for subscription information. Dated material two weeks in advance. Not responsible for publishing or return of unsolicited manuscripts or photos.

Cover Story, Continued from previous page.

you never know what the band will play, or even which members will perform that day.

Young, a 1985 graduate of Nicholls High School, has little dance experience, other than what he learned from his culture. His focus is earning his dance respectability in the community, in the world. He wants people to see that it's exciting, it's beautiful, something you won't see anywhere else; the speed in which they dip then pick it up with a twist. The energy which allows them to boogie for hours like they just started.

"You can see Darrell everywhere," says Richard Anderson, 32, who plays the trombone and is the leader of Kinfolk Brass Band. "He always joins in. He's going to bring that joy, that hype to the audience. He does that a lot. It doesn't matter what band is playing. He really knows how to get the people involved. He will get you to dance."

"I put out that vibe of how safe it is for you to come dance with me," Young says. "They have guys that can out dance me as far as the second line, but they can't make people come dance with them because people get a little nervous."

"With me, with no shirt on, they don't take it as sexual. They take it as 'Hot.' That 'He's in shape, he's not all bloated. He's so friendly, he's so nice.'" Young locks into the beats, like the percussions Derrick "Opps" Moss plays when he strikes his base drum for Soul Rebels Brass Band. Sometimes it's slow and funky. Other times it's fast and quick. For every tempo Moss plays, Young has an accompanying step. "He tells me all the time, he's always locked on my beats," Moss says. "It doesn't matter what the horns are playing."

Back at Audubon Park, Young's breathing is smooth, as if he has been watching the session for the last hour, not leading it. Suddenly, he stops. "Heather come up here.. Everybody, follow Heather. Do what she does."

Heather Hampton is a New Orleans native who like many, knows what the second line is,

has seen it in person but never had the confidence to try it or had a preconceived view of those who participated. She steps to the front and starting with the heel to toe method, moves her legs, then her arms, then spins around. Young yells to her for encouragement. "You got it! "

Young has taught or performed in recent years from the Satchmo Fest, which was held last week in the French Quarters, to the Brooklyn Bridge in New York, where he was a part of a Second Line. Even in Paris.

His goal is to transform Heal 2 Toe, his youth program, into a fully functioning entity that exposes the city's children to tutoring, computers, arts and crafts, gymnastics, karate and of course, Second line dancing - anything that will help them find discipline and focus.

"They find that I'm not telling them not to be bad," he says. "I'm telling them be bad. But on that beat." Young points to the boom box nearby, the sounds of trumpets, trombones, tubas and drums cutting through the heat.

"Get that energy out, get that creativeness out on that beat right there."



Photo: Native New Orleanians Fine Photography

Rocsi Diaz
AND CHI CHI FOR
petaz
FREE FOR ALL

FIND YOUR new best friend:
adopt an animal!

Catch Rocsi on 106 & Park every weekday on BET.
For more ways to help animals and free stickers and DVDs, visit peta2.com.

Photo: Hristo Shindov

The Black and Gold and the Soul of the City

By Edwin Buggage

As the NFL season begins, there are high expectations and excitement for the New Orleans Saints for the upcoming football season. Beyond winning the big game, the team has inspired and put a city back on the map in the public consciousness. With interest beyond just football, the real problems that continue to plague the city nearly five years after a catastrophe changed the city forever.

The Saints organization as is customary, went to the White House to meet with President Barack Obama who gave the usual congratulatory speech, but he went a step further to discuss how a team inspired a city, a nation and the world. In his speech he talked about how a sports team came to embody the potential and the hope of New Orleans.

Glenn Jones is an avid football fan who is excited about the beginning of the season and has high expectations for the team this year. "We had a great season last year and I believe this year with some of the players that have been acquired I am confident we may repeat as Superbowl champs," explains Jones.



President Barack Obama receives his honorary Saints Jersey earlier this week at the celebratory ceremony held at the White House. Obama's jersey number is 44, as he is the 44th U.S. President

Jones as many New Orleanians, has a special relationship with the black and gold. For many, the

Saints are more than just a football team, more like a relative. The team has been in its history

further it is about surviving, reviving and rebuilding a better life. As the city rebuilds and in the

proud of the Saints and hope that this spirit of winning can transfer to other things that keep the city from being the type of city it has the potential to become."

While there is hysteria surrounding the upcoming season for some feelings are mixed. Larry Panna, owns a media company and has a slightly different view of the team and what it means to the city. "I appreciate how excited people are about the Saints, but the camaraderie they feel has to extend beyond game time," says Panna. "How can we work together and get beyond the things that keep the city from moving forward after the game is over that is our challenge." Continuing he says, "The Saints are world champions and it is time for us to become a world class city."

With the victory in the Superbowl, the Saints return to the Superdome, a place that came to symbolize the desperation of people and the death of an American city as champions. And the question becomes, can the citizens follow suit and be a city that can become victorious in the game of rebuilding itself bigger and better?

"I think the Superbowl win is good for the city in that it has given attention and created interest in the city and I believe long-term that is a good thing for the city as we rebuild," explains Glenn Jones. Larry Panna agrees, "It interesting how when the Saints were winning during the playoffs and the Superbowl that crime did not occur, that people decided to be their better selves." "I would hope that as the Saints have built a winning organization that the city can follow suit in that we can rebuild a city that can be better than before."

Hurricane Katrina has created a New Orleans Diaspora, where members of the Who Dat Nation live in all 50 states. "I am not a die-hard football fan," says Charles Vaughn, a visual artist from New Orleans now living in Atlanta. "But it is more than about supporting a football team when you talk about the Saints, it is about a way of life, it is a lifestyle and culture that is our city, so when the Saints won the big one, it is as for us who are still not home, there is a glimmer of hope that the city will rebuild and we will return and for us that will be our victory to return home."



for better or worse is as much a part of the tradition of the city as Mardi Gras, red beans and rice, gumbo and the second line. In the Fall people gather and whether the Saints win or lose do what people of the city do, celebrate life and now it has been taken a step

aftermath of a storm that's scattered residents, the Who Dat Nation has spread to encompass fans from all over the country. Walter Williams, a native who has been displaced now living in Dallas says, "My heart will always be in the City of New Orleans, I am



Take time to be a dad today.

Ad Council Call 877-4DAD411 or visit www.fatherhood.gov

If God Is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise, Spike's Return to NOLA

By Helana Andrews
Contributor,
Politicsdaily.com

When Spike Lee was a grad student living in New York, he'd call his grandmother, Zimmie Lee Shelton, every night. Shelton, the granddaughter of a slave and a graduate of Spelman College, helped put young Spike through Morehouse College and New York University Film School. Every night, their ritual check-in would end the same way. Lee would say, "Talk to you tomorrow," and his grandmother would reply, "Spikey, if God is willing and the creek don't rise."

That familiar refrain about what one can control versus what one can't serves as the title (and central motif) of Lee's follow-up to his harrowing, Emmy-winning, "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four



HBO's *Treme* actress and New Orleans native, Phyllis Montana LeBlanc appears for the second time in Lee's documentary

greed. The destruction of the levees is about greed, cutting corners. Same thing with BP – it's all about profits," explained Lee after previewing more than a third of the film to an audience of journalists he advised not to be "bamboozled" into thinking that the greatest oil spill in history wouldn't have lasting, irreversible effects on the environment. One fisherman, whose boats survived Hurricane Katrina but not BP, said he thought the biggest terrorist threat to the United States was Osama Bin Laden. "I never thought the British would kill us." He planned to sell t-shirts that read, "The British are coming back!"

That sort of gallows humor is prevalent throughout "If God Willing," showcasing the showmanship of a city and state that freely admits to having more than a few self-esteem issues. Whether it's a natural disaster exacerbated by man-made negligence or man-made technology destroying natural habitats, the past five years have seen "the same ole city is struggling with the same ole problems," explained one community activist, who lived in a tent for months. He might be right, but he's also still there – fighting. There is that optimism in "If God Is Willing," said Lee. "The spirit of New Orleans is remarkable."



Acts," documentary about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. In anticipation of the fifth "anniversary" of Katrina, Lee and his crew traveled back to the Crescent City to shoot what has happened since (apparently a whole lot). The result is the 4-hour, two-part opus, "If God Is Willing and Da Creek Don't Rise," which premieres Aug. 23 and 24 on HBO.

We all knew that the story of New Orleans was not done. It was only a matter of when we came back," said the director last weekend at the annual conference of the National Association of Black Journalists in San

Diego. Lee told audience members they were "very lucky" to get a 90-minute sneak preview of "If God is Willing."

The first day of shooting was in Miami, about 900 miles southeast of New Orleans. The scene? Super Bowl XLIV. On Feb. 7, 2010, the Saints won the Super Bowl less than one week before Mardi Gras, the ritual city-wide celebration of glutony before the fasting of Lent begins for Catholics. That win gave the city a shot of something close to hope. The Saints were "Ain't's no more."

"We thought we had an ending for the movie," said Lee. "Before April 20th this was a very upbeat film. People hadn't

felt that good in a long long time, but it all changed." Because on April 20, an offshore oil rig operated by British Petroleum exploded in a ball of fire, killing 11 men and releasing some 5 million barrels of oil into the Gulf Coast. The greatest oil spill in history happened in New Orleans' back yard, and the entire last hour of the film was scrapped. Lee went back

to the city and started shooting more footage, but this time instead of bloated bodies lying face down in dirty water, the images shift to once-green marsh grass covered in thick black crude. "If God is Willing" now has the unfortunate task of making its viewers care as much about shrimp and wetlands as they do about poor people in a struggling economy.

"As you'll see, it's all about



Director Spike Lee revisits New Orleans in his new documentary, painting the picture of the continued loss and devastation from Katrina and the flood 5 years later in his follow up to *When the Levees Broke*.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Naval Non-Commissioned Officer Goes to Kuwait

During the 5th Annual Crusto's Family Reunion, the Crusto family took time out to have a going-away celebration for Petty Officer 34rd Class (E-5) Tiffany Crusto. Tiffany is following in the footsteps of her sister, Sargent 1st Class Kiamonia Franklin, US Army, her brother, Alvin Crusto III, veteran of the US Marine Corps, grandfathers, the late Clarence Green, US Army and the late Alvin Crusto, Sr. of the US Navy. Her father, Alvin Crusto, Jr. is also a veteran of the US Army having served in Vietnam. Tiffany was enlisted in the US Marines for six years and has been in the Navy Reserves for the last three years. She is employed by the New Orleans VA Hospital. She will be serving her country in customs and intelligence.



att.com

It's all about connections.

At AT&T we know access to the Internet is no longer a luxury. It's how we learn, find jobs, and connect with family and friends. It drives innovation, creates investment, and builds a stronger community. We believe in endless possibilities for all. That's why we are investing in America, bringing broadband access closer to you.

Rethink Possible





I grew up on the Gulf Coast. I know these waters. And I'm doing everything I can to clean them up. - Fred Lemond, BP Cleanup Operations

Making This Right

- Beaches
- Claims
- Cleanup**
- Economic Investment
- Environmental Restoration
- Health and Safety
- Wildlife

BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf. And that includes keeping you informed.

Searching For And Cleaning Up The Oil

You may have heard that oil is no longer flowing into the Gulf. But every morning our spotter planes and helicopters continue to search for oil off the coast, heading to areas previously mapped with satellite imagery and infrared photography. If oil is found, they radio down to the ships and boats of all sizes that are supporting the cleanup effort and working to collect the oil. These are local shrimping and fishing boats organized into task forces and strike teams, plus specialized skimmers mobilized from around the world.

We have recovered more than 35 million gallons of oil-water mixture from the Gulf. Other methods have also helped remove millions of additional gallons of oil from the water. We've deployed millions of feet of boom to protect beaches and sensitive wildlife areas.

Hurricane Preparedness

In the event of a hurricane, our first priority is keeping people safe. In coordination with the Coast Guard and local officials, we may suspend operations temporarily but have organized to resume them as soon as possible.

Our Responsibility

We have already spent more than \$3.9 billion responding to the spill and on the cleanup, and none of this will be paid by taxpayers. We will work in the Gulf as long as it takes to get this done. We may not always be perfect but we will do everything we can to make this right.

For information visit: bp.com
restorethegulf.gov
facebook.com/bpamerica
twitter.com/bp_america
youtube.com/bp

For assistance, please call:
 To report oil on the shoreline: (866) 448-5816
 To report impacted wildlife: (866) 557-1401
 To make spill-related claims: (800) 440-0858
louisianagulfresponse.com



Five Years After the Levees Broke



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

(NNPA) - On August 29th, we will commemorate five years since Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans, and since subsequently levees broke, drowning the city in several feet of water. Five years ago our nation exhibited some of the most profound indifference to human beings as thousands of New Orleanians stuck without food, water, or sanitation in the SuperDome.

In the aftermath of those five years, those divisions of race and class have determined which individuals have recovered from Katrina and who has not. Five years after the levees broke; the City of New Orleans is still bruised from the tragedy of a natural disaster, a man-made disaster, and an indifferent government.

Bill Quigley, Legal Director of the Center

for Constitutional Rights, Loyola University law professors Bill and Davida Finger, and Tulane University researcher Lance Hill have compiled a "Pain Index" for New Orleans in 2010. They make the case that too many people have been permanently displaced, the infrastructure remains badly frayed, and that there is insufficient affordable housing. They note that while some say the median income in New Orleans has risen since Katrina that income has only risen because so many poor people can't come back.

There are at least 100,000 fewer people in New Orleans today than five years ago. One in four residential addresses is vacant or blighted. Nearly 20,000 people are still waiting for money from the Road Home program to rebuild their homes. Meanwhile, rents have spiraled, and 5000 people are waiting for public housing; another 28,000 or so are waiting for housing vouchers. The public school system has been decimated, and it is unclear whether charter education has been an improvement.

In 2005, a New Orleans businessman promised the Wall Street Journal that the business community would use Katrina to reconfigure New Orleans politically, demographically and economically. With the city now being represented by a Vietnamese American Republican, and with a major demographic shift in the City Council, one might say that the businessman kept his

promise. Whether benignly or deliberately, poor people have gotten the word – they are unwelcome in New Orleans.

Data tells one story, but it is souls and spirits that tell another. I've been to New Orleans twice this year, first for the Essence Music Festival, then for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's 50th Convention. The events were great, as events go, with highlights, challenges, and plenty of crowding. The best part of going to New Orleans these days, though, is talking to the people who live there about their thoughts and feelings about "recovery".

"I wouldn't live anywhere else," the brother said. His voice has the thickness of gumbo, the jazzed nuance of many New Orleanians voices. The second time he picks me up to take me from one place to another, we got to talking and he tells me his story. He is 68, former military, and a retiree when Katrina hit. But he and his wife had to start all over because they lost everything. So instead of enjoying retirement, he drives three days a week, and does "odd jobs" to make ends meet. When I ask about federal government help, he grunts, utters an expletive, and then says, "I told you we had to start over."

The housekeeper at the Hilton is a sweet chatterbox. When she brings extra tea bags, she natters on about why she prefers coffee to tea. When I ask her how she managed after Katrina, though, she grows silent

and her countenance takes on sadness.

"I lost my mother two years ago. I really think that storm killed her." She tells me a harrowing evacuation story that landed part of her family in Atlanta and part in Houston. Three of her five children chose to stay in Atlanta, feeling that starting over was too much.

"I miss them and I miss my grands, but I have two others here," she said. She speaks of Sunday dinners past with a wistfulness in her voice. "It is as if our family has been broken in half". People visit, she allowed. But it's just not the same. And, she says she is grateful for what she does have, including her health, her home, and good relationships.

Langston Hughes called stories like these "the sweet flypaper of life".

Not enough to write a research paper on, just enough to get some flavor for. That flypaper isn't as sweet for many New Orleanians as it was five years ago, and material conditions have worsened as well. When we turn the lens on New Orleans in a couple of weeks to commemorate the five years since Katrina, what can we say about the possibility that this city and its residents will ever be made whole?

Julianne Malveaux is President of Bennett College for Women in Greensboro, North Carolina.

If It Sounds Like Racism And Acts Like Racism, Then It Probably Is Racism



By Danny J. Bakewell Sr.
Chairman of NNPA

This is America, but you wouldn't think so in light of recent events wherein two high-profile, long serving African-American congressman have come under attack.

They are being dragged through the mud in a rush to judgment regarding alleged ethics violations. Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-NY) and Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) are the accused.

Rep. Rangel has been found guilty by a House ethics subcommittee of violating ethics rules and will face trial within the next couple of months. He has been under investigation since 2008 due to allegedly using his House position for financial benefit. Rep. Waters is also under the microscope of the House ethics subcommittee for allegedly using her congressional authority in a meeting with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson on behalf of OneUnited bank, in which her husband owns \$250,000 in stock.

It is important that our elected officials, those to whom we give our public trust, be

ethically sound, but in this current spate of accusations, there is something fishy in the proverbial Denmark! As of 2010, there are presently 42 African-American members in the 111th U.S. Congress - 41 in the House of Representatives (39 representatives and 2 non-voting delegates) and one in the Senate. The fact is that African-Americans represent only 10% of the Congress, and 19% (8) are under investigation! This raises the question as to whether or not Black lawmakers face more scrutiny over allegations of wrongdoing than their White counterparts. We conclude that if it sounds like racism and acts like racism, then it probably is racism! In America, we need to presume innocence until proven guilty, and we need not be led to judgment.

Congressman Rangel and Congressman Waters are valuable members of the

African-American community who have fought valiantly for our community. The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), therefore, urges you to stand behind them. We want them to know that we are there for them; that all 200+ NNPA publishers throughout America stand solidly behind them, and urge them to continue on the course and stay strong. Black publishers are on the way with pen in hand!

History has shown that Black people make no progress in America without a struggle for what is right and good for the Black community. Many people want to call this situation something other than what it is, but it is racism at the core. It is daunting, but not surprising that this is the case, but Rep. Rangel and Rep. Waters are far too valuable to our community to give up without a fight!

Local Junior Golfer Selected To Play In Home Care & Hospice First Tee Open At Pebble Beach

Home Care & Hospice First Tee Open at Pebble Beach set for Labor Day weekend

Pearlissa Harris of The First Tee of Greater New Orleans has been selected to play in the Home Care & Hospice First Tee Open at Pebble Beach, an official Champions Tour event that will be held September 3 - 5 during Labor Day weekend and televised nationally on the Golf Channel. Harris, age 16, attends Louise S. McGehee High School and has been playing golf for eleven years and carries a 5 handicap.

Two hundred and forty-five junior boys and girls, ages 15-18, that participate at The First Tee



16 year-old golf sensation, Pearlissa Harris

Chapters nationwide applied for this year's tournament. Fifty-one junior boys and twenty-three junior girls received invitations. Participants were selected based on an assessment of their playing ability and comprehension of the life skills and core lessons learned through involvement with The First Tee. To round out the final field of 78 juniors that will compete in the tournament, the host organization, The Monterey Peninsula Foundation, awarded four exemptions.

"The opportunity these young people will receive by participating in the tournament will be something they'll remember for

life," said Joe Louis Barrow, Jr., CEO of The First Tee. "The participants selected have proven themselves on the golf course and through demonstrating their understanding of The First Tee Nine Core Values and life skills they have learned at their Chapters. It is an honor for them to participate, and we thank Home Care & Hospice for their involvement in this year's event."

The Home Care & Hospice First Tee Open at Pebble Beach will air on the Golf Channel, Friday and Saturday, September 3 - 4 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm ET and 7:00 - 9:30 pm ET on Sunday, September 5th.

Geek Squad & Kingsley House to Offer Tech Immersion Session in New Orleans

National tech support task force Geek Squad continues its quest to make life easier with technology, this time empowering New Orleans middle and high-school level girls and boys. Local Geek Squad Agents are joining forces with Kingsley House to engage New Orleans teens in a multi-day experience to ignite their passion for technology and inspire them to pursue careers in technology.

Now in its fourth year, the Geek Squad Summer Academy tech training program is an in-depth tech immersion session in cities across the country. While originally focused on young women, today Geek Squad Summer Academy embraces every teen - regardless of gender - who's curious about how gadgets work and who wants the opportunity to work alongside the Geek Squad to examine these gadgets from the inside out.

Geek Squad Summer Academy is unique for bringing knowledge to youth in their communities, rather than the other way around. Tailored for students in New Orleans, this session will feature customized modules that dive deep into computers, smart phones, MP3 players and other devices so students literally get into the guts of the technology they use every day.

Geek Squad is a 24-hour technology support task force providing civilians the support they need to maximize their technology anytime, anywhere. More than 80 youth, ages 8 through 18, will take part in this year's camp which will be held on August 14th & 15th at Kingsley House, 1600 Constance Street. Registration is \$15 for participants. For more information, please visit www.kingsleyhouse.org.

Tyler, age 16.
Needs help with math.
Needs help with science.

Needs help with Jordan, age 2.

boostup.org

lets you give students at risk of dropping out the boost they need to make it through high school. Because over 30% of students in the U.S. aren't graduating. And they've got a lot more to tackle than just their schoolwork.

Waters, Rangel Seek to Downplay Race in Investigations

By Hazel Trice Edney
NNPA Editor-in-Chief

WASHINGTON (NNPA) – U.S. Reps. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) and Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.) are apparently seeking to downplay public allegations of racism as they seek to make the facts of their cases heard before the Office of Congressional Ethics.

“People are speculating all kinds of things,” Waters said in an August 6th interview with the NNPA News Service. “There is one thing that I am clear about though. I am clear that if this gets obscured with any other argument before we get our facts out, we don’t stand a chance because people will say we’re hiding behind race or something. So, I think what has to happen is the charges have to be clear, we have to have our day in court and then let’s deal with the process and how the system is working or not working.”

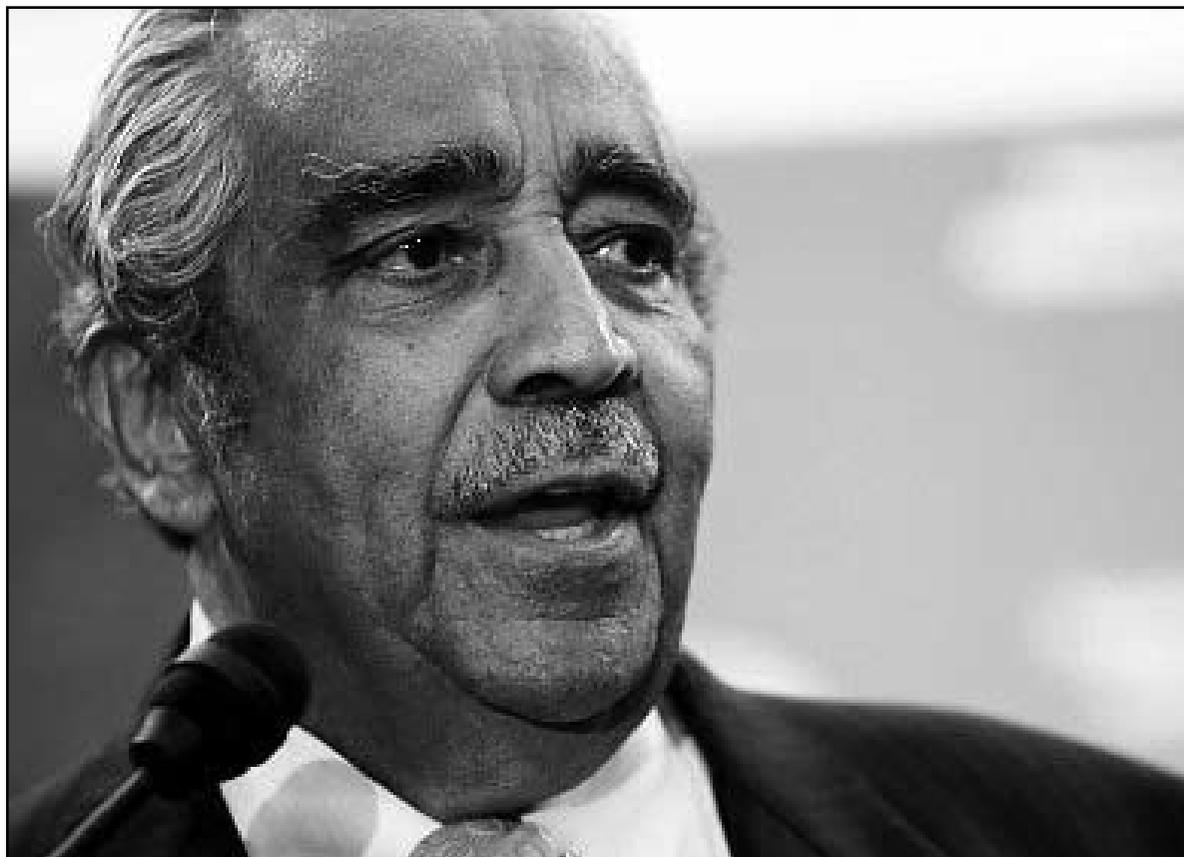
At NNPA deadline this week, Waters awaited enumeration of charges involving the receipt of \$12 million in bailout funds by the Massachusetts-based OneUnited Bank, where her husband owns stock. Rangel faces 13 charges involving reporting of income on his financial disclosure forms and alleged fund-raising violations.

Rangel is moving on with campaigning for re-election to the office he has held since 1971. He is being challenged by educator Adam Clayton Powell III. Rangel beat his father, Adam Clayton Powell Jr. in 1970.

“Do I believe the case is racially motivated? No. So, I’d like to acknowledge my re-election which I’m concentrating on,” Rangel said in a message left on the NNPA voice mail. “And the hearing date has not been set, so that’s about the size of it.”

The fact is that of 30 probes considered since late last year, the only members considered for full-fledged investigations have been CBC members. So far, Rangel and Waters are the only two to face charges. This has drawn charges of racism from pundits, Black journalists and publishers. Both Rangel and Waters have been icons for Black justice in Congress and pioneers for programs to help the poor and underserved.

“If It Sounds Like Racism and Acts Like Racism, Then It is Probably Racism,” states the



Congressman Charlie Rangel (D-NY)



Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-CA)

headline on a commentary written by NNPA Chairman Danny J. Bakewell, Sr. and published on the NNPA News Service.

Political Scientist Ron Walters says it seems both Waters and Rangel would politically embrace the racial allegations given their Black constituencies. Her 35th Congressional District is about 35 percent Black; about 10 percent White and the rest predominately

Latino. His Harlem-based district is predominantly Black. “But they don’t want race to get in the way of the facts,” Walters says.

Both Rangel and Waters acknowledge the support from Black newspapers and other leaders for justice.

“I thank the NNPA for the supportive work that they’ve done and Mr. Bakewell has been terrific. Thank you,” he said in the

voice mail.

“You guys are doing fine. Just keep doing what you’re doing,” says Waters, expressing her respect for the First Amendment.

“Other people need to have the opportunity to say what they think. We have to have a chance to get our story out,” she said. “If we don’t have a chance to get our story out, we don’t stand a chance. And so let other people

speculate. But for us, we just have to deal with our facts and let those chips fall where they may.”

Waters is pushing for a speedy trial long before the Nov. 2 election in which she faces Black Republican homeless activist Ted Hayes. He is not considered to be a formidable candidate or a threat to her seat. But, her reputation and the truth are still concerns, she says. “I am deeply concerned by the Committee’s failure to announce a date for a public hearing in its most recent press release,” she wrote in a letter to Reps. Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) and Jo Bonner (R-Ala.), chair and ranking member of the ethics panel. “I feel strongly that further delay in the scheduling of the hearing violates the fundamental principles of due process, denies my constituents the opportunity to evaluate this case, and harms my ability to defend my integrity.”

CBC Chairwoman Barbara Lee (D-Calif.) is standing with Waters as she has with Rangel.

“Throughout her tenure in Congress, and in the California State Legislature before that, Congresswoman Waters has been a tireless and effective advocate for underrepresented and underserved communities and institutions. She continues to be an important voice on those and many other issues and should not have her rights usurped by politicians or the press,” Lee wrote in a statement.

Lee says the media has appeared to try to convict Waters before the trial, an appearance that is particularly frustrating to Waters.

“The media doesn’t even have the story yet. The facts are not out yet,” she said in the NNPA interview. “And that’s why I have asked that the charges be put forth and that we have an opportunity to respond to them and have a fair proceeding in which all the facts are laid out.”

She is emboldened by the long-standing support for her and her legacy.

“We have a lot of support out there. People want to know what’s happening,” she said. “We will be fighting both legally and politically.”

New Orleans' First Annual Green Legal Conference: Green Legal Matters/Green Cities, Business and Beyond

First-of-its-kind conference highlights the intersection of green cities, legal and industry.

New Orleans Convention Company, Inc. and the Alchemy Group, Inc. announced the First Annual Green Legal Matters Conference/Green Cities, Business and Beyond which will be held at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place in New Orleans on October 13-15, 2010. This conference is an innovative and timely opportunity to participate in cutting edge dialogue among government representatives; law firms/law departments, real estate, construction, architectural and engineering professionals; and green business owners on emerging issues in the

green sector of the economy.

Green Legal Matters Conference/Green Cities, Business and Beyond will provide unique networking and educational opportunities. General Sessions will feature panelists who are recognized leaders in their industries. Conference tracks will include Sustainable Business, Legal, Green Economic Development and Smart Cities.

Featured speakers for Green Legal Matters/Green Cities, Business and Beyond include Lisa Jackson, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; Susan Dorn, General Co-General Counsel, USGBC; Steve Harmon, Sr. Director Legal Services, Cisco; and Paul Lippe, Legal OnRamp.

New Orleans and the Gulf Coast Region are currently facing the most catastrophic environmental oil spill disaster in U. S. history. The city and the region are still rebuilding and recreating



Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator will be a featured speaker at the Green Legal Conference in October

themselves after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. There is no better time or place to discuss the importance of sustainable building and business practices, clean energy technologies, green legal issues, and disaster response and recovery.

"Industry, economic development professionals and city planners need broadly accepted standards and certifications and clear public policy on sustainability matters," said Michael Hecht, President and CEO, Greater New Orleans, Inc., the region's premier economic development agency. "The urgent need for the creation of a green legal and regulatory infrastructure is particularly relevant in New Orleans, the host city of the Green Legal Matters/Green Cities, Business and Beyond," added Hecht.

Election 411

Changes in Election Laws Do Not Effect this Election Season

Data News Weekly has received many emails and inquiries on this year's Congressional Election laws, whether the laws have changed, and what do the changes mean. In response to our readers, we offer this description of the new law, when it takes effect and what the changes are. Most importantly, it is imperative that you realize that no changes have occurred during this election cycle, you will vote as usual, although, you will want to be sure to check with the Secretary of State website at www.sos.louisiana.gov to find your correct polling place.

On June 25th, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal signed HB 292, which effectively ends partisan primaries for Congressional elections. Beginning 2001, All candidates for Congress will run on a single primary ballot in November. Usually someone gets over 50%, and there is no other elec-

tion. But if no one gets 50%, there will be a runoff in mid-December. The new law takes effect on January 1, 2011 and it does apply to special elections.

The general election, if necessary, will be on the first Saturday in December. This will be either 25 days (3 out of 7 elections) or 32 days after the open primary, and never later than the 7th of December.

Louisiana uses special ballots for military and overseas voters. The ballot package sent to the voters include 4 envelopes, 2 of which are with return (mail) envelopes for the primary and the general election, and 2 of which are ballot envelopes for the two elections.

The special ballots include the names of all primary candidates and permit the voter to rank the candidate. If the general election is held, the vote will be counted for the higher ranked of the two

candidates.

For the congressional elections in 2008 (and in 2010) the ballot package had to include up to 6 envelopes, for handling the two congressional primaries and the general election; which ballots were sent was conditional on the candidate running, their parties, and the registration of the voter. The Secretary of State in 2008 provided a chart showing which ballots were to be sent to each voter. Extremely complicated!

When Louisiana switched back to party primaries for congressional elections, they had to add a bunch of election codes to handle it, since all other elections continued to use the open primary. So the new legislation takes all of that away. Under Louisiana law the first election is the primary, and the 2nd is the general.

The pre-2008 law handled both congressional and other elections. The law for 2008 and 2010 had

separate provisions for congressional elections, but continued to use the existing law for other elections. And for 2011, the separate provisions for congressional elections are removed, and they go back to using the same system for all elections.

The main difference between congressional elections and other elections are the dates. Louisiana conducts most of its statewide elections and legislative elections every 4-years in the odd year before the presidential election (2007, 2011, etc.) The open primary and general election are in October and November on Saturdays. The November date is not on the first Tuesday after the first Monday, but a Saturday in mid-month. Any special election is made to conform to the regular election.

A State may use a runoff to appoint its presidential electors. If Louisiana so chooses, it could

have a primary and a general presidential election for those as well, along with a presidential preference primary.

In even years, when there is a congressional election, the open primary will be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday, and the general election, if necessary, on the first Saturday in December. Any special election, etc. is made to conform to this schedule. But for the most part, the even year election is almost entirely for federal offices, with just a few others thrown in.

These changes in the election law can be confusing, but it is important to remember that they do not take effect until 2011. The upcoming August primary and general elections for the Congressional seats are being run as usual and are partisan. Make sure that you are registered to vote and on Election Day, VOTE!

Announcing

Data News Weekly
44th Anniversary Special Edition, August 28, 2010

Honoring the 2009 Trailblazers



Dr. Doris Roche-Hicks



Rev. T.J. Smith



Capt. Charles Leach



Demetric Mercadel



Pete Rhodes



Wendell Pierce



Dalton Savvoir, Jr



Brandon Span



Ron Gardner



Terry Scott



Nat Turner



Reginald Stewman

Advertising Space Available.
Call (504) 821-7421
to reserve space and for rate information.