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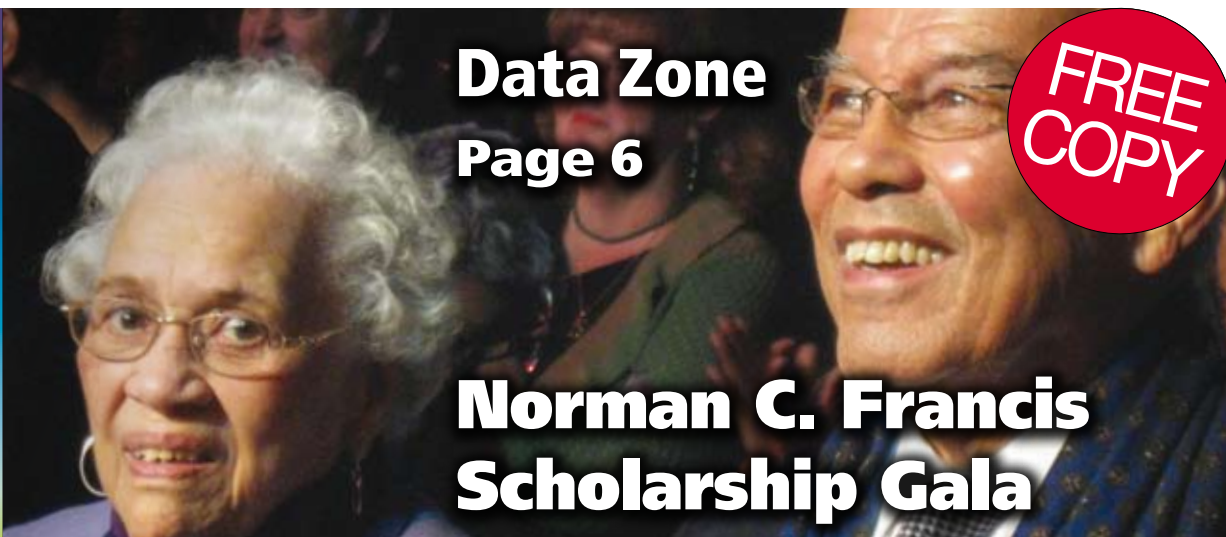
News Weekly

"The People's Paper"

Data Zone

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Scholarship Gala**

November 26 - December 2, 2011 46th Year Volume 25 www.ladatanews.com



Bayou Classic Brings Families Together

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Trailblazer
Pastor
Christopher Gordon

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Happy Holidays!

From Data News Weekly

Bayou Classic Brings People Together in New Orleans



College Queens, battling bands and fantastic football bring sports fans, college alumni, family and friends to New Orleans every year for the State Farm Bayou Classic.

By Eric Connerly

It is that time of year again, the Battle of the Cats. The 38th Annual State Farm Bayou Classic, it is a time of the year that African-Americans from across the country converge on the City for a weekend of events. It is also an opportunity for camaraderie in competition and has been given the City an economic boost during what is normally a slow Thanksgiving Weekend since its inception in 1974.

Today it has grown to become more than just a football game, but a time for a community to come together to reflect on itself and the issues that affect it and working towards solutions through positive interaction. Additionally, it has come to symbolize a time for families to come together from different parts of the country serving as a destination to hold family reunions where people gather to reconnect with

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



Highlights from last year's match up between the Southern University Jaguars and the Grambling University Tigers



The Grambling University Tiger Mascot

family, friends and loved ones. "Every year my husband and I come down to the New Orleans for Thanksgiving to visit with family and attend the game and other events surrounding it," says Gerelda Williams, a New Orleans native now living in Dallas, Texas. Continuing she says, "It is just a good time to be home and reconnect with the people you love and care about during the beginning of the holiday season."

For those coming into the City it is a full schedule of events during this fun filled weekend. Official activities include. Beginning on Thanksgiving Day after families watch the football games and stuff themselves with turkey and all the trimmings, in true New Orleans style from 4 to 6 P.M. there will be a parade that will feature the world renowned bands of Southern and Grambling as they parade from the Mercedes Benz Superdome and ending their procession at the French Market.

For those who enjoy going to the links for a round of golf, early Friday morning on November 25th at 9 A.M. with check in beginning at 8 A.M. there is the My Bayou Classic Golf Tournament at the Joe Bartholomew

Golf Course at Pontchartrain Park. Later that day at 2:00 P.M. there will be a panel discussion focusing on the importance and the future of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU's). This event will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (Celestin Room Ballroom 1) hosted by CNN's anchor and special correspondent Soledad O'Brien.

All day there will be something going on that the whole community can enjoy and benefit from. My Bayou Classic Empowerment Exchange is an all-day event from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballrooms that will offer career, college and health and technology showcases. And later that night at the New Orleans Superdome young and old will gather for the "Battle of the Bands" and Greek Show.

Saturday and Sunday will be chockfull of events for everyone to enjoy, on Saturday there will be a fan festival before and after the game in Champion's Square that is located right next to the Superdome before and after the game, with food, fun vendors and entertainment. And of course the big game with kickoff time at 1:30 P.M. and the halftime show that is always a

joy to witness. Then later that night there is the Bayou Classic House Party at Club XLIV and rounding out the weekend is an inspirational concert and brunch with a performance by LaShun Pace that will be held at Harrah's Casino Theatre from 11 A.M. to 2 P.M. Bayou Classic promises to be a weekend with something for all to enjoy and provide a great experience.

The Bayou Classic is yet another event that is a "party with a purpose" held in the Big Easy. "I have friends and relatives that have attended both schools and the Bayou Classic and the future of HBCU's is important at this stage in our history. This event is a call for unity in our community, and it is a special time of year when we get to celebrate; and I hope that the spirit of the event is something we could practice year round," says Corey Anderson, a New Orleans native and third year Pharmacy Student attending Xavier University. Continuing he says, "It is an opportunity for alumni to give back and young people to network." In its nearly four decades the Bayou Classic has grown and continues to reach more people and making an impact on the City of New Orleans.



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Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas

Historic Armstrong Park is Re-Opened

Mayor Landrieu was joined by the New Orleans City Council and City officials as they re-opened Louis Armstrong Park to the public. Beginning today, the park will be open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

"Armstrong Park is one of our City's greatest cultural and historic treasures and the re-opening today is long-awaited for all New Orleanians," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "We committed to unveiling a beautifully refurbished Armstrong Park before the end of the year, and today we made good on that promise."

Parts of Armstrong Park opened to the public on May 9, 2011. Phase I was completed in 2009 under the previous administration. The Landrieu administration has led the way on renovations and repairs in Phases II and



The City has reopened Louis Armstrong Park to the public. The park is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily.

III, which were completed this week.

District E Councilmember Jon Johnson said, "This park has been a staple in the history and fabric of New Orleans, as it is the original site for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, and honors one of this City's great-

est sons. It is with a profound sense of joy that we celebrate its' reopening. We proudly look forward to continuing the legacy of Congo Square and Louis Armstrong Park. Even as 'Satchmo' stands proudly in the center of this park, the citizens of New Orleans too stand with pride as we

mark the return of such a gem to this great city."

Several sculptures in the "Roots of Music" Cultural Sculpture Garden were also unveiled today, including the Congo Square sculpture by Adewale Adenle (\$180,000), French Opera House sculpture by Steve

Kline (\$200,000), Buddy Bolden sculpture by Kimberly Dummons (\$180,000), The Brass Band sculpture by Sheleen Jones (\$200,000), Mahalia Jackson sculpture by Elizabeth Catlett (\$250,000) and Big Chief Tootie Montana sculpture by Sheleen Jones (\$200,000). Sculptures were paid for by funds from the Wisner Donation.

Louis Armstrong Park sits on 30 acres in the Tremé neighborhood which also includes the Mahalia Jackson Theater for the Performing Arts, Congo Square, and the National Jazz Historical Park's Perseverance Hall. The site also includes the Morris F.X. Jeff, Sr. Municipal Auditorium, where FEMA is currently assessing damage and repairs related to Hurricane Katrina.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu closed, "I'd like to thank Deputy Mayor Cedric Grant and his Capital Projects team for their hard work in getting this park reopened and to where it needs to be for our community."

Rev. Jackson rallies Occupy NOLA protestors



On the eve of a solidarity march planned Thursday in downtown New Orleans, the Rev. Jesse Jackson made a surprise stop to Occupy NOLA in Duncan Plaza.

In an intimate setting inside Duncan Plaza, Occupy NOLA activists listened intently while Jackson addressed the crowd.

"The government shouldn't bail out the banks first without

bailing the homeowners first," he said.

Home and church foreclosures, student loans, unemployment and worker's rights were just some of the topics the civil rights icon discussed including his support of the Occupy Wall Street movement that's branched out into parks nationwide.

"Those who've lost their homes

ought to be here. Churches facing foreclosures ought to be here. Those who've lost their jobs or live in the 9th Ward ought to be here," the reverend said. "This is a people's movement, and it's global."

The civil rights leader's words inspired Occupy NOLA activists, members concerned that their assembly could be shut down by the city of New Orleans.

"There are rumors going on all the time and with every crack-down in every other city it raises the expectation that the same thing would happen here. We call on the mayor not to do that," said Occupy NOLA activist Mike Howells.

Park or no park, Jackson encouraged Occupy NOLA participants to stick to their cause.

"The Occupy NOLA movement needs to be as mobile as the spirit is," he said.

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Pastor Christopher Gordon

Food For The Soul

by: Edwin Buggage

He is a man who is a spiritual leader and one who is leading a church with roots in civic involvement. As Pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, that was once led by the great Dr. Rev. A.L. Davis Jr. who was a beacon light in the community during the Civil Rights Movement. Today the church still stands at the corner of Third and LaSalle Street where the vision is still the same, helping to uplift a community.

Pastor Gordon in his many years in the ministry has always been dedicated to using the pulpit for social good. "My father was a minister and I observed him," states Gordon. Continuing he says, "I always knew it was important we recognize that God has put all of us here for a reason, and that purpose is serving God and humanity and to make the world a better place."

On ministering a church that has historical significance in the African-American community and continuing in that tradition he says, "Dr. A.L. Davis Jr. was a pioneer in Civil Rights and did so many positive things in this community, and I try to do what I can to keep that spirit alive," says Gordon. Continuing his remarks on the historical legacy of the church he says, "I have done many things especially since Hurricane Katrina, we were a station for people to receive much needed services after the storm. We have also helped people who needed volunteers in helping restore their houses and also we have used the church for candidates to hold political forums and I try to open the doors to give people in the community the opportunity to share their concerns and interests."

As young people especially, young males, are absent from the pews and are disillusioned about civil action, Pastor Gordon is on the frontlines trying to address this issue, "I feel there is a disconnect and we are all to blame, we have not passed on the legacy of struggle in a positive way to



young people about the heroes of the past and making them realize the opportunities and access they have and that many of the things they do today were not always possible," says Gordon. On taking steps forward in repairing this disconnect he says, "It is important that we begin to rebuild the foundation of our community and I believe many of the problems wouldn't be as prevalent and that will begin if we embrace our spirituality." Continuing he says, "I try to impress upon young people that many struggled to get us to where we are today, and that it is their responsibility to contribute and try to leave the world a better place, go out and vote or other ways they can be involved."

He says that New Zion is involved in remedying this situation by opening its doors to young African-American males. "The men in our church on the first Saturday of every month, we have outreach where we have activities for young men; it is important for us to build in a more holistic way if we are to save souls and realize it goes beyond the church doors. It

doors open in spite of lack of resources. He says before Hurricane Katrina he had many programs and has plans to reinstate many of them moving forward. "Before the storm we had after school programs for the kids, as well as a host of other things for people in the community and that is something we plan to do." On the importance on the Black church he says, "Our goal today in the community is about increasing our visibility and viability to meet the challenges of people today."

Pastor Gordon is an inspiration and gives his recipe for the qualities necessary for a life dedicated to service. "We need to understand that we have come this far by the power of God Gratitude. The second quality is responsibility, people need to be responsible for our community and I feel it is time out for blaming other people, although it is true they may be destructive arrows thrown at us but we have to take responsibility to uplift our community as our fore parents did. And thirdly recognition of the worth of each individual. That we realize the importance that it is not a few but all of us have the power to uplift, to give and serve one another. Pastor Christopher Gordon is marching on in the struggle in his mission to serve God and humanity. And for his service and commitment he has been selected as the Data News Weekly Trailblazer for the month of November.

JMJ
Joseph M. Jones
Continuing Education Fund



Norman C. Francis Scholarship Gala & Concert

Xavier University recently held its Annual Norman C. Francis Scholarship Gala and Concert. It was a night of great entertainment as the audience was treated to local favorite John Boutte and international superstar Al Jarreau and Data News Weekly was there.



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*By ACAC.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2011

10:00 a **Kwanzaa Ceremony** with Mama YéYé
Imagination Tour (dance & drum workshop) with Bamboula 2000
Noon **Community Leaders Luncheon and Open House**
6-9 p **Reception** Featuring Dorise & Tanya, Monica McIntyre and Mia Borders

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2011

10:00 a – 8:00 p.m. — Vendor Marketplace
Noon Kuumba Institute Showcase
12:30 p Ujima Project
1:00 p College Unbound
1:30 p Health Nutz
2:00 p Knowledge is Born
2:15 p Lucky Lou Bounce Extravaganza
3:00 p The Jones Sisters
3:45 p Phillip Manuel
4:45 p Sharon Martin
5:45 p Bamboula 2000
7:15 p Rebirth Brass Band
Sistahs Making a Change

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011

1:00 p – 8:30 p Vendor Marketplace
1:00 p Golden Voices Gospel Choir
2:00 p John Mosley & Friends
3:00 p Lloyd Daly & Friends
4:15 p Michaela Harrison
5:15 p Gina Brown
6:30 p Donald Harrison Jr. Quartet
7:15 p Ayana Molina
7:30 p Zion Trinity

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Efforts of Grace, Inc./Ashé Cultural Arts Center is funded in part by the Ford Foundation; the Open Society Foundations; the Nathan Cummings Foundation; the W.K. Kellogg Foundation; the Lambert Foundation Fund of Tides Foundation; the Kresge Foundation; the JPMorgan Chase Foundation; the Edward Wisner Donation; HBO/Spike Lee; the Greater New Orleans Foundation IMPACT Fund; the RosaMary Foundation; the Transform New Orleans Fund; Cox Charities; the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation; the Webb Connect Foundation Fund; the International House of Blues Foundation; a Community Arts Grant made possible by the City of New Orleans as administered by the Arts Council of New Orleans; the State of Louisiana and the City of New Orleans; the National Performance Network; and other foundations, corporations and individuals. Efforts of Grace/Ashé Cultural Arts Center is also supported by a grant from the Louisiana Division of the Arts, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, in cooperation with the Louisiana State Arts Council. The grant is administered through the Arts Council of New Orleans.

Photo: Golden Richard

Mia Borders

Rebirth Brass Band

Donald Harrison

Photo: Nativia Orleanian

Fine Photography



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Photos by Kichea S. Burt



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Penn State: How Many of the Victims Were Black?



Danny J. Bakewell, Sr.
NNPA Columnist

The molestation of a child (any child) is a sick and heinous crime. The allegations against Gerald "Jerry" Sandusky the long time coach at Penn State University and founder and primary fund raiser behind The Second Mile Foundation has captured the attention of the worldwide media and has brought an end to the face of Penn State University (Joe

Paterno) along with the school President, Athletic Director, many of its assistant coaches and for the most part its entire football program. However, while the allegations of sexual abuse and child rape sicken almost everyone who is within an ears shot of this scandal. The resulting cover up or veil of secrecy which has been ongoing for the past 12 years may be more heinous than the alleged crimes themselves. While state and federal law prohibit the identity of a sexual crime victim from being released (no matter what age) it is interesting that no one is discussing the race of these young victims. Which also leads one to ask if these boys would have been young white males would the code of silence and veil of secrecy remained so strong and so quiet for so long?

The Second Mile Foundation was started as a Group Home in the State College Area (home of Penn State). According to both the grand jury report as well as the Second Mile website as "a program to work with troubled boys and grew into a charity dedicated to helping children with absent and dysfunctional families". What has not been disclosed or a topic of conversation is that many of the alleged victims are African American. According to Pennsylvania foster care records 48% of all children in out-of-home care are African American and 53% of all children in foster care are males with an average age of 11-years-old. Aubrey Manuel, President of the California State Care Providers Association (CSCPA) stated that, "These percentages are very similar to California." The likeli-

hood that the majority of these children are African American is overwhelming. "Particularly given that these kids were in a program, that the state foster care population is over 50% African American Males and that the Second Chance Foundation client base is poor, underprivileged and foster children and that the coach (Sandusky) used sports as a major recruiting tool to get close to the victims it would not be a risk at all to believe that at least half of the Penn State victims were Black Boys. The victim population most likely reflected that of foster care population."

Throughout the grand jury report are stories of young boys between the ages 9 and 12 years old. All recruited and involved with Sandusky through the Second Mile Program. Furthermore,

in almost every account someone saw lewd and lascivious acts being conducted upon children ranging from oral sex, to actual anal intercourse between Sandusky and these children. Much has been discussed about the graduate assistant coach Mike McQueery actually witnessed the anal sex act and later reported it to then Head Coach Joe Paterno. Joe Paterno did report the allegations to Athletic Director who later interviewed McQueery and then reported back that "they had taken away Sandusky's keys to the locker room". McQueery was never questioned or interviewed by campus or city police.

But what about the report or failure to report the instance by

Bakewell, Continued

on page 10.



An Important Message from Medicare

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— Shirley Caesar



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We've Only Just Begun



Terry B. Jones
Publisher

The elections are now over and we congratulate Clare Jupi-

ter in her run-off win in the race for Judge in Civil District Court Division E. And we congratulate all the winners, but today the real work begins. And the work is not solely for those who were elected; it is about us the citizens to do our part. For in the words of CNN's Anderson Cooper, we must keep them honest.

Although our numbers were still low at the polls we must keep in mind that those elected work for us the citizens. In these tough times it is up to us to become more

civic minded. We must know that our future is at stake and the decision lawmakers make can and will affect your future. So today it is important to put the power back into our hands and make a difference.

Today I ask you to begin to get aware, and get involved. We have to remember we are still the majority of the City's population and we must begin to flex our muscles at the polls and in the community-at-large. New Orleans has experience changes like at no time in

its recent history and we must be part of the decision making process of the City moving forward. We must ask questions such as where will our places be in the City, what are the plans for certain parts of town, what type of education will our children receive and what will happen to the Black population? Not simply those who lived in inner-cities or public housing but the middle-class as well. As we look around where Black homeowners live these communities are still not as far along in the

recovery process as other parts of the City.

Today, I ask that we begin not only to ask questions, but to organize and get involved. And as the People's Paper Data News Weekly will give voice to those who want to take a stand to fight the righteous fight. So we cannot continue to be a house divided, but a house united as we move ahead. Always remember the power is in the people not the politicians, so take control and have a hand in shaping the future of your City.

CNN's Soledad O'Brien Moderates The My Bayou Classic HBCU Institute



Moderated by CNN's Soledad O'Brien, The My Bayou Classic HBCU Institute will offer an opportunity for serious discussions about the future of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

While the Bayou Classic centers around the most celebrated rivalry in HBCU football, the HBCU Institute seeks to use this occasion to cultivate the common ground between the two schools and foster larger conversations about ongoing challenges that impact all HBCU institutions.

While the Bayou Classic centers around the most celebrated rivalry in HBCU football, the HBCU Institute seeks to use this

occasion to cultivate the common ground between the two schools and foster larger conversations about ongoing challenges that impact all HBCU institutions.

Panelists:

Dr. Frank G. Pogue - Grambling State University President

Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr. - Southern University System President

State Representative Patricia Haynes Smith - House District 67

Dr. Lezli Baskerville - NAFEO (National Association For Equal Opportunity In High Education) President & CEO

Read more about HBCU Institute <http://www.mybayouclassic.com/event/hbcu-institute>

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More than 100 Black Colleges, Universities are Fighting Proposed Spending Cuts

NNPA Newswire

Special to the NNPA from The Washington Informer

A coalition of more than 100 colleges and universities are fighting to persuade Congress and the special supercommittee not to cut \$85 million or more in federal funding. The coalition consists of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO), the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf), and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF).

These organizations, which collectively represent the 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and 50 Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs), are opposing proposals that will cut federal funds to HBCUs by \$85 million or more and would zero out support for PBIs. Coalition representatives said the proposed funding cuts would come on top of \$30 million in cuts already made in HBCU funding.

"The colleges that would have to absorb these cuts serve students who employers are counting on as the next generation of engineers, scientists, teachers, doctors and nurses," said Michael L. Lomax, UNCF president and CEO. "Their education is being threatened at the worst possible time--in the midst of an economic downturn that is already making it hard for them to stay in school and graduate."

Colleges face a double-barreled threat. Funding cuts could



Michael L. Lomax, UNCF president and CEO (pictured) says of HBCU students, "Their education is being threatened at the worst possible time--in the midst of an economic downturn that is already making it hard for them to stay in school and graduate."

be contained in the supercommittee recommendations or made through the normal appropriations process for the current fiscal year. The three organizations support funding levels contained in an appropriations bill passed by a Senate Appropriations Committee for the Departments of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education. They oppose the sharply-lower levels proposed by House appropriators.

The coalition seeks to rally students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators and all supporters of HBCUs and PBIs to get their senators and representatives to persuade supercommittee mem-

bers not to cut the deficit by disinvesting in higher education. The supercommittee has until November 23 to submit recommended budget reductions and revenue increases.

"Cutting federal support for HBCUs would shoot an already-weak economy in the foot," said TMCf President and CEO, Johnny C. Taylor, Jr. "In addition to the students they educate, they impact more than 180,000 jobs, including professors, counselors, staff members and others. Local businesses and national companies depend on the money that the colleges, their employees, and students spend. Their total economic impact is estimated at

over \$13 billion."

NAFEO, TMCf and UNCF have been leading a tough fight to gain support of Members of Congress to ensure they understand the consequences additional budget cuts will have for HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). In April of 2011, this coalition marched on Capitol Hill and urged support for protecting the maximum funding for Pell Grants, continuing funding for Title III, Part B (undergraduate and graduate programs) and Title III Part A, and continuing funding for the HBCU Capital Financing Program.

In October of this year, HBCU presidents visited the District to

advocate for HBCUs, and MSIs, and urged protection of HBCU and PBI funding through Fiscal Year 2012 and the supercommittee deliberations. In October, more than 10,000 HBCU students wrote letters thanking the Obama Administration for its support for full funding for HBCUs and telling their stories of how federal funding for HBCUs is enriching their educational experience.

"Republican and Democratic Presidents have made funding HBCUs a national priority as have successive bipartisan majorities in Congress, in recognition of the fact that HBCUs and PBIs are vitally important to stimulating the economy, preparing excellent, diverse, workers, putting Americans back to work, and meeting the human services needs of traditionally underserved communities," said NAFEO President and CEO Lezli Baskerville "HBCUs are great national resources of leadership in the sciences, technology, engineering, mathematics, education, health and the environment. They contain costs at a time when the costs of college are increasingly beyond the reach of the masses. HBCUs and PBIs are the best return on investment in the higher education arena. It would be disconcerting if Congress or the Super committee decides to reduce the deficit without raising revenues and by cutting funding for HBCUs and PBIs, the primary incubators of diverse human capital to make the nation thrive."

Bakewell/ Continued from page 8.

then elementary school wrestling coach Joseph Miller who witnessed an incident one evening in 2006 or 2007 but failed to report it for almost 5 years. Or Steven Turchetta an Assistant Principal and head football coach at a local high school who testified that "Second Mile program is a very large charitable organization that helped children who are from economically underprivileged backgrounds and who may be living in single parent households." Turchetta testified that he witnessed on more than one occasion Sandusky removing the boy from class and ultimately heard of the sexual assault allegations by the boy's mother, who called the school to report the

sexual abuse.

Sandusky and Penn State are both considered culpable in these sickening crimes. Sandusky because he not only used his relationship with Second Mile to gain access to the boys and preyed on the very vulnerability that The Second Mile Foundation was supposed to be assisting these boys with overcoming and making them stronger men. As well as Sandusky used his relationship with Penn State to give these children access to a football program known worldwide and is an icon in Pennsylvania and in College Park in particular, which is where Sandusky lured these boys with gifts, trips and access that grown

men would be overwhelmed with let alone 9-13 year old boys from impoverished homes and foster care facilities.

Penn State, because they knew about these allegations and improper events and actions almost 15 years ago, did nothing but turn a blind eye. It is outrageous and sickening that this 67-year-old man is alleged to have done to a few as 9 and now allegedly up to 23 boys, all who came from broken homes in the poorest parts of the community who were only looking for guidance and someone to look up to.

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Congress Passes Some of the Obama Jobs Measures



President Obama shows his approval after signing into law two provisions of the American Jobs Act Congress unanimously passed last week.

NNPA Newswire

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Congress unanimously passed two provisions of the American Jobs Act during the week of Nov. 14, although the passing of those provisions may do little to bring down the country's high employment rate.

Contractors will no longer have a tax-withholding requirement and corporations will receive tax incentives for hiring veterans. The measures were among the few parts of the president's proposed jobs agenda which has received bipartisan support in Congress.

"I want to congratulate Republicans and Democrats in Congress for coming together to pass these tax credits that will encourage businesses to hire America's veterans," President Barack Obama said in a statement. "No veteran who fought for our country should have to fight for a job when they come home."

GOP senators are asking Obama to invite Sen. Scott Brown (R-Mass.), to the signing ceremony because Brown wrote the legislation on the withholding tax.

"I would like to call on the president this morning to invite Sen. Brown down to the White House for the signing ceremony, which would show the American people that cooperation is indeed possible," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) told The Hill.

Obama has not indicated whether Brown will be invited, instead calling on Congress to pass the remaining measures of his American Jobs Act.

"This is a good first step, but it is only a step," Obama continued. "Congress needs to pass the rest of my American Jobs Act so that we can create jobs and put money in the pockets of the middle class."

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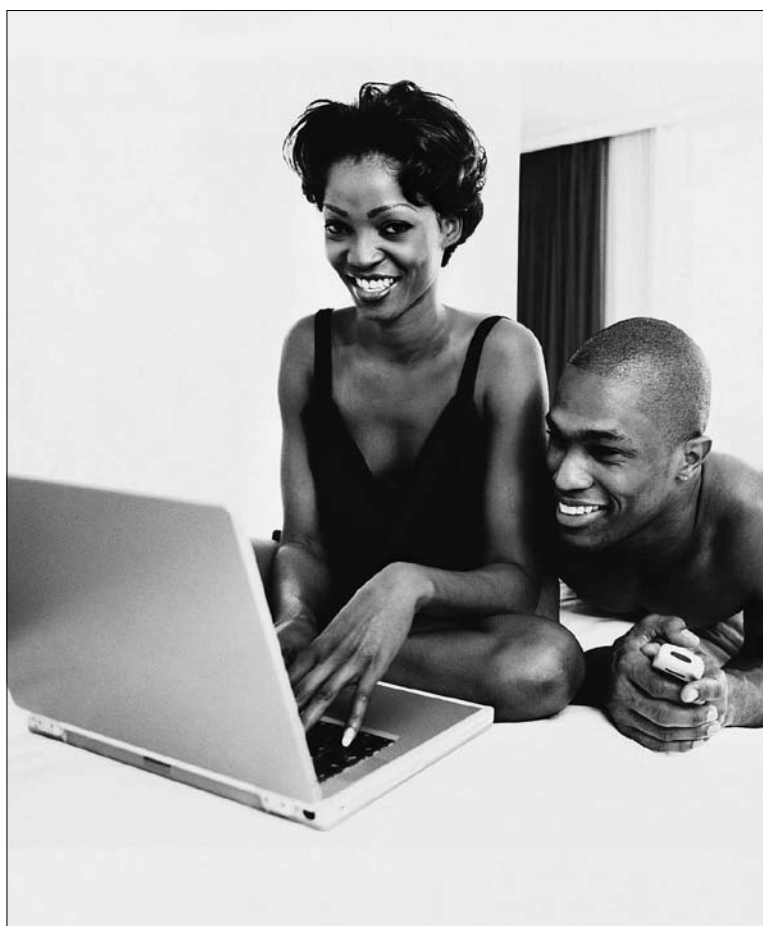
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