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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

# Veteran Continues Fight to Operate Business in French Quarter

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# Veteran Continues Fight to Operate Business in French Quarter

*Cites Discrimination by French Quarter Groups, Alcohol Commissioner*



Tracy Riley, (pictured above) led a rally outside the chambers of Judge Paula Brown the U.S. District Court. Riley and supporters protested against what Riley is arguing has been racial discrimination of her business' establishment, Rouge House by French Quarter groups and the Alcohol Commissioner.

Story and Photo By Eric Craig  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Tracy Riley outside of the U.S. District Court on Poydras Street on Feb. 17th after she staged a protest for a date in court that would allow her to make an appeal so that her business could fully operate in the French Quarter.

After 24 years of serving in the U.S. Military, she thought she had fought enough. But on Feb. 17, 2016

Tracy Riley, who served as an Army Reservist, led a rally outside the chambers of Judge Paula Brown at 421 Poydras St. Riley and supporters protested against what Riley is arguing has been racial discrimination of her business' establishment. The group marched in the hallway outside of a status meeting where Riley's attorney fought for a court date to appeal a permit denial, which Riley believes is a discriminatory act by the Louisiana Alcohol Control Commission. Riley has been denied a permit to sell alcoholic beverages, and

is therefore unable to operate her supper club, Rouge House, which is a business designed to bolster the careers of independent musicians.

"As a 24-year veteran I have served to protect the Constitution of the United States and that Constitution certainly includes me as a citizen." Riley said. "I aim to protect those rights and make sure they are available to me now," she added.

As a first-time business owner, Riley decided to open a supper club to support independent musicians of

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## DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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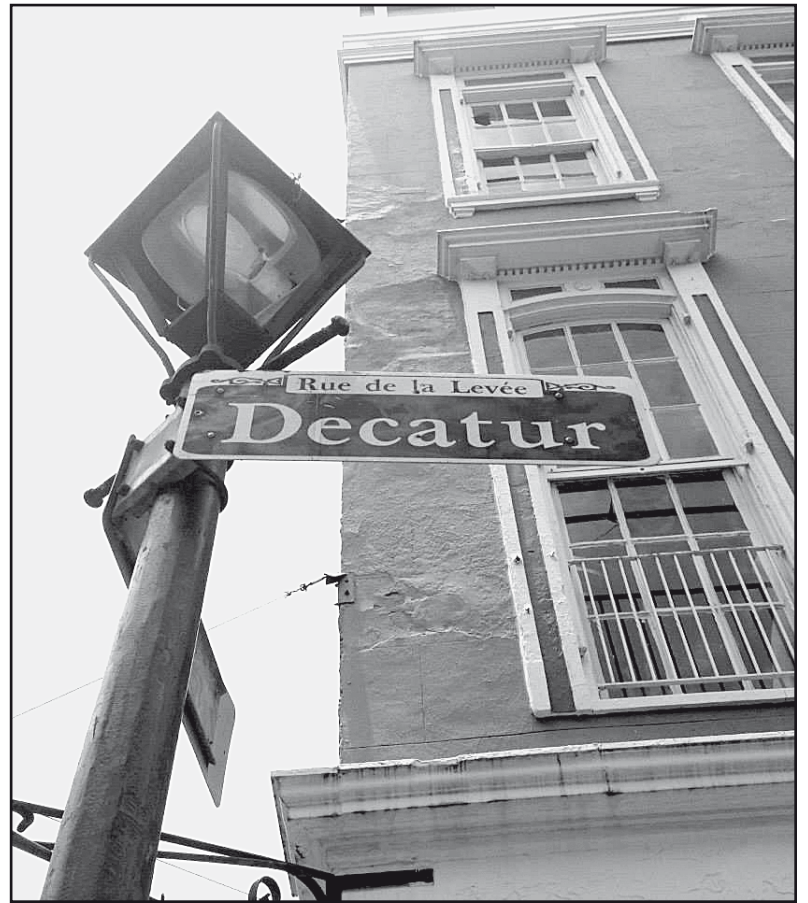
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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



As the sole proprietor of the Rouge House, Riley opened a 16,500 square foot establishment in the French Quarter in 2015 as a supper club to support independent musicians of New Orleans. Above.



According to Riley, organizers against Rouge House, located at 300 Decatur Street, included individuals from the French Quarter Management District and the French Quarter Business Association who self-organized and prevented Riley from receiving a permit to serve alcoholic beverages.

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New Orleans. A 3-year-old entrepreneurial dream inspired by her children who are artists, she created Rouge House to give independent artists a venue to use industry-level resources to turn their talents into products. As the sole proprietor of the business, she opened a 16,500 square foot establishment in the French Quarter in 2015. She was only one permit away from becoming a recognized establishment.

"The residence and businesses of the area self-organized and prevented me from receiving a permit to serve alcoholic beverages," Riley said. The organizers included individuals from the French Quarter Management District and the French Quarter Business Association. Riley notes many protesters have made several racial slurs to her and her employees on a daily basis.

The business owner said she plans to serve alcoholic beverages in her bar, but has claimed not to violate any permit issues. Riley claims that the organized groups contacted the New Orleans Alcohol Commissioner, claiming she had no right to sell alcohol. Within three hours of notice, the commissioner denied her permit and following appeals.

"The commissioner said we were handing alcohol without a permit, and we had an incomplete application. There is no such evidence to substantiate this claim," Riley said.

Riley's claims of discrimination or interference were refuted by the business organizations. Emily Remington, the Executive Director of the French Quarter Management District, said her organization is not involved in this case.

"The French Quarter Management District is not involved in permit or zoning issues, and are legislatively prohibited from being involved in such issues," Remington said.

Riley attempted to appeal the decision in court, and was granted a dateless trial in June of 2014. As of February 2016, Riley has not received a court date.

"Every time I ask about the trial, it is delayed. We the people are engaged in this case, and we are here to demand that we have a court date," Riley said.

While Riley awaits the results of the status meeting, she has no doubts about the outcome. "They saw the documentation, and we followed the policy in perusing the permit. We are confident in prevailing."



# Macy's Celebrates Black History Month in New Orleans

*Savor Southern samples this Saturday at Macy's Lakeside Shopping Center*



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**MACY'S CELEBRATES  
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## Richard Allen Stamp Unveiling Scheduled Saturday in Baton Rouge

The 39th stamp in the Black Heritage series commemorates preacher, activist, and civic leader Richard Allen (1760-1831), an inspiring figure whose life and work resonate profoundly in American history. This stamp coincides with the 200th anniversary of Allen's founding of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, one of the most important institutions in African-American life, and his election and consecration as its first bishop.

A stamp unveiling will be held at 1 p.m., this Saturday at Bethel AME Church, located at 1358 South Street, in Baton Rouge. Postmaster Sarah Augustine and a host of ministers from the AME denomination will participate in this program, which recognizes such an icon in American history.

"Richard Allen was a tireless preacher, who embraced his mission, and established a concrete foundation for others to follow in his footsteps," said Augustine.

The stamp art is a portrait of Al-

len, a detail from an 1876 print titled "Bishops of the A.M.E. Church." Featuring Allen in the center surrounded by ten other bishops and six historical vignettes, the print is from the collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Eager to establish an independent African-American church, Allen purchased an old blacksmith's shop and moved it to land he owned at Sixth and Lombard Streets. Bethel Church was dedicated in 1794 and soon attracted several hundred members, but Allen spent years in conflict with white church leaders who sought to assert their control. After a campaign that included sit-ins by African-Americans and a judgment by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the congregation secured its independence. In 1816, Allen summoned other black Methodist leaders to Philadelphia, where together they founded the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, electing and consecrating Allen as its first bishop.

Ava Duvernay  
Arts & Entertainment  
(not shown)

Jeff Johnson  
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Marc Morial  
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**McDonald's 365BLACK AWARDS**



# McDonald's and American Black Film Festival Return with National Video Competition for Rising Filmmakers

*Barbershop: The Next Cut Film Director, Malcolm D. Lee, to Mentor Finalists*

Back for its second year, McDonald's USA and the American Black Film Festival invite emerging filmmakers to enter McDonald's "My Community" Video Competition. Filmmakers are challenged to create one 90-second video that illustrates McDonald's 365Black mantra, "Deeply Rooted in Your Community." Aspiring filmmakers nationwide are encouraged to enter their best, original submissions by 11:59 p.m. EDT April 15, 2016, for their chance to win the grand prize. Three finalists will be selected to attend the 20th annual American Black Film Festival in Miami, June 15 - 19 and have an exclusive opportunity to be mentored by critically-acclaimed film director Malcolm D. Lee (*The Best Man*; *The Best Man Holiday*; *Barbershop: The Next Cut*), who will provide finalists with invaluable film industry tips and advice.

The submissions will be judged by a panel of industry experts and the top three short videos will premiere at the highly-anticipated 20th anniversary festival. Submissions will be critiqued on creativity, implementation of concept and quality. One finalist will take home the grand prize — a film equipment package valued at \$2,500 and an opportunity to have their video featured on prominent websites, including McDonald's 365Black.com and other media entities. More information about the competition can be found at [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com).

"We are proud to partner with McDonald's on bringing this opportunity to emerging content creators. Without a doubt, this competition is a catalyst for introducing undiscovered talent to



Barbershop: The Next Cut film director, Malcolm D. Lee

the industry-at-large," said Jeff Friday, ABFF founder and CEO.

"I look forward to returning as mentor to the finalists in the McDonald's 'My Community' Video Competition," said Malcolm D. Lee. "There is so much great talent out there in the film industry and it's always inspiring to connect with them and hopefully do my part to support the next generation of great filmmakers."

Furthering their relationship with

filmmakers, McDonald's is also working with writer/director/producer Reginald Hudlin (*House Party*; *Boomerang*), who will star in an All Day Breakfast commercial airing this month.

McDonald's 365Black mantra, Deeply Rooted in Your Community, will inspire what the brand does in 2016, extending to this video competition. By focusing on 'my community', the campaign provides an opportunity to showcase various communities and allow consumers

to celebrate the communities that they are part of. Not confined to just the neighborhood in which they live, 'my community' includes shared passions, hobbies, interests, churches and social organizations.

"This partnership with ABFF allows us to affect meaningful and impactful change in the communities we serve and be a catalyst in cultivating stories from African American communities nationwide through these aspiring filmmakers," said Marty Gillis, Chairman, McDonald's African American Consumer Marketing Committee. "We are looking forward to the creativity that will come out of this competition and hope that it sparks inspiration and excitement in the film industry."

Last year's winner, Richard T. Fields, won the competition with his short video "Puppy Love." The 'My Community' Video Competition and ABFF's vision to promote diversity in the film and television industry align with McDonald's 365Black platform — an initiative that celebrates the pride, heritage and achievements of African-Americans year round. McDonald's encourages those interested in the competition to follow @365Black on Twitter and join the conversation using #365BlackFilm. To learn more about the 365Black initiative, visit [www.365Black.com](http://www.365Black.com).

To learn more about the American Black Film Festival and the 'My Community' Video Competition, visit [www.abff.com](http://www.abff.com). Follow @ABFF on Twitter and @AmericanBlackFilmFestival on Instagram and join the conversation using #ABFF20.

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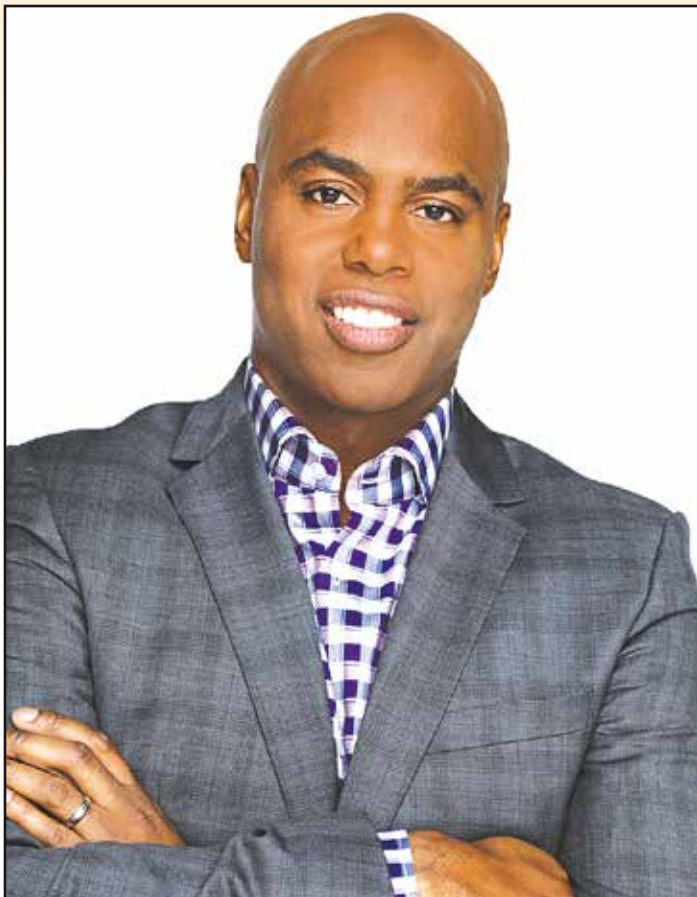
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# Chaka Khan Headlines Third Annual UNCF New Orleans Mayor's Masked Ball

*Entertainment Tonight Co-Host Kevin Frazier will Emcee*



Kevin Frazier, Co-Host of Entertainment Tonight



Grammy Award winning performer Chaka Khan

UNCF's (United Negro College Fund) New Orleans Area Office and New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu will host the third annual UNCF Mayor's Masked Ball on Saturday, March 12 at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. Emceed by Kevin Frazier, Co-Host of Entertainment Tonight, the event brings together more than 800 business, civic and education leaders in support of UNCF's work in providing area students the resources to get to and through college. Presidents from two of the 37 private historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) that UNCF supports will also be in attendance: Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough of Dillard University and Dr. C. Reynold Verret of Xavier University of Louisiana.

Ten-time Grammy Award winner Chaka Khan will provide entertainment for this signature fundraising event. Known for hits such as "I'm Every Woman," "Through the Fire" and "I Feel for You," the legendary Queen of Funk has

a career that spans over four decades. In 2011, UNCF recognized her contributions to music and education with the Award of Excellence, UNCF's highest honor, at the 32nd UNCF An Evening of Stars®.

"We are elated to have long-time UNCF friend and supporter Chaka Khan provide entertainment this year, and we're grateful for the continued support of Mayor Landrieu and the Hyatt Regency New Orleans. We are guaranteed an electrifying evening in The Big Easy, as we bring supporters and stakeholders together to invest in Better Futures®," said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., President and CEO, UNCF. "A true testament of our mission is Entertainment Tonight co-host and proud HBCU graduate and advocate, Kevin Frazier, serving as emcee; an example of our dividends becoming the next generation of leaders."

"I'm delighted to be part of one of the city's premier events," said Frazier, Hampton University alumnus. "The im-

portance of today's UNCF cannot be overstated. The mission continues and so does the need for on-going financial support. This is going to be a great party, but it's also a fantastic way to invest in the dreams and ambitions of some very talented young people."

The event will be co-chaired by Hyatt Regency New Orleans General Manager, Michael O. Smith, and President and General Manager of WDSU-TV, Joel Vilmenay. William Goldring, Chairman of Sazerac Company and Crescent Crown Company, will receive the Masked Award for his dedication and support of UNCF's work. This year's Presenting Sponsors include: LCMC Health and Ochsner Health System; Marquis Sponsors: Hyatt Regency New Orleans, Entergy, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Flower, and Mr. & Mrs. Alan Leventhal; and media sponsor WDSU-TV.

"I am honored to have two of our city's largest healthcare institutions come together to support this valuable

initiative. The joint support of Ochsner and LCMC will not only allow hundreds of local students to remain in college, but through internships and development opportunities, will further enhance our efforts to grow and retain top talent here in New Orleans," said New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

The event will feature a VIP Reception, silent auction, 2016 Nissan Maxima Car raffle donated by Supreme Automotive, and dinner provided by award-winning celebrity chefs including: Chef Leah Chase, Dooky Chase's Restaurant, 2016 Recipient of the James Beard Lifetime Achievement Award; Chef Alon Shay, Shaya Restaurant, James Beard Award Recipient; and Stephen Stryjewski, James Beard Award Recipient; and Host Chef Eric Damidot of the Hyatt Regency New Orleans.

For ticket information, please contact: [www.uncf.org/nolamaskedball](http://www.uncf.org/nolamaskedball) Follow this event on social media: @uncf #MMBNOLA #UNCF

# Why Do Politicians Treat Addiction Differently in the Suburbs?



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Newswire Columnist

Nick Cocchi would like to be the sheriff of Hampden County, an Eastern Massachusetts county of half a million people. Springfield, Massachusetts, a city that is about 22 percent African American, is the county seat. Eastern Massachusetts (and indeed, much of New England) is experiencing the devastating fallout from the heroin and

opioid abuse epidemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say that deaths from heroin overdoses have quadrupled in the past decade, and that heroin use has doubled among Whites. Thus, it is entirely appropriate that Mr. Cocchi's candidate website includes a page that talks about opioid abuse in Hampden County.

Far less appropriate, and indeed, repugnant, was a statement that Cocchi made when he testified at a November hearing before the Massachusetts Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse. According to Victoria Kim, a writer for *The Fix*, a newspaper that reports on addiction and recovery issues, Cocchi said as part of his testimony, "What was once the heroin junkie in the dark inner-city

back alley has now become brother, sister, mom, dad, son and daughter. It's hit suburbia U.S.A."

Should the issue of addiction be treated more compassionately and humanely now that it has "hit suburbia U.S.A.?" Wasn't that "heroin junkie in the dark inner-city back alley" somebody's brother, sister, mother, dad, son or daughter? This is why it is so important to lift up the Black Lives Matter movement. Cocchi has, implicitly, said that he values the person in suburbia U.S.A. more than the person in the inner city. And his characterization of the inner-city drug abuser as someone in a back alley reeks of his biases.

Bishop Talbert Swan II, the President of the Springfield NAACP and pastor of Spirit of Hope Church of God in Christ, strongly objected

to the racially coded language that Cocchi used to talk about the problem of addiction. He is not the only person who has noticed the increasingly humane way addiction is being managed as the epidemic devastates the White community, in contrast to the way addiction has been managed in the past (consider the language around the crack epidemic) or even now, when African Americans are addicts. Even Cocchi's use of is term "junkie" lacks humanity. To call someone a "junkie" is far less humane than calling them an addict.

Before voters support Cocchi in his quest for sheriff, they might push him to get some sensitivity training. They might also ask if he would treat the inner city addict differently than he would treat one

from a Hampden suburb. The larger question, though, is why there is such sudden empathy for addicts, an empathy that was utterly lacking when the increase in crack addiction devastated the African American community, and when zero tolerance policies and mandatory drug sentencing placed people who were seriously ill behind bars for decades. Addiction, after all, is more an illness than a crime.

In Gloucester, a city about 40 miles north from Boston, heroin and opioid addicts who voluntarily turn themselves in at the police station are provided with treatment services, and not charged with any crime. The program has gotten national attention. Some addicts from

**Malveaux, Continued**  
on page 11.

# Americans Must Stand Up to Disrespect of the U.S. Presidency



**Louis C. Ward**  
Data News Weekly  
Guest Columnist

Recently, retired Lt. Col Ralph Peters and Stacey Dash, both contributors on Fox News shows, blatantly disrespected President Obama on different news shows on national television. Lt. Col. Peters called our president a "total p\*\*sy," and actress Stacey Dash blurted "our president doesn't give a sh\*t about terrorism."

Bill Slieve, senior vice president of programming for both networks, announced, "Earlier today, Fox contributors Lt. Col. Ralph Peters and Stacey Dash made comments on different programs that were completely inappropriate and unacceptable for our air."

Thanks for the acknowledgment, but the damage has been done. And for me, it wasn't enough that the contributors were suspended for two weeks. They should have been fired permanently.

First, it was bumper stickers, then road signs and memorabilia disrespecting President Obama, now it's lawmakers, news commentators, and even candidates seeking the Republican nomination for president being discourteous to my president, your president and our president on national television and radio.

America, when will we stand up to those who disrespect for Barack Obama, the first African American President of United States? Freedom of speech is a constitutional right in America, but defamation of character and disrespect is not. We must speak out against impertinence to the United States presidency.

When the presidency is disrespected at home, it sows seeds for foreign countries to disrespect our president as well. Look at what China and Prime Minister

Netanyahu of Israel said to and about our president.

When he was first elected in 2008 on the platform for "Change in America," television screens across the nation showed people, representing different ethnic groups, crying because an African American had been elected President. Most anticipated a new day with a better life for African Americans in the most powerful country in the world.

A new time for all people of America to come together to make America, not only the most powerful country in the world, but the greatest country in the world, where people will be able to live in harmony and, hopefully, achieve prosperity on economic and social levels.

For a short while the future of America looked bright. The dream of Dr. King, Jr. was realized, and racism seemed to be put on hold. Unfortunately, there's always a small group of individuals within the American populace with a hidden agenda, an agenda for evil, wickedness, and the pursuit of fair-

ness, equality and justice for just a few Americans.

As soon as Barack Obama won the election, a group of individuals huddled together and vowed to thwart his agenda for change in America. Let's not be naïve, America, you know exactly who I am talking about. Many of those individuals are in office today.

But that's politics! And we all know politics is a nasty business.

In 2009, when President Obama was addressing Congress, Republican Congressman Joe Wilson shouted: "You lie!" This kind of behavior is reprehensible.

I don't ever recall anyone calling the President of the United States a liar while he addressed Congress. Why does it happen now, and why to President Obama? Can it be because he's an African America?

My take on it is yes!

Despite the small group's endeavor to continue to belittle President Obama, now in his last year, he's still continues to make great accomplishments for the people he was overwhelmingly elected twice to represent.

At the end of the day, America, you may not like the man, but you have to respect the Office of the President of the United States. It deserves our respect, our loyalty and our support. We must stand up America and demand that it receives as much.

What actions can I truly expect from writing this column? My prerogative as a writer is to raise the consciousness. Prayerfully, many will step up and hold anyone accountable who chooses to disrespect the United States presidency. If one person stands up, and agrees to say something or do something about the disrespect of our president, I have made a difference.

We must not accept the disrespect against our president any longer. Stand up, say something and do something about it, now!

Stand up America! Demand respect for President Barack Obama, and the Office of the President of the United States of America.

Louis C. Ward is a photojournalist, community activist and contributing writer to *The Orlando Times*.



# Kanye Preaches His Own Gospel in New Album, Gets Christian Acts to Come Oboard.



**Prinsey Walker**  
Data News Weekly  
Columnist

Yeezus may have found the light. If fans or curious onlookers tuned into the controversial rapper, producer and budding fashion and sneaker designer's Saturday Night Live performance on Feb. 13, they would have spotted an animated Kanye West flanked by R&B and major gospel acts. West auto-tuned his way through a performance of his new single "Ultralight Beam" from his newest album "The Life of Pablo." But then he ended his rendition caught in the Holy Ghost as a gospel choir provided background vocals to Kelly Price's praise and Kirk Franklin's preaching raps featured in the live performance. West

took viewers to church through the reverence of Price's vocals, which even had West himself falling to the floor.

It's not the first album in which West has anointed himself, much to the confusion of long-time fans. His rebirth started with his twist on Jesus, naming his sixth studio album in 2013 "Yeezus," and earning him the nickname Yeezy by fans. West's music and antics have many in the Christian community debating whether West was bordering on the sacrilegious. Young Christians say they are considering if it's safe or blasphemous to accept West's take on faith, and religion in his music.

"I love the new album. I think the second song he did, "Ultralight Beam" was phenomenal and the gospel added a lot to it," said Knox Van Horn, a freshman at New York University, and a New Orleans native.

On the other hand, Claude Albritton, a freshman student at Xavier University of Louisiana said he didn't approve of mixing rap



and gospel in the manner in which West is doing in his recent albums. "I don't like that gospel artists like Kirk Franklin are trying to compromise the word of God to reach down and bring Kanye to God," Albritton said. "I also feel like this is just an opportunity for a publicity stunt for Kanye, seeing as he has outright mocked God and Jesus Christ on several occasions and claims to be a god himself," he said.

Other West supporters, like Kristal Terrell, said she did not know where to take a stand. "I am a Kanye fan," said Terrell, a sophomore at Southeastern Louisiana University, in Hammond, La., and a native of New Orleans. "The gospel singers were great additions. However, I thought it was weird. I felt as if he compared himself to God before: like Jesus equals Yeezus. He even had a song on his previous

album called 'I Am A God.' So this new found change is confusing," she said.

It's still not clear whether West's tracks like "Ultralight Beam" came from a place of reverence to God, placed in an unusual form of artistic personal expression.

"Every artist is able to express themselves through music," said the Rev. Maurice Nutt, the director of the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University, who has examined West's recent music. "It is not just by the melody or beat of a song. It is the expression of social and political beliefs. Like him or not, Kanye will express his opinions," Nutt said.

By using Yeezus, Nutt said he did not see where West has claimed to be the new Jesus or a Messiah. "I believe that we are all in the body of Christ. Yeezus is an artsy or contemporary way of identifying who Jesus is, but he acknowledges his religious belief and standing,"

**Spirit, Continued on page 11.**

## Data News Weekly is Hiring

Data News Weekly Newspaper, The People's Paper, is hiring for two positions in our New Orleans Office.

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# Wall Street Project Seeks to Close Opportunity Gaps in Business

By Don Terry  
Special to the NNPA News  
Wire from the Rainbow PUSH  
Coalition

For Chicago-based investor and philanthropist John Rogers, the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's annual Wall Street Project in New York City is a must-attend event.

The three days of seminars and speeches in the Big Apple every winter is a chance for Rogers, the son of a Tuskegee Airman, and other African American businessmen and women to share notes and strategies on how to break into, survive and ultimately thrive in the largely White world of Wall Street by gaining access to capital.

But for African Americans, Wall Street is riddled with potholes. Many of the country's major hospi-

tals, universities and other institutions with huge portfolios to invest "have never worked with Black firms," Rogers says. "They have never had their 'Jackie Robinson moment.'"

Even now, with a Black man in the White House, Wall Street, Rogers says, can feel like "modern day Jim Crow."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, the founder and president of Rainbow PUSH, created the Wall Street Project nearly 20 years ago to spark that "Jackie Robinson moment" by providing an opportunity for participants to hear from and meet some of the biggest names in finance and politics. It was at this conference where Rev. Jackson first introduced Rogers, chairman of Ariel Investments, to the CEO of General Motors.

Today, General Motors is one of Ariel's largest clients.



Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr., (left) makes remarks during the 18th Annual Rainbow Push Wall Street Project Economic Summit as Steve Ballmer former CEO of Microsoft and owner of the Los Angeles Clippers looks on. (Rainbow PUSH Coalition)

"There is no talent deficit," Rev. Jackson says. "There is an opportunity deficit."

This is the conference's 19th year and will be held from Feb. 16 through Feb. 18 at the Sheraton New York Times Square Hotel. This year's lineup of heavy hitters includes John Thompson, CEO of Microsoft, Sheila C. Johnson, founder and CEO, Salamander Hospitality and co-founder of Black Entertainment Television and United States Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY).

There will be panels on "Corporate Finance and Equity Syndicates," "Corporate Board Diversity," "Global Economic Expansion Opportunities" and "Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Reconnecting and Sustaining Relationships with Wall Street."

There will also be two international sessions, featuring high ranking U.S. and foreign government officials. "Global Economic Expansion" will feature panelists from different industries from across the globe, including Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Minister of State, Office of the President of Ghana and the keynote speaker, H.E. Eucatio Bakale, Minister of Economy, Planning & Public Investment, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea. That panel will be followed by "The South Africa - US Business Forum" with Florizelle Liser, Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa, Mzwandile Masina, Deputy Minister of the Department of Trade & Industry, South Africa and Elizabeth Thabete, Deputy Minister, Department of Small Business, South Africa.

The Wall Street Project uses

Operation Breadbasket's model of research, education, negotiation and reconciliation to challenge Corporate American to end its shameful, multi-billion dollar trade deficit with minority vendors and consumers. "Unless we knock on the right doors, the doors will not come open," Rev. Jackson says.

Sadly, the Wall Street Project has often been a voice in the wilderness. Richard Manson, CEO and president of SourceMark, a medical and surgical supply company, says, "Had we listened and taken action" 19 years ago when Rev. Jackson started pushing for more engagement with Wall Street, more awareness of the street's vast power, "I think we'd be a lot better shape than we are now."

For Rev. Jackson, the Wall Street Project is part of "the fourth stage of our struggle" for freedom and equity. The first stage was surviving the horrors of slavery, a 242-year sojourn. The second was "the season of Jim Crow and lynching when 4,500 African Americans were lynched." The third stage was fighting for and winning the right to vote.

Those stages of the struggle left Black people "out of slavery, out of Jim Crow, with the right the vote" and almost "starving to death" because "we were denied access to capital."

"We are free," Rev. Jackson says. "But not equal. Effort and excellence means a lot. Inheritance and access means more."

Access and opening doors is what the Wall Street Project is all about.

"We have never lost a battle we fought," Rev. Jackson says. "And we have never won a battle we did not fight."



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Malveaux, Continued from page 8.

outside Massachusetts have come to Gloucester because they can't find affordable drug treatment where they live. Imagine that there were such a program for crack addicts when the inhumane "war on drugs" was little more than a war on black people. Even as I applaud the new empathy toward addicts, I mourn the years that so many have spent behind bars, denied of the kinds of "innovative" treatment options available in Gloucester.

Irreparable damage was done to the African American community, especially the inner city community, because of the draconian and racist "War on Drugs." Now, because the face of addiction has changed, so has public policy, and treatment options are preferred to incarceration options. Even as today's addicts are being treated more humanely, where is the compassion for the addicts of two decades ago, many who remain incarcerated? President

Obama's efforts to pardon nonviolent drug offenders are a step in the right direction toward repairing individual lives. Is there a step our nation might take to repair the lives of these individuals and their communities?

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available to order at [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com).



# CBC PAC Endorses Hillary Clinton

By Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire

While Sen. Bernie Sanders was in New York City dining with the Rev. Al Sharpton and courting the Black vote, Hillary Clinton scored a major coup in the nation's capital by earning the endorsement of the Congressional Black Caucus Political Action Committee (CBC PAC), an organization that works to increase the number of African-Americans in the U.S. Congress and also supports non-Black candidates who champion the interests of minorities.

The CBC PAC also promotes African-American participation in the political process with an emphasis on young voters, a group that proved pivotal in President Barack Obama's two election victories.

"When we needed someone to come and rally the Democrats and the Congressional Black Caucus, Hillary Clinton has been there," said Congressman Gregory Meeks, in announcing the endorsement on Thursday morning. "On the issues that are important to our constituents, Hillary Clinton has been there."

The organization, which is comprised of 46 powerful congressional members, noted that the Democratic Party and its constituents need a nominee with a track record of long, deep and varied service to underserved communities as well as a Democrat who has embraced diversity, with a detailed understanding of today's world, and experience working to heal the global system.

In further outlining their criteria for an endorsement, CBC



The Congressional Black Caucus PAC recently endorsed Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton.

PAC members said they needed a Democrat who has put forward thoughtful, realistic proposals on the fundamental challenges facing our nation including health care, affordable housing, education, day care, women's rights, infrastructure, voting rights, gun violence, criminal justice reform, foreign affairs, and trade all of which he or she must turn into legislation that can garner bipartisan support upon taking office.

"That Democrat is Hillary Clinton. As someone who consistently worked with the Congressional Black Caucus as a U.S. senator from New York, she supported legislation to ban racial profiling, prosecute hate crimes, and eliminate racial disparities in the healthcare system," Meeks said as New York Rep. Charlie Rangel, Congressional Black Caucus Chair G.K. Butterfield and others stood by him as he made the announcement near the

Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Meeks continued: "And she stood with us, consistently voting to raise the minimum wage, championing the Paycheck Fairness Act, and helping minority-owned small businesses. She's been our partner long term, we believe she's made a difference, and she has helped us and helped this country by helping elect Democrats across the board."

One important distinction about the endorsement is that it did not come from the Congressional Black Caucus, that organization's spokeswoman Candace Randall said.

However, the endorsement is still seen as vital as the candidates head to southern states like South Carolina, where African-Americans play a large role in the primaries.

Sanders, who won the New Hampshire primary last week, had breakfast with Sharpton in New York City at Sylvia's Restaurant, a

famous African-American eatery in Harlem.

"You can't go to South Carolina and not deal with the Walter Scott case, not deal with gun control and the ramifications of the Charleston Nine," Sharpton said in reference to the high-profile case of an unarmed black man being shot and killed by a police officer, and the attack on a black church last June that left nine people dead.

Sharpton said Sanders and Clinton must "earn" the Black vote.

Sanders did secure the nomination of famed African-American actor and activist Harry Belafonte who said the Vermont senator offers blacks a chance to declare unequivocally that there is a group of citizens who have a deep caring for where the nation goes. "I would suggest to those of you who have not yet made up your minds, or maybe even some of you who have made up your minds, to maybe consider and reconsider what it is that Bernie Sanders offers," said the 88-year-old Belafonte.

Butterfield, himself a longtime activist who is in his second year as CBC Chairman, said the nation must have a president who is knowledgeable on both domestic and foreign policy.

"Black lives are being lost on the streets of America because of police misconduct and gang violence. We must have a president that understands the racial divide," Butterfield said. "After considering the entire field, there is no question in our mind and in our minds that one single candidate – one – possesses the patience, experience and temperament."

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Spirit, Continued from page 9.

Nutt said. On the other hand, Nutt noted that West has demonstrated his spiritual beliefs through songs like, "Jesus Walks," and in other instances where West uses quotes from past Popes.

It's also not uncommon that the African American secular and gospel artistry has merged.

"This definitely isn't the first time that a well known outspoken, Christian artist collaborated with a secular artist," said Chayil Johnson, a freshman student at Johnson & Wales University, in Char-

lotte, N.C. and a native of LaPlace, La. "Kirk has already done it with Bono, Mary J. Blige, and R. Kelly," he said. "If anything, their message has grown stronger in their work, and they obviously have a strong enough faith to where they affect other artists for the positive."

Nutt also agreed, adding that the presence of gospel artists allows them to present their faith to new audiences. It may seem taboo to collaborate, but gospel artists have not shied away from controversy or criticism in the past. "Kelly Price

is known for crossing over to R & B music," Nutt added. "Also, Kirk Franklin calling upon the name of the Lord was not coming from a joking matter. His collaboration with them is an expression of faith, hope, and commentary with relationship with God," Nutt said.

West's new song, "Ultralight Beam" is a paradox, Nutt added. On one hand, a verse by Chance the Rapper uses derogatory language. On the other hand lyrics by Franklin, Price and even West are uplifting, with the song's hook, being a

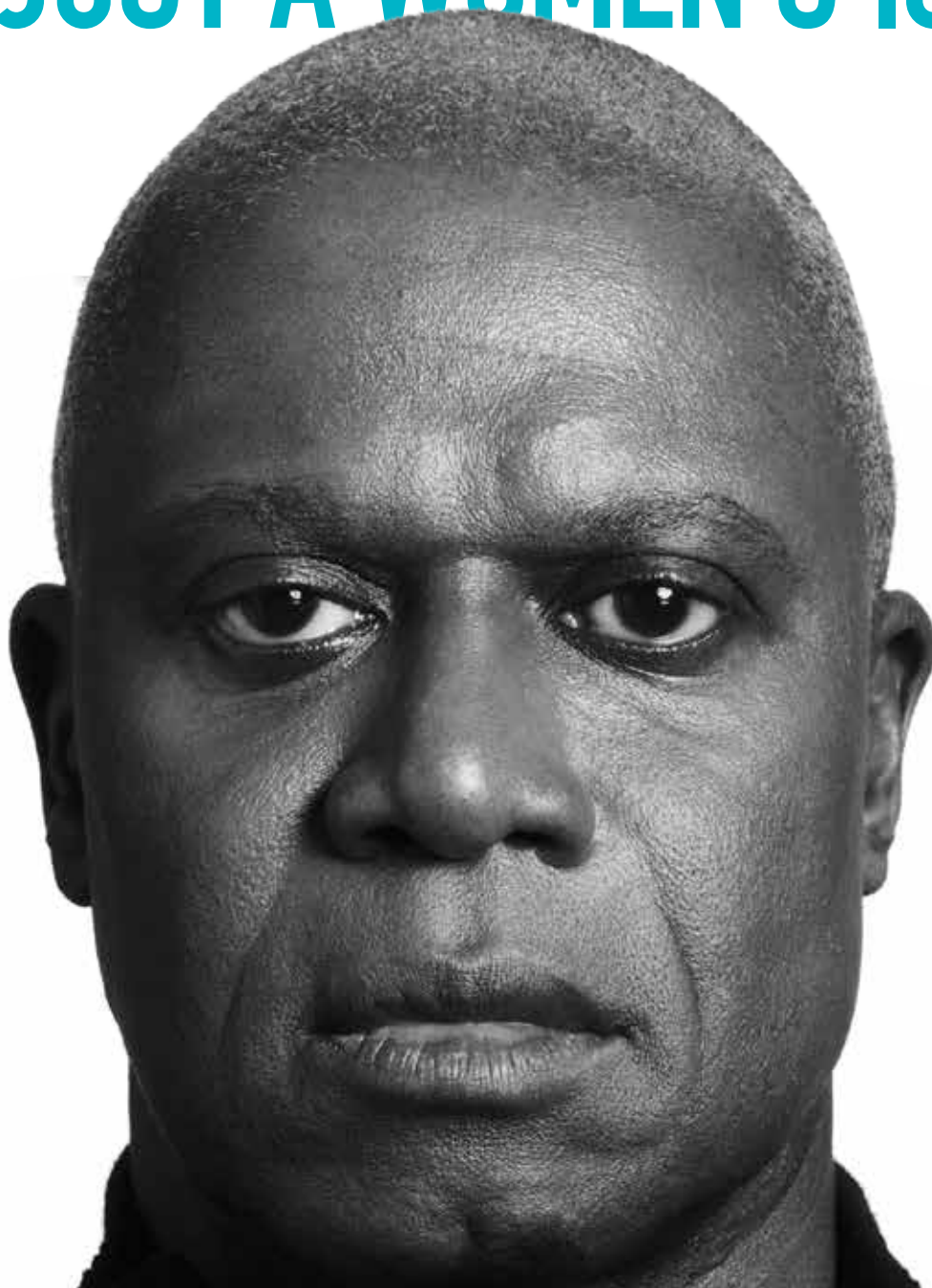
"saving grace" for the song, Nutt said.

West's collaboration and SNL performance, if taken from an artistic critique, was not intended to mock God or Christianity, Nutt said. Instead, "Ultralight Beam" expressed what was going on in West's mind and the world around him. "The lines say, 'In my holy war, no matter what, I am trying to keep my faith,'" Nutt said. "This is a commentary on something deeper and what is going on in his own spiritual journey and search."



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