

## Guards

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fering no visible resistance, according to family members, attorneys for the family and members of the public after viewing the tape. The tape was released after protests by state legislators, the NAACP and news organizations.

According to Anderson's parents, who saw their son at the Pensacola hospital after medical personnel rushed him there, he was bleeding from the nose and his body was so battered and swollen that he looked twice his normal size. Additionally, his internal organs were damaged beyond repair, making it impossible for the family to donate them. "It was a natural death," Siebert stated. "The [sickle cell] trait caused red blood cells to sickle and change shape, causing a whole cascade of events that led to bleeding and hemorrhaging."

Siebert's ruling has fueled outrage and disbelief to the point where many say that if it weren't so horribly tragic, it'd be downright laughable.

Dr. Allan Noonan, dean of the Morgan State University School of Public Health and Policy in Baltimore and a board member of the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America said that in all his years of dealing with sickle cell patients, he has yet to see a single case where someone died of sickle cell trait, the condition whereby a person has one abnormal hemoglobin "S" gene as well as a healthy, normal hemoglobin "A" gene, meaning they are merely silent carriers of sickle cell anemia but exempted from the full-blown effects of the debilitating disease.

"Attributing the death of this young man to sickle cell trait, given the punishments he was put through, does a disservice to the public and those in the sickle cell disease community," said Dr. Willarda V. Edwards, president of the Sickle Cell Association of America Inc. "It is our desire that everyone is well educated and that they know that this attempt to declare sickle cell trait as the cause of Mr. Anderson's death is not medically well-grounded. Justice has yet to be served in this case."

Similarly, Dr. Jerry Barbosa, head of the pediatric hematology oncology department at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg said it was "totally preposterous" and "laughable" that someone would die from sickle cell trait, adding that Siebert's far-reaching conclusions were simply "out of touch" with "medical reality."

The outpouring of anger and disgust is not limited to medical experts. State legislators are also outraged by not only Anderson's death, but also the untimely demise of two other youths who died while in detention centers — Willie Lawrence Durden III, 17, and Omar Paisley, 17. It is distressing given the fact that of the 600 or so detainees in juvenile detention facilities across the state, nearly half are Black or 240 out of 600, in a state where the entire Black population (including all age groups) is roughly 15 percent of Florida's total population of 17,397,161, or approximately 2.5 million.

Currently, the U.S. Justice Department is investigating the possibility that Martin Lee Anderson's civil rights were violated. U.S. Attorney Gregory Miller and the FBI are looking into the case as well.

K. Chandler writes for *Westside Gazzelle*.

# Landrieu wants to lead New Orleans

By Christopher Tidmore  
Special to Sentinel-Voice  
NEW ORLEANS

(NNPA) - On a clear, sunny afternoon last Wednesday, Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu shocked his audience. Addressing a large crowd of supporters behind the Hilton Riverside Hotel, Landrieu launched his campaign for Mayor of New Orleans by praising his main opponent-Ray Nagin.

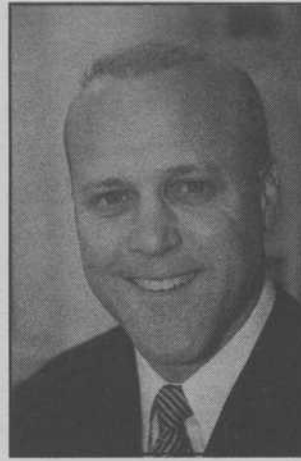
"... Join with me in giving thanks to Mayor Ray Nagin. Mayor Nagin is a good man. He is a good public servant. I like him, and you should, too. His family and he have made a tremendous sacrifice for the people of this city during our most difficult time. He did the best that he could do with what he had, and for that we owe him a debt of gratitude."

The only even implied criticism of Nagin came a bit later in the speech with a general repudiation of the pre-Katrina political world, "What was okay then, is not okay today."

The lieutenant governor's verbal tap dance reflects the growing difficulty that Mitch Landrieu faces in his campaign. Ten White candidates and only two Black candidates have announced in a race where the vast the majority of political handicappers still believe that at least half of the voters will be African-American.

Believed to be the overwhelming favorite for mayor, to make the runoff, Landrieu must woo a sizable minority of the Black electorate in the first primary or he faces being swamped by other Caucasian challengers who hawk résumés that are more conservative.

Political pundits are hedging that if Nagin wins a strong majority of Black voters in the primary, he earns a runoff spot against the candidate who wins the major-



MITCH LANDRIEU

ity of the White electorate. This poses a small, but real danger for Landrieu because for the "sliver by the river," White, country club, conservatives or expatriate Lakeviewites, Ron Forman or Peggy Wilson presents a far more attractive Caucasian alternative than Landrieu.

In a runoff against Nagin, most insiders conclude Landrieu is the prohibitive favorite. To get there, though, he must continue to show his historic strength among, at least, a large minority of Black voters and win his usual allies, New Orleans' White liberals in the Bywater, Fabourg Marigny, Vieux Carre', and Garden District — a group in which Forman has made inroads thanks to the Audubon Institute and other charitable

works.

Hence, in the speech, Landrieu spent time praising Nagin and speaking of his youth in Broadmoor, the first integrated neighborhood in New Orleans. He reminisced of growing up around the block from Oliver Thomas and Anne Duplessis (an African-American Council President and State Senator respectively) was a subtle, but clear, reference to his father's role as integrator of City Hall.

Landrieu said he wanted to be mayor of all the neighborhoods, even Audubon. The oblique reference, lightly mentioning the candidacy of his former political ally Ron Forman, drew laughter rather than political blood.

In an interview following the speech, Landrieu remained careful and complimentary about his opponents.

Of the Audubon comment in the speech, Landrieu laughed, "I just wanted to make sure everybody in the city was included in what I was talking about!"

He said, "It's all problematic because we all know each other, and we all like each other. Of course, it used to be in this town that it was kind of like a high school contest for class president. Whoever was close to whom

decided whether or not to do something. I think those days have changed. And, I think people in the city have either matured or gotten intolerant, so everybody's going to take their shot. That's okay. It's America, and everybody has the chance to articulate their vision, and try to convince people that they're the best person to lead the city. And, I think it's important that we do that... Whichever one of us wins, he has to be the uncontested Mayor of this city."

Landrieu cited Nagin's inability to reach out for advice and to find the "best practices of coordinating and communicating with people," as a huge obstacle for the incumbent mayor.

"Early in the Mayor's administration, we saw some problems," said Landrieu.

Now, he continued, "We lack credibility nationally and internationally. And, I don't think that there is much he can do to change that. It's about the nation's perception about what it is we are doing and whether people have the kind of confidence that they need. My sense is that they don't. That's not a happy thing to say. It's not something that I relish. Unfortunately, I think it's the truth. And it does a disservice to all of us."

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## Expertise Student of the Month

Latoya Jackson, Expertise Student of the Month, is a February class graduate who found her love for manicuring while giving her mother pedicures. "I do pedicures on my mom all the time. I enjoy seeing her relax." She considered going to school. "And I made it through. It took me 8 months, but I made it." She is educated in other career fields but was unsuccessful in her job search. Despite her struggle, Jackson remained determined. "[I'll have] financial freedom, [ability] to pick my own schedule, be my own boss. No one [will be] determining my worth." She chose Expertise School of Beauty. Now she's ready to take her cosmetology board exam for licensing to start work. "I feel like a new part of my life is starting. I'm ending the old chapter and starting a brand new chapter, and I'm very excited," Jackson exclaimed.



LATOYA JACKSON

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