

Lighting The Road To The Future

New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

"The People's Paper"



National Call to Action
One Nation March 10.2.10

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October 2 - October 8, 2010 45th Year Volume 18 www.ladatanews.com



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New Orleans

A City of Traditions

By Edwin Buggage

With a rich and storied history and culture New Orleans is a city that is rich and vibrant. It is a city that for centuries has become a destination for people who want to have an international experience without having to leave the U.S. New Orleans is a diaspora of a place that marries Europe, Africa, the Caribbean and South America into a rich flavorful gumbo, and as with any gumbo its flavor depends on the dark brown roux as its base.

In the city it is the traditions of the African-American people that has given the city that certain specialness or as the French would say "je ne sais quoi" that keeps people fascinated by this cultural jewel lying at the mouth of the Mississippi. One of the many sacred traditions is that of the marching clubs. With names like the Lady Buckjumpers, Single Men Social-aid and Pleasure Club, The Black Men of Labor and as many as 40 groups that existed pre-Katrina hold second-line parades on selected Sundays and are part of the cultural fabric of the Big Easy and has been in existence since the mid 1800's.

Voice of the People

Fred Johnson is the Founder and President of "The Black Men of Labor" and has been featured as one of the many voices of New Orleans on the critically acclaimed Spike Lee's documentary "When the Levees Broke" and appearing on HBO's TV hit "Treme". His



Fred Johnson, Founder & President, The Black Men of Labor Social Aid & Pleasure Club.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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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.

voice and face has become one that has come to articulate and make people understand the story, angst and aspirations of the people of New Orleans.

Recently his group "The Black Men of Labor" held their annual Labor Day second-line parade where shots rang out and a person was killed in what equaled to a domestic dispute unrelated to the procession. The mainstream media quickly wrote stories that as opposed to looking at the shooting as a domestic incident; in its undertones questioned whether the second-line itself was the cause of the shooting.

Johnson says that their parades are about peace and celebrating the community and is a tradition going back for centuries, "The marching clubs grew out of the tradition of benevolent societies that helped dues paying members with the cost of healthcare, financial hardships and funeral expenses; in addition to performing charitable work and hosting social events they were and continue to be important sources of uplift and community pride, and the parades are celebrations that have a spiritual element in the sense they steeped in the tradition of our African ancestors but has grown to include Whites and others on the parade routes who want to have an authentic New Orleans experience."

Johnson is one whose life has been community-based. He has dedicated his time and his mission has been to empower people. He has been a proponent of uplift for four decades and continues to do so as CEO of the Neighborhood Development Foundation an NGO dedicated to giving low to moderate income people opportunities to own their own homes.

As a person who has been on the ground in the community he sees the deterioration and lack of investment in young people as the root of violence in the City of New Orleans and society-at-large, "What we have is not a problem with the social-aid and pleasure clubs and our parades, it is a dilemma in a society of poverty that breeds killing," says Johnson.

A Matter of Color: New Orleans in Black, White and Green

The outspoken Johnson points to the double standard of how in some instances the clubs are abiding by the law by getting the proper permits and police required to parade and that they are made to be the scapegoats for citizens who have not found adequate and socially acceptable ways to resolve conflicts without fatally wounding their intended targets or innocent people.

Continuing in his explanation he describes how the Black-working and middle class social-aid and pleasure clubs are being mischaracterized and misrepresented by media when a fracas breaks out near their events. "If something happens near a parade by a marching club no one from the organizations sponsoring the event are arrested, because that is neither our purpose nor intent, but the media opts to spin it that way and it is not fair, clear, nor does it paint a picture that in any way is accurate."

Comparing Mardi Gras Krewes to the Social-Aid and Pleasure Clubs and the disparities in how they frame and analyze violence happening near

the event, he says, "During the Carnival season there are shootings on St. Charles Avenue, and Canal Street, and this happens with more police on duty than at our events and it still happens, but no one is looking to blame Endymion, Bacchus or Rex for the shootings or stopping the tradition of Mardi Gras parades," remarks Johnson.

And while some look at the second-line and because of its mischaracterization of violence when compared to Mardi Gras parades, in truth there is as much as if not more violence statistically during those parades than the second-line parades. When you look at the fact that Mardi Gras parades spans two weeks and the second-line schedules runs throughout the year. In 2008 there were three shootings in four days at Mardi Gras parades and in 2009 one person was killed and 11 wounded on Mardi Gras Day on St. Charles Avenue.

New Orleans: A Tale of Two Cities

The problems of violence and killing particularly in New Orleans, a city that continues to be atop the list for homicides even after Hurricane Katrina and a shrinking population; violence stemming from things more complex that cannot simply be reduced to traditions where people gather as they so often do in the City of New Orleans to celebrate life whether its Jazz Fest, Second-lines, Essence Fest, Mardi Gras, Bayou Classic, Sugar Bowl, etc. "Killing is happening all over America without second-lines, and in those

cases who do you wrap those things around," says Johnson harkening back to the problem is one of society and individuals making unwise decisions.

And while the city is portrayed whether fairly are unfairly as a place similar to Dodge City, "New Orleans is like any other large metropolitan city, but our problems have worsened with Hurricane Katrina and rebuilding, but we still celebrate life and living, what we do is living art, it is spiritual and ever evolving compared to the stuff you see in a museum that is resigned to a fixed period in history, what we do is like seeing a Broadway show but its moving that makes what we do unique," says Johnson of the second-line tradition.

Also New Orleans continues to be a city that is deeply divided along racial and class lines where misunderstanding and tensions are high; as the city is undergoing a dramatic demographic and social change. Whether this trend will continue and what will be the end result is still debatable and only time will determine the fate of the city in this regard. But the stark reality is yes there are things that have happened in the past five years that could possibly change the cultural and racial landscape of the city. With the question being what becomes of the African-American traditions?

While HBO has placed the spotlight on the

Continued page 5.

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 2

CYNTHIA
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A Fighter for Us.

Vote Saturday, October 2nd

#80



The Board Takes A Break

Paddling ceases indefinitely at St. Augustine during review of corporal punishment

By Gary Estwick

FOR

"The paddle at St. Aug is an antidote to the billy club out in the street."

-The Rev. John J. Raphael - President, St. Augustine

AGAINST

Of the states with the ten highest murder rates in the United States, educators paddle children in eight of them.

.. Of the states with the ten lowest murder rates in the nation, educators paddle children in one of them.

Correlation between high rates of corporal punishment in public schools and social pathologies - John Guthrow (Study conducted in 2002)

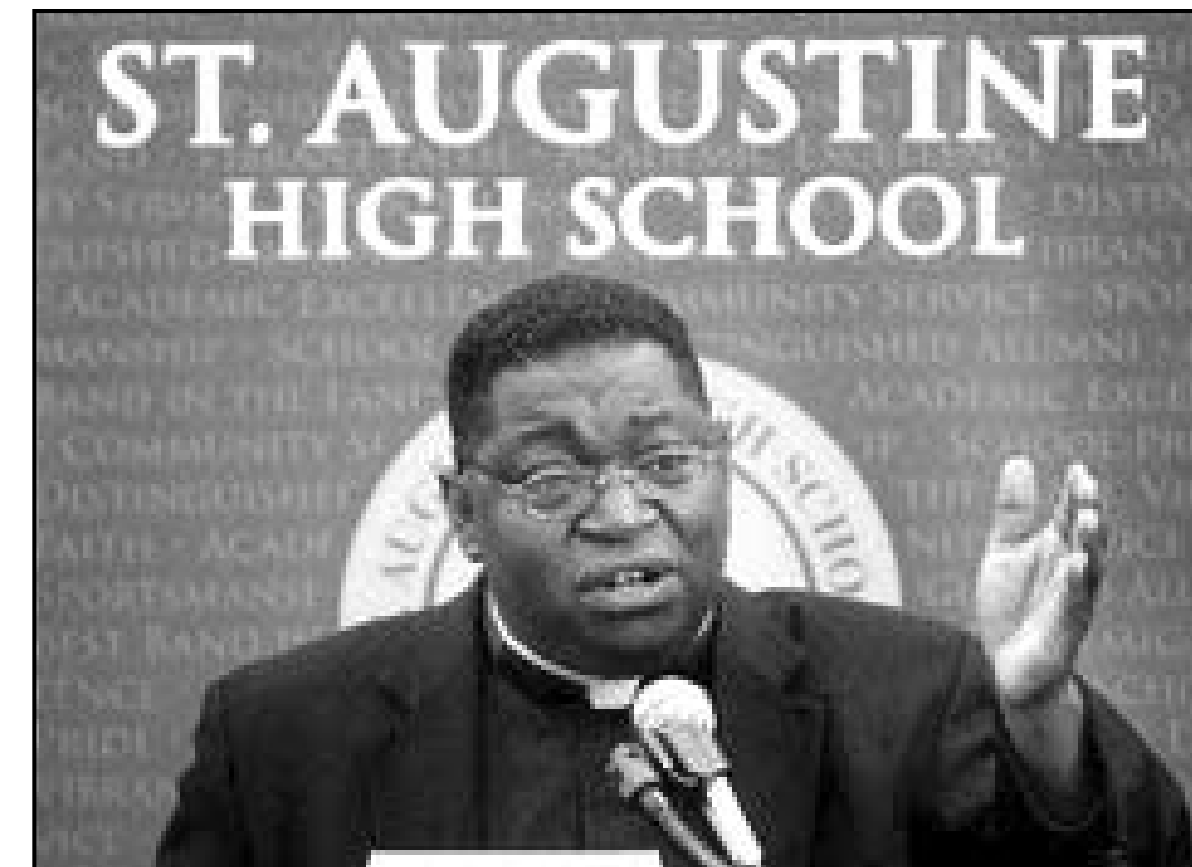
After more than six decades, the paddle has been laid to rest at St. Augustine - at least for now.

Paddling or "getting the board" as its known at the all-boys parochial school, has been under a moratorium this fall while its usefulness is reviewed by "external forces," school president the Rev. John J. Raphael, told Data News Weekly.

Raphael said the potential change is not due to a pending lawsuit or complaints from the school's vast community of teachers, parents and alumni. In fact, he added, that a survey conducted last school year reported overwhelming support behind the effectiveness and continued use of corporal punishment.

Yet here lies the challenge for St. Augustine, which was founded in 1951 as an academic haven for the city's black youth: How do you convince critics of physical discipline of adolescents that a practice more than a century old is still necessary in today's society? "Most of the people opposed to our policy don't understand who we are, what we do and what our track record is," said Raphael, who is also a 1985 graduate.

"They do not understand that's it's just one small element in a much larger, much more complex discipline philosophy that is part of the complete development of a young man. It too, in it's proper usage, is an effective tool

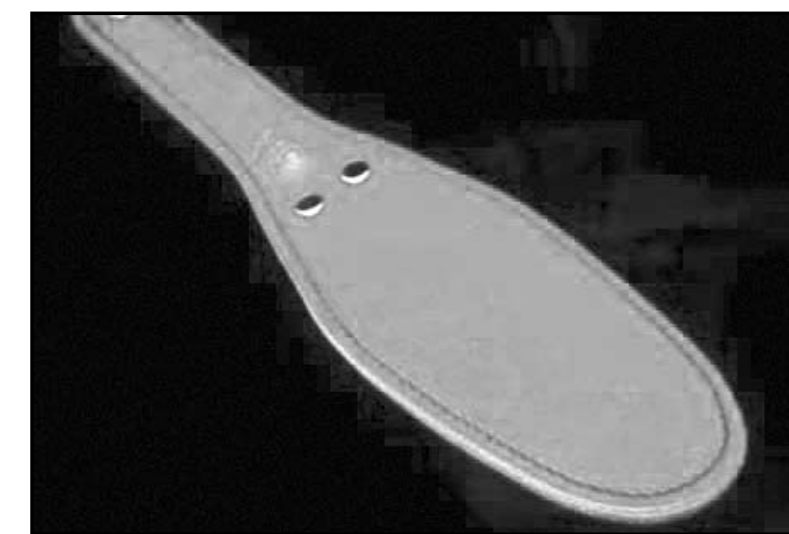


Father John J. Raphael, President, St. Augustine

to maintain the environment and teach the lessons that should be taught." St. Augustine might have to prove their discipline policies - mimicked in public schools and other settings - have achieved far greater success here. Still, that might not be enough to influence Jordan Riak, founder and executive director of Parents and Teachers against Violence in Education (www.nospank.com). He disagrees with physical discipline of children for any reason.

"I have yet to see an example where things couldn't have achieved a better result without the violence," said Riak, who has campaigned against corporate punishment since the mid-1970s. "There is no circumstance in which hitting anyone with anything is acceptable." The issue might be decided in Congress.

In June, Carolyn McCarthy, a U.S. Representative for New York's 4th District, introduced the Ending Corporal Punishment in Schools Act. The bill has been referred to the Committee for Education and Labor. Meanwhile, Louisiana is one of 20 states that allow corporal punishment, ranking eighth in student beatings in 2006-07 (11,080). That school



year, more than 223,000 reports of student beatings were submitted nationally.

Raphael declined to give his opinion about the current moratorium, citing the ongoing review, but as a former St. Augustine student and teacher, he had previously not objected to its usefulness. Also, St. Augustine has not notified parents or students during this observation period, although Raphael suspects that students have noticed a difference.

A Louisiana Department of Education survey conducted in 2008 showed that 56 of the state's

70 school systems authorized corporal punishment, public information officer Ileana Ledet said, though that does not mean the districts paddle schoolchildren.

Elizabeth T. Gershoff, Ph.D., who studies corporal punishment at the University of Texas, said while a controlled study in the 1980s found negative consequences associated with corporal punishment by parents, no such study has been conducted in schools.

Paddling at St. Aug, whether it is enforced or utilized as a deterrent, is nearly as identifiable

with the school as its dress shirts and slacks on RTA buses or The Marching 100.

Over the years, students have taken licks with the oak wood for a myriad of reasons - from excessive talking in class to fighting. Most look back at those moments with pride, calling St. Augustine the first fraternity they ever pledged.

"It assisted in helping me to focus in on accomplishing the task at hand," said Morris Cannon, a 1987 graduate. "As a student I did not see the benefits in it, but after graduating I found that it was one of the best things going."

Sedric Bowens, who graduated in 1993, said if he was living in New Orleans, "my son would be attending Saint Augustine."

"Honestly I see no problem with it," he said of paddling. "After your freshmen year you get paddled a lot less."

For others - a quiet minority - the practice is as revered as it is cherished. At least one parent said she has seen students suffer from low self esteem, although even she was unsure if it was a temporary or a long-term problem for the students.

Notable St. Augustine alums include former New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, actor Carl Weathers, ESPN sportscaster Stan Verrett and dozens of NFL and NBA players.

Paddling, Raphael said, is effective in dealing with low-level behavioral issues before the situation or the student's behavior escalates in the future. It's a way to reinforce discipline, remind students what the proper behavior is in a black culture which promotes violence, sex and educational aloofness.

Discipline, which includes paddling, is often fit to the needs of individual students with consideration given to their background and any history of disciplinary problems. "It's an effective system," Raphael said. "I know the value it had for me. It continued lessons that I began to learn at home."

Not every family, though, is in need of such lessons.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

city and its plethora of talented people including Johnson in their show “Treme”; in real life the community is going through a transformation as gentrification and people who are not culturally sensitive to the traditions of New Orleans come to the city and reside in historically African-American neighborhoods. Last year this came to a head when an impromptu parade commemorating the death of local musician Kerwin James. As the procession proceeded without a hint of violence, but was simply a gathering maintaining a cultural tradition; as many as 20 squad cars came and arguments ensued where two musicians one being Treme resident and renown trombonist Glen David Andrews being arrested.

He says that in the past while there were issues with the law enforcement today relations are much better between the marching clubs and officers assigned to the details, “I give the officers credit who work with us, they get it, they have an understanding of how to police during an African-American event and are doing a great job patrolling and protecting the clubs and the citizens.”

Repairing the Breach One Line at a Time

It is in this crucial time for New Orleans that one of its most valuable assets remain intact and that is its culture and heritage. Of course, that does not mean not adding new ingredients that would give the city that extra

spice to add to what is already on the menu of a city that for centuries continues to please the cultural palate of people spanning the globe.

While the city forges ahead with a living culture as Johnson puts it. It is also one steeped in the historical past. Its traditions are a viable part of the city and is its heartbeat and lifeline moving forward if it is to remain a great city. “There was a time during slavery when Africans walked outside of the city that was walled at the time (given the name Rampart means walled) to an area that came to be known as Congo Square in which Africans gathered on Sunday to celebrate through music, food and camaraderie,” says Johnson of the beginning of what was the tradition of the marching clubs

and second- line experience. “It was a communal event that wasn’t about violence but about togetherness and that’s what we are still about today.”

As the city stands at a crossroads in its history, the question is how does a city hold onto what makes it great and continue to have a living vibrant culture, but poised for growth and new ideas? Does a city that’s been devastated continue to look for easy answers to complex questions by pointing the finger and thinking to cease a cultural celebration will stop what Johnson calls “A problem of society and a gun culture.”

And can a city begin to repair the breaches of misunderstanding that continue to plague New Orleans? It is time to build bridges of understanding where people


can respectfully disagree, but can come to the table of brotherhood to discuss solutions. Because a city divided can perhaps survive, but it must be united to thrive. So as the city moves forward hopefully the walls of cultural miscommunication and understanding can come tumbling down. And as legendary Mardi Gras Indian Chief Allison “Tootie” Montana, who before Hurricane Katrina stood united with other Chiefs died in the city council chambers trying to bring a peaceable end to a rift between the police and tribes parading on St. Joseph’s Day. What he spoke that day are words that echo a truth roaring loud as thunder as a message to the city and its residents and leaders moving forward can come to live by, “I want this to stop.”

DRYADES
Young Men's Christian Association

The Annual Celebrity

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, October 15, 2010



PLAY GOLF

Format: 18 hole foursome scramble
When: Friday, October 15, 2010
Breakfast & Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start at 8:30 a.m.
Where: Bayou Barriere Golf Course
Belle Chasse, LA
Donation: \$1,000.00 per team
Includes green fee, gold carts, beverages and after-tournament feast.

PRIZES

First, Second and Third Place Prizes:
Team Awards
Closest to the Pin:
Dinner for Two at Commander's Palace
Longest Drive:
Dinner for Two at Restaurant August
There will be two (2) hole-in-one prizes
Hole Prize:
2010 Luxury Car
Hole Prize:
\$10,000 Cash Prize

After-Tournament Feast

Your choice of Grilled Chicken or Rib-Eye served with Jambalaya, Seafood Pasta, Salad, Bread, Dessert and Drinks
\$40,000 for non-golfers

To Register

Send Registration Form and Check
Made payable to:
Dryades YMCA Celebrity Golf Tournament
P.O. Box 56217
New Orleans, LA 70156-6817
For more information or details on sponsorship level packages, call Tournament Coordinator Jay H. Banks
(504) 522-8811

Driving Directions

Bayou Barriere Gold Course
7427 Hwy 23, Belle Chasse, LA
(504)394-9500

From New Orleans:
Cross the Crescent City Connection Bridge. Continue on the elevated West Bank Expressway to Lafayette Street/ Belle Chasse Highway #23. Exit and turn left under the Expressway. Take the Belle Chasse Highway southeast for 3.8 miles. After passing through the Belle Chasse Tunnel, the golf course will be on your left. Make a U-turn to enter the club.

From the Westbank:
Take the elevated Westbank Expressway to the Lafayette Street/Belle chasse Highway southeast for 3.8 miles. After passing through the Belle Chasse Tunnel, the golf course will be on your left. Make a U-turn to enter the club.

REGISTRATION FORM

**Dryades YMCA
CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Friday, October 15, 2010

TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:
☐ Platinum Tournament Sponsor: \$10,000
☐ Gold Tournament Sponsor: \$5,000
☐ Silver Tournament Sponsor: \$3,500
☐ Bronze Tournament Sponsor: \$2,500

Hole Sponsorships: \$500.00

Company Name: _____
Contact Person: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Golfers: \$1,000.00 per 4 member team

Team Captain: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Team Members: _____

Method of Payment

Payment Amount \$ _____ ☐ Check enclosed
Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX
Card #: _____
Exp. Date: _____ Security Code #: _____
Billing Address: _____
Name on Card: _____
Signature: _____

Sponsor names will be displayed at Bayou Barriere Golf Course during the tournament.
Please return with your payment by October 8 to:
DRYADES YMCA • P.O. BOX 56217
New Orleans, LA 70156-6217

The Dryades YMCA is designated as 501(c)(3). Contributions are tax-deductible.

Shoot Ya Best Shot!

New Orleanians were out having fun and celebrating this week and Data was there



Get Out and Vote Data's Election Endorsements



Terry B. Jones
Publisher

*Your vote is crucial
to our progress.*

First and foremost, it is absolutely important that we all go out and VOTE on Saturday, October 2nd. All votes count in both small and large elections. This election is for Judgeships, State Senator, and Lieutenant Governor.

At this point Data News Weekly has two recommendations a candidate for the Judge of Juvenile Court, Section "C", the other is the race for State Senator Dist 2. Let's begin with Juvenile Judge, **Candice Bates-Anderson**. Anderson is a hard-working lady that we feel can do the job. It is very clear that we have an ongoing problem with juvenile crime which directly impacts our community. We know that the



Candace Bates-Anderson

answer to Black youth crime is not "to lock them up and throw away the key." That ideology breeds crime not deter crime. A better idea comes from Candice that says, "Jail is no place for our kids. I will get them out of a cell and into a habitat where they can be productive members of our society."



Cynthia Willard-Lewis

After all of the allegations from the last male Judge, David Bell, who was forced to resign because of allegations of sexual harassment with his employees; we think that Candice is a visionary and a breath of fresh air for the Juvenile Court seat.

For Louisiana State Senator, District "2",

Cynthia Willard-Lewis is our choice. If you are awake at all in New Orleans you know that Cynthia has been a fighter for the rights of New Orleanians for years. From State Representative in 1993 to City Councilmember, Cynthia has proven to be a leader for the rights of our community.

After Katrina, she fought diligently for the rights of the people in New Orleans East and the Ninth Ward. From struggling against the powers that be from turning New Orleans East to "Green Space" and demolishing blighted houses in the Ninth Ward. Cynthia's courage and leadership is unmatched. She will serve us well as State Senator.



I was born in New Orleans. My family still lives here. We have to restore the Gulf communities for the shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners who live and work here.

- Iris Cross, BP Community Outreach

Making This Right

Beaches

Claims

Cleanup

Economic Investment
Environmental
Restoration

Health and Safety

Wildlife

No oil has flowed into the Gulf for weeks. But we know this is just the beginning of our work. BP has taken full responsibility for the cleanup in the Gulf and that includes keeping you informed.

Restoring Gulf Communities

We can't undo this tragedy. But we can help people get back on their feet. We have been working with impacted communities since day one.

Partnering with local governments and community organizations, my job is to listen to people's needs and frustrations and find ways to help. We have 19 community centers and teams in four states, listening and helping.

Restoring The Economy

BP is here in Gulf communities with shrimpers, fishermen, hotel and restaurant owners, helping to make them whole.

More than 120,000 claim payments totaling over \$375 million have already gone to people affected by the spill. We have committed a \$20 billion independent fund to pay all legitimate claims, including lost incomes until people impacted can go back to work. And none of this will be paid by taxpayers.

BP has also given grants of \$87 million to the states to help tourism recover and bring people back to the Gulf beaches.

Restoring The Environment

We're going to keep looking for oil and cleaning it up if we find it. Teams will remain in place for as long as it takes to restore the Gulf Coast.

And we've dedicated \$500 million to work with local and national scientific experts on the impact of the spill and to restore environmental damage.

Thousands of BP employees have their roots in the Gulf. We support over 10,000 jobs in the region and people here are our neighbors. We know we haven't always been perfect, but we will be here until the oil is gone and the people and businesses are back to normal. We will do everything we can to make this right.

For general information visit: bp.com

For help or information: (866) 448-5816

restorethegulf.gov

Facebook: BP America

Twitter: @BP_America

YouTube: BP

For claims information visit: bp.com/claims

louisianagulfresponse.com

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From the Publisher



Terry B. Jones
Publisher

Let's cut to the chase; week before last Data News Weekly's cover story was titled "Death at a Secondline", raising a lot of controversy and concern in our community. The story was related to a shooting not related to the Secondline on Labor Day but happened in the area of the Secondline. Data's concern was the general news media was trying to wrap this unfortunate incident around the neck of this historic and even spiritual tradition. These were my instructions, to clarify the difference between Secondline and other parade activities including Mardi Gras from other societal problems, and the article itself did that.

Data News Weekly has been a grow-

ing and intricate part of the New Orleans community for 44 years since my father created it in 1966. We were the first to go on the street to find our readers after Katrina even before New Orleans opened back up. Finding our New Orleanians in Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Baton Rouge and Jackson, MS, in shelters, trailer communities and churches; in a successful attempt to get as much information as we could to our readers that would allow them to come home. As we continue to try to live up to our motto, "The People's Paper".

Now to the Headline, "Death at a Secondline."

Even though my writer and editor followed the storyline directed, while I was

traveling they created a headline that I feel in retrospect, was inappropriate. Don't get me wrong, this is a second generation family business and whatever happened, right or wrong, I am responsible for, but to put that headline on a picture of one of the most stable and prestigious social aid and pleasure clubs in New Orleans, The Black Men of Labor, was an egregious error. Data News Weekly and I apologize for the mistake.

As has been in the past, we will continue to serve our readers and our community, and live up to our mandate to provide the stories you won't find elsewhere about and for our community.

Republicans Pledge: "A Trick Bag For America"



By Danny J. Bakewell Sr.
Chairman of NNPA

Social Security Trust Fund over to Wall Street.

But for African-Americans, this retrograde Pledge is a recipe for disaster.

Our communities were hit hard by the Great Recession, and the economic crisis continues. African-American unemployment now stands at 16.3%. Working families are struggling to pay the rent and keep food on the table. And the situation is critical for our youngest generation: among African-Americans ages 16 to 19, the unemployment rate is 26.2% – and that doesn't include those with low-paying part-time jobs or those who have given up looking. For these youth, the American Dream is turning into a nightmare.

President Obama and this Democratic Congress led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Majority Whip James Clyburn (the highest-ranking African American in Congress) inherited this dire recession from Bush and the Republicans, and they've directed help toward those who need it most – despite stiff opposition from Republicans in Congress. If the "Party of No" had gotten its way, the Great Recession could have been worse than the Great Depression – an economic hurricane instead of a bad storm. They opposed the Recovery Act. They opposed healthcare reform. They opposed ending tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas. They even opposed 7 of the 8 tax cuts Congress has passed to help small business owners.

We don't need to imagine what would have happened if Republicans ran Congress. We know their record – and now we can read their Pledge: to restore the immoral policies of Presidents Reagan, Bush and Bush II: tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires and benefit cuts for every-

one else and of course, nothing special for Blacks.

It is unconscionable that at a time of our nation's highest unemployment in more than 60 years, the Republicans propose a \$4 trillion tax cut for the rich. They're trotting out the same tired argument they've recycled for 30 years: cut taxes for billionaires, and some of their wealth will trickle down to the rest of us. Meanwhile, the Republicans promise to repeal President Obama's Recovery Act, which cut taxes for 110 million families who don't happen to be rich.

We already know the harmful impact of trickle-down economics – nothing ever trickles down for Blacks, minorities and the poor. Under Presidents Reagan and Bush, the economic divide widened to historic proportions due to huge tax cuts for millionaires while workers' wages stagnated. President Clinton made a dent in pervasive inequality by raising taxes on the wealthiest Americans and investing in education, healthcare, jobs and tax breaks for working families.

While turning the budget deficit into a surplus those policies were good for all America. But President George W. Bush pulled a 180 degree turnaround, cutting taxes for the richest of the rich, letting Wall Street run wild, and slashing federal aid to working families. The result: rising inequality, the largest budget deficits in U.S. history, a cataclysmic financial crisis and net loss of eight million jobs.

That's what the Republicans pledge to repeat.

One of the starkest contrasts between the Democrats and Republicans can be seen when it comes to healthcare. Today, one in five African-Americans is without health insurance. They can't afford doctor's bills

if they get sick, and an emergency room visit or hospital stay can wipe out their life's savings. But we have reason to hope that this shameful situation will be eliminated in a few short years. Thanks to the landmark Healthcare Reform Law passed by Congress and signed by President Obama this year – unless the Republicans regain control of Congress. That is why we Blacks have to vote and get our neighbors, friends and community to vote. NNPA and our 200 Black publishers are asking our leaders to help us in rallying our base: churches, sororities, fraternities, Black students, community clubs, Black radio, community organizers, Black social media experts and all progressive people of goodwill.

That's right: with the U.S. finally on the brink of joining other developed nations that guarantee healthcare to all their citizens, the Republicans want to repeal universal health insurance, snatching healthcare away from tens of millions of people.

The Republicans' Pledge makes it crystal clear what's at stake in November. We can't sit home on Election Day and let the Republican Party turn back the clock on our country and on Black people definitely. I pledge, on behalf of 200 Black newspapers in this country, to do what we can to stop them!

You can mark my words: If they take back the House (of Representatives), they will launch an investigation on President Obama that will make the investigation on President Clinton look like child's play. They will make his next two years untenable and miserable, leading up to 2012.

We will also lose two of our most visionary leaders of the 21st century in Speaker Pelosi and Majority Whip Clyburn. We can't let that happen!

The Bioethics Sins of a Nation Being Rectified

A Closer Look at Tuskegee, HeLa Cells, and the Black Community

By Elaine Hegwood Bowen
NNPA Special Correspondent

PART III: "Clinical Trials: A Legacy of Shame and Fear Addressed in 2010"

"All I knew was that they just kept saying I had the bad blood—they never mentioned syphilis to me, not even once," said Tuskegee Syphilis Study participant Charles Pollard. Mr. Pollard was referring to the early 1930's, when he was a participant in the Tuskegee Study. He was also one of the last eight living participants when President Bill Clinton apologized to the men at the White House in 1997, saying "they were denied help, and they were lied to by their Government." Unfortunately, in 2010 another medical injustice has been uncovered—the case of a Baltimore woman who died in 1951 nearly at the half-point mark of the noted Tuskegee Study.

Bioethics is basically the study of the ethical issues brought about by advances in medicine. As we explore these two bioethics episodes, it involves the lack of respect for persons and the absence of informed consent guidelines during research, we can learn much about their influence on the Black community and contemporary medical research.

The study of "bad blood" among Black men has been called the Tuskegee Study and also the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male. People living in the Macon County area of Tuskegee, Alabama, reportedly are upset that the true name of the experiment—the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Syphilis Study at Tuskegee—isn't more easily recognized. Folks in Tuskegee surmise that they didn't do anything wrong when the "experiment" began in 1932. And many Black folks view the movie "Ms. Evers Boy's with Olufunmilayo (Funmi) Olopade as merely entertainment. The USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee was a study of the effects of untreated syphilis on Negro men. The public health service withheld treatment from men who had syphilis, leav-



Some victims of the Tuskegee syphilis study. PHOTO: National Archives

ing them sick and terminal, even though in the early 1940's penicillin was developed as a safe and effective cure.

James H. Jones writes in "Bad Blood: The Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment", "Like other white Americans of the 19th century, physicians were fascinated by the large number of ways in which Black people appeared to be different. Physicians were one of the first public groups to study Blacks in a systematic manner; because they belonged to a profession that claimed to possess scientific knowledge about human beings, and their views carried considerable weight." One foreman, writes Jones, ordered his employees to participate: "Tell these niggers the health doctor will be at the Possom Hollow School tonight. He's got some government medicine to cure the [bad] blood disease. A lot of these niggers have got blood trouble, sickly, no count, lazy; but maybe it's not their fault. This doctor will find out."

Some reports say the study involved 632 Black men, of whom 399 had syphilis; the exact numbers of healthy or sick participants or those who died have never been confirmed. Conducted without patients' informed consent, the study offered participants free medical exams, free meals and burial insurance. But the study didn't offer vaccine for syphilis for those who had it, and this "research" continued for 40 years. In July 1972, after an Associated Press news article broke the story, the U.S. government deemed the study "ethically unjustified."

Another book, The Tuskegee Syphilis Study, written by Fred D. Gray, says the study sought Black males in the second stage of syphilis, who were told they were receiving medication, even though they were not. Gray was also the attorney for the survivors who sued the doctors and the government, led by Pollard.

Tuskegee, Ala., the site of Tuskegee Institute [University], was the location of this awful experiment. Yet, the University now boasts of the nation's first bioethics center—the Tuskegee University National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care.

These men and their descendants will be forever heralded for the wrong that was done to them. But, there is yet another case which is also egregious. A Black woman at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore was sacrificed in yet another medical "trial."

Henrietta Lacks, a loving wife and poor mother of five, died in 1951 as doctors harvested cells from her body while supposedly treating her cervical cancer. They had found that Lacks' cells were the first immortal human cell line that would keep growing and growing, according to journalist Rebecca Skloot in her recently published book, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks".

Before that, researchers used laboratory-grown cells to test theories around disease prevention and treatment. These cells, called HeLa cells, reportedly have been cloned across the world in research vital for developing the polio vaccine; uncovered secrets of cancer, viruses, and the effects of the atom bomb; helped lead to important advances like in vitro fertilization, cloning, and gene mapping; and have been bought and sold by the billions.

Lacks' cells became among the most important tools in modern

medicine. Yet her heirs lived in poverty as she remained unknown until this book was written.

Lacks' husband, David, has been quoted as saying that he never gave permission for his wife's cells to be used; nor for an autopsy to be performed, as he took her to the hospital daily for "treatment" at the Black ward at Johns Hopkins.

The missing links in both of these bioethics episodes are informed consent and the doctors' duty to do no harm. Groundbreaking outreach now not only commits to ethical treatment, but racial inclusion. Dr. Olufunmilayo (Funmi) Olopade, director of the Cancer Risk Clinic at the University of Chicago Medical Center, says her early breast cancer research once involved only Jewish women, but now it also involves women of African descent.

"I first started doing research in 1990, but a few years later, when I began focus groups with women of African descent on the South Side of Chicago, the women made it clear that they wanted to be treated like anyone else," she says.

As a result, Dr. Olopade, who has been involved in about 10 groundbreaking breast cancer research projects, insists on providing the same access to Black women as she provides to others.

Furthermore, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) made it mandatory that the research reflects the community that it serves, Dr. Olopade added. "We have to provide outreach to make sure it benefits everyone. If you have a university in a predominately White neighborhood, they study in their backyard, but we are able to highlight different types of breast cancer."

Dr. Olopade is optimistic about contemporary research. "We have come a long way because of many things that have happened in the past. But now there are committees and safeguards to encourage research participation by everyone."

Elaine Hegwood Bowen is a reporter for the Chicago and Gary Crusader Newspapers. "Clinical Trials: A Legacy of Shame and Fear Addressed in 2010" is an eight-part series resulting from a partnership between the University of Maryland Bioethics Research Center and the NNPA Foundation.



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One Nation Working Together: Breathing New Life into the American Dream

By Benjamin Todd Jealous
NAACP President and CEO

*Civil Rights
Groups, Labor
join to bring
message of jobs to
Nations Capitol.*

We are living through a very particular moment in American history, one where diversity is increasing, with prosperity decreasing. Barring great social movement, this is a formula for a battleground.

Since the dawn of the nation's worst economic crisis since the 1930's, progress has been made.

We have expanded healthcare coverage to tens of millions of Americans, cut sentencing disparities between crack and powder cocaine by more than 80 percent, and saved more than 150,000 teachers' jobs.

Yet, what was a recession for most Americans remains

a depression for too many. Black American unemployment is nearly twice that of Whites. Eight million jobs have been lost and more than 2.5 million Americans have lost their homes, with millions more in danger of foreclosure. Schools are closing at unprecedented rates, while Americans are being imprisoned at alarming rates. In each

case, people of color suffer more.

A strong workforce is the answer to this economic crisis. Families with jobs spend money and as consumers, their buying power increases, allowing businesses to expand and hire more employees. Rather than a trickle-down economy, where the rich get richer, we need to create new jobs and financial security for the middle



NAACP President & CEO,
Benjamin T. Jealous

its possibilities, to look forward with anticipation for a new tomorrow. But we cannot achieve that new day without putting boots on the ground and seeing to fruition the change that millions voted for in 2008. We have to say "no" to a country divided and "yes" to a country united.

On October 2nd, we will stand together as One Nation Working Together, a broad multi-racial coalition of advocates and activists. We will come together in the name of putting our nation back to work, educating each other and our children, ensuring justice for all Americans.

Critically important to putting the nation back to work and bolstering our economic outlook is a commitment to ensuring that every child has access to a good school and a quality education. Until our children are given an opportunity to get the best education available, we will never be able to compete in the new global economy, where far too many of our corporations are leaving our shores and relocating to get both cheap and skilled labor.

Far too many schools throughout our nation are failing our children. In North Carolina, the state is adopting measures to re-segregate schools, returning to the era of separate and unequal. The state's anti-diversity caucus has dismantled a nationally recognized socio-diversity student achievement policy, which will re-segregate bodies, budgets, and the basic building blocks of a quality education.

We are the people who will decide whether our country stays in this valley of joblessness, foreclosures and despair, or fuel the hope and determination of the One Nation campaign, rise toward the mountaintop, and breathe new life into the great American dream.

Our voices cannot be consigned to a whisper nor can we stand passively on the sidelines, waiting invisibly for change. Join us in Washington, D.C. on 10-2-10 as we harness our multiracial majority and make our narrative of hope and unity a renewed battle cry for change.

class; only then can the economy grow. We have seen the impact of a top-heavy economy, reliant on prosperity trickling down to the masses, and the result is a nation where the top 1/10 percent of Americans hold 976 times more income than the bottom 90% of our nation's families.

Good and fair jobs must be the top priority, yet we face a Congress where a fringe minority rebuffs measures to do just that. The Miller Bill – legislation that would create one million jobs – is stalled in the House. Anything that could help, whether it was the extension of unemployment benefits during the July 4th holiday or efforts to prevent the firing of thousands of teachers nationwide are met with a chorus of "NO".

Simultaneously, far-right extremists have found their way back into the national dialogue, helping drive a regressive agenda. From the Voting Rights Act, to the Civil Rights Act, to the 14th Amendment; the very pillars of democracy are under attack.

Now is the time to get everyone off the benches and back onto the field.

We must be bold and aggressive in turning this situation around. We cannot remain quiet in the face of such clear and imminent danger. Tradition teaches us to run and not get weary, walk and not faint. We have made real progress and great strides, but

we must press forward because our work is not simply for us, rather for future generations to come.

As humans, we possess the ability to imagine the future and

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ENDORSEMENTS

Unions/Associations continued—

Independent Democratic Electors Association of New Orleans (IDEA), Orleans Parish Democratic Executive Committee (OPDEC)

Legal/Law Enforcement—Leon Cannizzaro, New Orleans

District Attorney, Sheriff Marlin Gusman, Orleans Parish Sheriff Jiff Hingle, Plaquemines Parish

Former Civil Sheriff Paul Valteau, Orleans Parish

Amy Kern-Imbornone, New Orleans Attorney

Donna Klein, New Orleans Attorney Daniel Davillier, New Orleans Attorney

Elected Officials—Clerk of Court Dale Atkins, Orleans Parish

Clerk of Criminal Court Arthur Morrell, Orleans Parish

Criminal District Court, Clerk of Second City Court Marty

Broussard, Orleans Parish Assessor Erroll Williams, Orleans

Parish Assessor Claude Mauberret, Orleans Parish

State Senator David Heitmeier, District 7

State Senator Karen Carter Peterson, District 5

State Rep. Girod Jackson III, District 87

State Rep. Walter Leger III, District 91

State Rep. Jared Brossett, District 97

State Rep. Charmaine Marchand Stuaes, District 99

State Rep. Austin Badon, District 100

State Representative Jeffery Arnold, District 102

Councilwoman Cynthia Hedge-Morrell, District "D"

Councilman Jon Johnson, District "E"

Former Constable William Detweiler

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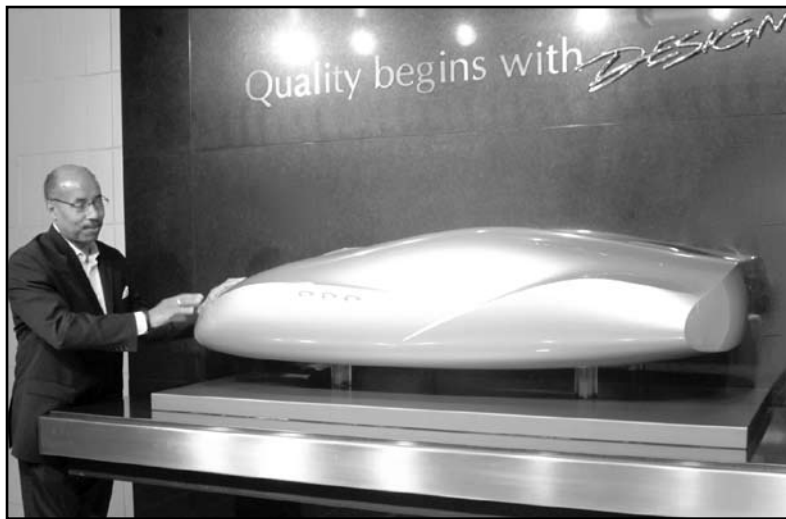
Ed Welburn, GM Global Design Leader

By Catherine Kelly
The Michigan Citizen
Special to the NNPA

Innovative design, understanding, and the importance of diversity are guiding philosophies for General Motors Vice President of Global Design, Ed Welburn. "Exposure, reading, and travel, whenever possible... and don't be afraid to take risks," says Welburn about the preparation for living and working in an increasingly global world.

Since 2003, Welburn, 59, is only the sixth design leader in General Motors' history and heads what may be the largest design organization in the world. He leads 10 design centers in eight countries and manages 1,500 creative personalities. It's not uncommon to find Welburn at a 6 a.m. design review or on a late night conference call -- he is, after all, accommodating the world's time zones. Design is around the clock work at a global company.

After the well-publicized news of General Motors' financial woes, subsequent bailout and new stock offering, the company is maintaining its



Ed Welburn, General Motors Vice President of Global Design

commitment to design. And, Welburn is leading the effort.

Welburn, one of the highest-ranking Black automobile executives in the world, says much of his inspiration comes from his background. Welburn has loved automobiles since he was a child when his father, a car enthusiast, took him to an auto show in Philadelphia.

Welburn received his art training from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He attended the historically Black college in the early 1970s and said the

"interdisciplinary" aspect of the experience prepared him for his current role that an art school could not have provided.

"Life began to open up quite a bit for me when I went to Howard University. The School of Fine Arts was a fascinating place [to be.] Art, music and drama...with students like Debbie Allen, Roberta Flack, Phylicia Rashad and Donny Hathaway," said Welburn in an interview with the Black Press. He recalls hearing Flack play the piano when he was on his

way to class and believes his time at Howard contributed to his creative development.

Welburn said studying sculpture at Howard made his drawings much "looser" and him a better designer. "Some of my favorite courses were the life drawing classes. Some of my first drawings were stiff and mechanical but by the time I left, my work had more emotion, passion...good car design has passion."

Along with his everyday work, Welburn is still involved in the arts. General Motors hosts art shows at its design center and the auto executive has been known to paint in his private time. Welburn believes that creativity offers value and opportunity. While many parents may encourage their children to stay on more traditional career paths, he believes there is opportunity in creative fields such as design. Welburn said, "Parents tend to direct [children] to fields they know they will be accepted... We have a building full of sculptors, artists who are working in the industry."

Welburn, who regularly travels to Brazil, Columbia, Argen-

tina and China, says cultural fluency and diversity are important. Although, it's sometimes hard to try new things, adventure and being open-minded are important aspects of his work, and has helped him in his current position. "I took an assignment in Germany and I wondered if I would be accepted. I didn't have a place to get my hair cut so that was something to deal with but I love the cultural diversity... the challenges," said Welburn.

Today, Welburn says he has friends around the world. "And, I connect with them as strongly as I do with my old friends from Howard."

Welburn says the future of General Motors is in global collaboration. "It is the future," says Welburn. "The development of the new Buick Lacrosse is a very good example of a collaboration of disciplines." The car, sold in the United States and China, is the result of collaboration between German engineers, and U.S. and Chinese design teams. "It is far better than either team would have done separately..." said Welburn.

Newsmaker, continued from page 4.

Five years ago, when it was time for Kevin and Tonja Jackson to help their son, Shawn, pick a high school, the parents were unsure about St. Augustine's discipline policy, which includes paddling. "His daddy doesn't touch him, so how are you going to let somebody else touch him?" Tonja, a social worker, remembered thinking. "I thought he would be pulled out the first time it happened at the school."

In the end, the school's curriculum made it so that another high school wasn't an option. Paddling was never a deterrent for Shawn, she said, but that didn't make it any easier on his parents. "To (Shawn), I don't want to say it got customary, but after their junior year, they knew what it was going to take," she added. "If someone's personal items wound up missing... you're all getting paddled for it."

Later, as Shawn excelled in the classroom and as a member of the football and track teams,

she said she realized there was a "very significant population" of single mothers with teenage boys enrolled at the school that used its teachers to "be the father they don't have at home." (Shawn is now a freshman studying Kinesiology at Grambling and a member of its track team.) "I think some people are seeking it out and embracing it because it is there," she said.

Paul Beaulieu, a former student, teacher and Alumni Director, said he did not rely on the paddle to manage his classroom in the 1960s.

"I always thought it was a distraction," said the 1961 graduate. "You had to take time out from your teaching, to get the paddle. That's a bunch of foolishness to me."

Still, Beaulieu supports paddling.

"Do I think it's something that needs to be done every five, 10 minutes? Of course not," he said.

But its presence makes a dif-

ference because children are less likely to act out if they know there are consequences.

"It wasn't just a paddle when I was a student," Beaulieu said. "Then it was real corporal punishment. Somebody might knock you upside your head. Punch you in your chest... It didn't hurt me. It made me a better man, a better person."

Gershoff, an Associate Professor at University of Texas, said teenagers may perceive corporal punishment to be particularly demeaning, given that they are quite capable of working things out verbally rather than by force.

Perhaps the difference in opinion is because of the view of the students. While critics consider paddling at St. Augustine violence to children, students at St. Augustine are treated as men - close to a military environment of learning. Looking back, even at age 13, Beaulieu said he was referred to as Mr. Beaulieu by teachers

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

Needs help with Jordan, age 2.

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