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New Orleans

Data

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A Victorious Send Off

Data Zone Page 6

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



Nicole Slack Jones

iSing for Change

Page 2



Newsmaker

Derek Bardell
Secures Higher
One Grant

Page 5

Data Zone

French Quarter
Festival



Page 7

Nicole Slack Jones iSing for Change

Internationally renowned singer addresses the plight of young girls across globe with Back to Church Concert in New Orleans



Pictured above, Nicole Slack Jones who's vocal talent has been compared to Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin

By Edwin Buggage
Photos by Glenn Summers

As we are in the season of Easter or Resurrection Day as some know it, it is a time where our spirits

are renewed and our faith in God's mercy and grace are celebrated. It is a time where understanding the significance of the life, purpose and mission of Jesus Christ, which was to serve the underserved. And to give them hope that they can have eternal life and

internal peace in this life if they were to make a sacred covenant with God.

Too often we in the United States look at the world through a very small lens, limiting our view thinking that the way things are in this country it is the same

On the Cover: From left to right are Elder Ernest Dison, Nicole Slack Jones and First Lady Dison of St.Paul C.O.G.I.C.

Cover Story, Continued
on next page.

INSIDE DATA

Cover Story	2	Commentary.	8
State & Local News . . .	4	In The Spirit	9
Newsmaker	5	National News	11
Data Zone	6		

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



St. Paul C.O.G.I.C. Choir joined Nicole Slack Jones on stage for her "Back to Church" concert.



Nicole Slack Jones and back-up singers.

elsewhere. But across the globe young girls and women are not reaching their full potential because of lack of educational opportunities. In today's world, girls and women need extra attention when you look across the globe girls make up a disproportionate number of out-of-school children, and two-thirds of nearly 775 million people lacking basic literacy skills are women. These inequalities persist despite numerous studies that show how educating and empowering girls and women transform communities, improving health, improving governance and driving development.

As we move into the 21st Century the issue of educating young girls is of the utmost importance. And it is a woman from New Orleans who with her amazing talent has become a major global voice for change. Nicole Slack Jones is an internationally renowned vocalist who has traveled to over twenty countries singing and inspiring people with her amazing voice. Speaking about what she has seen

in respect to young women she says, "I am stunned by what I see with young girls who have so much talent and ability, but not much opportunities to realize their dreams and in my small way I try to do something about that with iSing for Change"

Over the years Jones have been holding Master Classes with young people across the globe and here in New Orleans at her alma mater John McDonough Senior High School that was chronicled in Blackboard Wars on the Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN). She has been on the forefront with her work with young people especially young girls across the globe. An effort that did not go unnoticed, and because of her work she was approached by UNESCO (United Nations Educational and Scientific Organization) about taking on a role as an ambassador in a project aimed at empowering young girls across the globe. "I am honored to take part in this great mission, but I believe that it is something I have always been committed to as I have seen young

girls not just in the many countries I travel to but even at home, not getting the support they need, and this was already my mission so to partner with UNESCO is a great honor; and it is my hope to change the lives of young women."

Under the leadership of Director-General Irina Bokova, UNESCO has made Girls' and Women's Education and empowerment a major priority, as demonstrated by its Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education. The Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education has been successful in leveraging innovative mechanisms and programs to advance Girls' and Women's Education in Sub-Saharan Africa. "iSing for Change" program founded by New Orleansian Nicole Slack Jones and Aurelie GIBARU, will expand this initiative while sharpening its focus on culture and creativity. Recently, Slack-Jones did a launch event in New Orleans at the St. Paul Church of God in Christ located in the Lower Ninth Ward Church led by Elder E.W. Di-son Sr. where her gift for song was

first recognized. On that night the church was ablaze with the amazing energy of Slack-Jones who has been compared to Mahalia Jackson and Aretha Franklin. "This is only the beginning of what I hope will become a movement where people can understand the importance of education for all people and that can be an asset society and to humanity," says Slack-Jones.

Although she is embarking on this project of benevolence, she is also gearing up for the global release of her album. It is a departure from her gospel roots, but still is a spirit filled record. On music's biggest night after the Grammy's, WWL did a profile on Nicole as she revisited her childhood home in the Lower Ninth Ward and the story chronicled her journey to being a major international star who is presently signed to the same management company as the late King of Pop Michael Jackson. "I am excited about the release of the record and I have an amazing team working with me. And it is even more exciting to be not only an ambassador to

helping people understand New Orleans but now young girls around the world," says Slack-Jones.

Moving forward she believes that under the umbrella of the Global Partnership for Girls' and Women's Education, iSing for Change is a program that will use art education to foster creativity to empower girls and women, around the world and Nicole Slack Jones hopes that people continue to support the organization's mission. "This program is about giving young women what they need to be their best selves and I feel my role in this is based on the foundation in my life that was set by my parents, my father the late Phillip Matthew Slack Sr., my mother Judy Slack and my belief in Jesus Christ who lived to give and serve others and that is what I am trying to do is to serve others and make the world a better place for all to live both abroad and at home here in New Orleans."

Stallings Gentilly Playground Booster Club Inaugural Event

The Stallings Gentilly Playground Booster Club, a newly formed organization, held its first community event which attracted citizens of all ages. Festivities began with warm welcomes by the district's Councilwoman, Susan Guidry and the SGPBC President, Kendra Crawford and also Dr. Dwight McKenna. The commu-

nity goers enjoyed live music and performances by Chuck Perkins, Chief Montana (Darryl), Kyndra Joi and Band and The Flute Man, Reginald Prograis. This is one of many events to be sponsored by the Stallings Gentilly Playground Booster Club in an effort to rebuild and support the playground's sports teams.



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UnitedHealthcare Teams Up With IRONKIDS to Energize Louisiana Youth by Sponsoring IRONKIDS Race in New Orleans



Photo Credit: Cheryl Gerber

From L to R: Darrell Guy, director of the Boys and Girls Club of New Orleans (checkered shirt), and local club members are pictured with April Golenor, president, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Louisiana, and mascot Dr. Health E. Hound at the UnitedHealthcare IRONKIDS New Orleans

held Saturday, April 12 at South Shore Harbor Marina. UnitedHealthcare and IRONKIDS provided 100 complimentary registrations to the Boys and Girls Club of New Orleans, and also made a \$3000 donation to the organization to support youth health programs.

Local Educator Secures Higher One Grant

Derek Bardell, an Adjunct Professor of Business Administration at Delgado Community College has received a grant from the prestigious Higher One Organization to convene a Financial Literacy Boot Camp Conference in recognition of April being designated as Financial Literacy Month nationally. The purpose of the grant is to help empower the local community with financial tips and useful resources for making prudent financial decisions. Professor Bardell says he and his team wanted this conference to be as practical and informative as possible in hopes of attracting a sizable cross section of attendees and to inspire other organizations to join in our efforts. "This is just the prelude of what is yet to come" and Bardell envisions more initiatives such as this in the near future to further engage the community.

As an award-winning and highly regarded educator, Der-



Derek Bardell

ek Bardell has spent nearly two decades in education serving on K-16 levels in either faculty, administrative, consultative or policy making capacities. He has been lauded by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship and the University of Kentucky College of Education and our own Data News Weekly as well as numerous other business and edu-

cational organizations. Bardell says he enjoys hosting events like this because it enables him to connect with and serve the community-at-large on a grand scale. Professor Bardell is an

alumnus of St. Augustine High School and Dillard University. He also holds two graduate degrees from Tulane University.

The Financial Literacy Boot Camp Conference will take place

on Monday, April 21, 2014 from 9:30 am - 6:00 pm in the Dolphin Den Room of the Student Life Center at Delgado Community College City Park Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

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A Victorious Send Off for Malcolm Jenkins and Roman Harper

Kendal Francis, Data News Weekly VP of Advertising Glenn Jones and friends gathered to celebrate Malcolm Jenkins & Roman Harper prior to them leaving New Orleans. The theme of the evening was celebrating being Victorious at the Victory Bar.

Malcolm & Roman are more than just

two players that helped bring the first Super Bowl Championship to the Who Dat Nation; they have been Saints to our Community. The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation generously contributed to the Blessed 26 Organization, supported the Urban League College Track programs.

The Malcolm Jenkins Foundation is

committed to youth development initiatives and programs which emphasize mentorship, character development, leadership, education, life skills, health and recreation.

Roman Harper displayed his heart via Harper's Hope 4*1 Foundation. The mission of the Harper's Hope 4*1 Founda-

tion is to strengthen families and enhance their emotional, social and spiritual health through programs, enrichment activities, and economic development. Data News Weekly wishes the best of luck to both Malcolm and Roman!



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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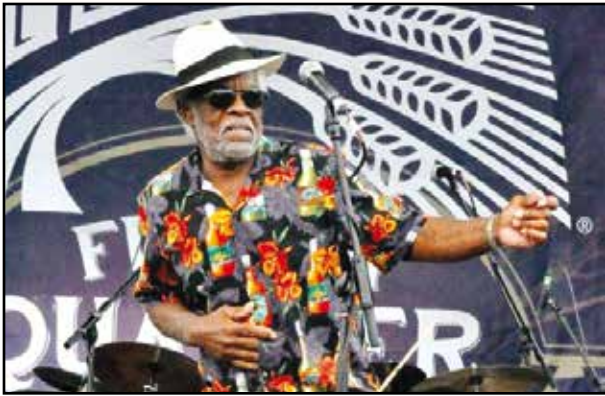
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31st Annual French Quarter Festival Breaks Records

Photos by Kichea S. Burt and Terry Jones

Beautiful weather provided the perfect backdrop for the record breaking attendance at this year's French Quarter Festival. With over 700,000 fans enjoying the sights, sounds and tastes of the event, it's no wonder that this is one of our favorite festivals. Here are some of the highlights of the festival, because you know, of course, Data was there!



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

To Be Equal

Ryan Budget Represents the Height of Irresponsibility



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

"Affluent Americans would do quite well. But for tens of millions of others, the Ryan plan is a path to more adversity." Robert Greenstein, President of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

In the same week that we marked the 46th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and learned that 7.1 million Americans had enrolled in the Affordable Care Act, House Budget Committee Chairman

Paul Ryan introduced a draconian 2015 budget plan that increases military spending through 2024 by \$483 billion – to pre-sequester levels – yet cuts non-defense spending by \$791 billion.

This illogical plan proposes to repeal the Affordable Care Act, end Medicare as we know it, and slash critical safety-net programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP – formerly food stamps), Head Start and Pell Grants. It is ironic that a plan called the "Path to Prosperity" is nothing more than a path to political grandstanding and partisanship that has no place among constructive efforts focused on real prosperity for all Americans, not a select few.

At a time when Americans are looking to Washington for solutions to the problems of income inequality and the ever-increasing Great

Divide, the Ryan budget goes in the opposite direction. Rather than closing the gaps, it exacerbates the problems by raising taxes an average of \$2,000 for middle-class families with children, according to the Office of Management and Budget, while giving the wealthiest taxpayers a break by lowering their taxes from 39.6 percent to 25 percent.

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) estimates that the "prosperity proposal" would result in the loss of 3 million jobs over the next couple of years, thereby reversing the gradual upward trend in job creation. In short, the Ryan budget, while not surprising in its familiar ideology or fanciful push towards austerity, represents the height of irresponsibility and is a blueprint for disaster for millions of hard-working Americans. It has immediately, and rightfully, drawn widespread condemnation.

Ethan Pollack, Senior Policy Analyst with the non-partisan Economic Policy Institute concluded that much like the budget Ryan proposed last year, this one burdens seniors, the disabled, and children – while cutting taxes for the rich. "Tax cuts for people who don't need them and economic insecurity for everyone else is grossly irresponsible budget and economic policy," he added.

The non-profit Center on Budget and Policy Priorities reports that "Some 69 percent of the cuts in House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan's new budget would come from programs that serve people of limited means. These disproportionate cuts...contrast sharply with the budget's rhetoric about helping the poor and promoting opportunity."

The Center for American Progress called Ryan's plan "the same

conservative, top-down policies that have failed the nation's middle and working-class families, seniors, and the economy," while the New York Times called it "Destructive to the country's future."

Thankfully, spending for the next two years was set by the budget agreement passed in the Senate and the House and signed by President Obama in December 2013. So it is unlikely that the Ryan budget will become law in the short-term or is for anything more than show. Nonetheless, it is a dangerous "vision" for our nation. The National Urban League strongly rejects this budget because of its likely destructive impact on employment, the economy and poverty. We urge Paul Ryan and his colleagues to drop this plan and get serious about developing a responsible budget that does not

Commentary, Continued
on page 11.

'Hammerin' Hank' Aaron Slugs it Out with Obama Attackers



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
NNPA Columnist

Major League Baseball's home run king, Henry Louis "Hank" Aaron has just knocked another one out of the park. But this time, Aaron wasn't on a baseball diamond. Aaron stood up boldly on the national stage and blasted a political home-run against Republicans who have made a sport of attacking President Obama.

In a recent interview with USA Today, Aaron, now 80 years old, said, "Sure, this country has a black president, but when you look at a black president, President Obama is left with his foot stuck in the mud from all of the Republicans with the way he's treated..... The bigger

difference is that back then they had hoods. Now they have neckties and starched shirts."

The occasion was Aaron's 40 anniversary of breaking Babe Ruth's home run record on April 8, 1974 with his 715th home run.

In the aftermath of Aaron's comparison of Republican opponents of President Obama to the Ku Klux Klan, there was a firestorm of criticisms aimed at Aaron, particularly in social media. Some baseball fans who preferred to retain a safe image of Aaron socking one into the stands and never revealing that deep down inside, he's a man's man.

Criticism over his use of the KKK analogy is nothing compared to what Aaron went through while chasing Ruth's record.

"I was being thrown to the wolves. Even though I did something great, nobody wanted to be a part of it. I was so isolated. I couldn't share it," Aaron said. "For many years, even after Jackie Robinson, baseball was so segregated, really. You just didn't expect us to

have a chance to do anything. Baseball was meant for the lily-white. Now, here's a record that nobody thought would be broken, and, all of a sudden, who breaks it but a black person [Bobby Bonds]."

But instead of been cheered, Hank Aaron, the ultimate gentleman, was receiving hate mail and death threats on a daily basis.

A reporter asked Aaron why he kept copies of hostile letters that he had received four decades earlier. He replied, "To remind me of the past and the present." One letter that he received in the past read, "You are not going to break this record established by the great Babe Ruth if I can help it..... Whites are far more superior than jungle bunnies. My gun is watching your every black move."

Other letters expressed similar views.

"It wasn't just the thousands of hate letters and death threats. He could handle those," teammate Dusty Baker recalled. "It was the isolation. He couldn't even stay in the same hotel as his teammates.

His name was listed in one room, and he checked into another. Constantly, he had a security guard at his side."

Baker also said, "Hank never showed his fear, but we did. I remember one day we were told that there was going to be this guy in a red coat that was going to shoot Hank in Atlanta. Hank told us not to sit by him on the bench. Me and Ralph (Garr) couldn't concentrate one game. We kept looking for the guy in the red coat the whole game. Hank acted like it didn't bother him, but I know there was a lot of pain."

Another former teammate, Rich Casanova, recounted, "He told me, 'I don't want to be in this situation. What do I gain by breaking Babe Ruth's record? But what am I supposed to do, quit playing? Quit hitting homers? I got to do my thing?'"

Brother Aaron has never been one to be fooled by curve balls on or off the field. And that's why he was a vocal supporter of the Civil Rights Movement and now President Obama, who knows what it's like to receive that kind of hate mail.

In that sense, Aaron is following in the rich tradition of Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali, Bill Russell, Jim Brown and other sports legends across the years who have used their celebrity status to support the freedom struggle in America.

Aaron said, "We are not that far removed from when I was chasing the record. If you think that, you are fooling yourself. A lot of things have happened in this country, but we have so far to go. There's not a whole lot that has changed."

Thank you, Hank Aaron. May all of our up and coming athletes have the courage and success of Hank Aaron. May all of our elected officials also grow stronger backbones to effectively withstand Republican repression. In the spirit of Brother Aaron, let's hit more home runs for freedom.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr. is president of Education Online Services Corporation and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and can be reached for lectures and for other consultations at:

Spiritually Speaking...



James Washington
Guest Columnist

By James A. Washington

When life gets really upside down with me spiritually, I get anxious and scattered. If not reminded by those closest to me, I get a gentle nudge from my wife to remember my perceived angst has nothing to do with the answers to my problems. God's already taken care of that. When I eventually calm down (and I always do), most of my current issues are related to time or my perceived lack thereof. It's then that I

hear a sermon titled "There is no such thing as an emergency in eternity," by Dr. Freddie D. Haynes III, Senior Pastor of Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas Texas. He reminds me and you that for those who claim Christianity, we err if we think God's time must somehow be reconciled with our own.

We all tend to want what we want now, immediately, including those things we ask God for. It's an unspiritual by product of the fast paced world in which we live. Be saved now. Answer my prayer now. Solve this for me now. Deliver me from this job, this person, this situation now. Some of us even have the nerve to question God's judgment based on the amount of time we perceive Him to be taking to get around to our situation. Prayer is compared to texting waiting for God to text us back. One thing I

have learned the hard way I might add, is that God will answer and His answer will be right on time. His! It (the answer) will be one of three things: yes, no or not now. If you're honest with yourself, the truth in this is hindsight that suggests God should be thanked for not giving you that which you begged and pleaded for. Was it a job? Maybe a person, some man or woman you couldn't live without? How often can you give example after example that had you gotten what you prayed for, when you prayed for it, it would have been the worst possible thing that could have happened? It is now a certainty to you and anyone who knows you that it would have been a disaster. Some things I've learned through prayer. God delivers when He knows you can handle and or appreciate the blessing He is about to bestow.

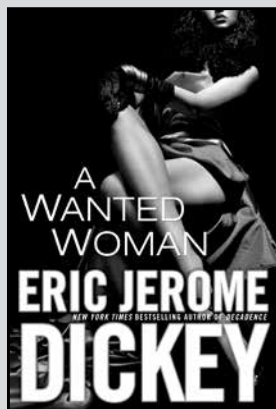
That saying that most of us believe is biblical that God won't put anything on you that you can't handle cannot be proven by me. Many a time I have known I couldn't go another further. And then something happened. God got me through it. I don't know how but I do know it's because I placed it in God's hands and truly let it go because I certainly couldn't deal with it. Let go. Let God. Jesus has already done the dirty work. "...It is not for you to know the times or the dates the father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." Acts 1:7-8. This power I believe is evident when patience and prayer align and reveal to us that there is indeed a divine reason for us to experience whatever it is that we're going through. Without these trials and tribulations, there can be no

wisdom. Unless you submit to the will of God, there can be no salvation. Without salvation, prayer cannot be answered. My own salvation lets me know that until I could give it all up to God, I couldn't and didn't appreciate anything that was, shall we say, provided to me for my own spiritual good. We see right past these things, these people who are placed in our lives to insure that we understand how blessed we really are when we are in a rush, when we are about to lose our minds, when we are so caught up in this world that we think this is forever. Well let me let you in on a little secret. It's not. Once you trust the truth in this, like Abraham, there will be a ram that appears in the bush. And then you'll understand that joy really does come in the morning.

May God bless and keep you always.

Book Review

A Wanted Woman



A Wanted Woman
by Eric Jerome Dickey
c.2014, Dutton \$26.95
/ \$31.00 Canada 451
pages

If there's one thing you've learned in life, it's that the Boy Scouts were right: Always Be Prepared.

Look ahead and get ready for what's next. Don't leave your guard down. Cover all bases and expect the unexpected. Still, as you'll see in the new novel "A Wanted Woman" by Eric Jerome Dickey, there are some things you simply can't foresee.

She was known as MX-401.

It wasn't always that way; when she was born, she was named Goldilocks to spite her father, who refused to think a Bajan man and a black woman could have a white child with yellow hair. And yet, it was he who laid claim to her when her mother died, and it was he who taught her to fight with hands, feet, and brain. It was he, known as Old Man Reaper, who reluctantly allowed her into The Barbarians, an organization feared around the world.

Few men had earned the M or the X before their agent numbers, but MX-401 had. She was a "woman with a thousand

faces," she was the best of her father but with her own style, much to the chagrin of her superiors. To them, she was a loose cannon but they sent her to Trinidad to do a job nonetheless.

It was supposed to be an easy kill. Intel placed the target – a high-ranking politician – at a party held by the Laventille Killers, a gang of ruthless drug lords who practically ran the island. MX-401 had her orders – to eliminate the target at all costs – but things went horribly awry.

The target wasn't where he was supposed to be and she had to kill him in broad daylight, along with three others, including two LK guntas. She knew it wasn't sanctioned. It wasn't according to plan, which would anger her superiors, but she didn't know just how angry they were until they hid her in Barbados – and left her there.

Barbados was purgatory. It was an island-prison, and the Barbarians refused to send help. What's worse: Barbados was a short Jet-Ski ride from Trinidad, and the LK would never let things slide...

Whooo-eee. "A Wanted Woman" is one of those books that gets so under your skin that you're compelled to turn to the last sentence early, just to reassure yourself that the main character lives. (And don't bother. You can't tell).

It's Die-Hard-meets-Jackie-Brown-meets-Chuck-Palahniuk, but with rocket launchers. It's fast-paced, gruesome, and violent with wry veins of surprising humor and one of the smartest secret agents you'll ever meet. Author Eric Jerome Dickey excels at making his thriller heroines over-the-top resourceful and steel-tough, and MX-401 is no exception. This book had me at the introduction, and it's a miracle that I didn't rip its pages because I was turning them so fast.

You should've already figured out that this isn't Beaver-Cleaver territory; "A Wanted Woman" is filled with bloodshed and profanity, but there's nothing iller than a thriller like this. If an action-packed book is what you need, grab it – and be prepared.

New Orleans Assessor's Office Upgrades Professional Development Certification of Staff



The New Orleans Assessor's Office celebrates the certification and recertification of 16 Deputy Assessor's at the Louisiana Assessors Association annual meeting recently in New Orleans. Pictured are, from l., Marina Kahn, Keith Lavigne, Jacquelyn Frick, Assessor Erroll Williams, David Mejia, Aisha Malvoisin, Brent Ardeneaux, Lisa Ross, Thomas Sandoz, James Miketa and Albert Coman.

Assessor Erroll Williams congratulated nine employees with their Certified Louisiana Deputy Assessor pin at a ceremony recognizing their completion of the Louisiana Assessors Association professional development course. Those getting pinned, and receiving a certificate of achievement, are:

Brent Ardeneaux, Albert Coman, Jacquelyn Frick, Keith Lavigne, Aisha Malvoisin, David A. Mejia, James Miketa, Lisa Ross, and Thomas Sandoz.

Seven employees who are already Deputy Assessors were also recertified at the annual LAA Banquet, held recently at the Royal Sonesta Hotel. These are:

Darren Mire, Claude Mauberret, Juan Cousin, Marina Kahn, David Soublet, Russell Almaraz and Rhonda Williams.

Since becoming the sole Assessor for the Parish of Orleans, Assessor Williams now requires all executive level employees to complete professional development training consistent with the profession. All office appraisers must also be professionally certified.

Assessor Williams is a Certified Louisiana Assessor and holds a Louisiana Real Estate license. He has more than 35 years experience in public service. He received his Masters in Business Administration from Tulane University.

Black Students Receive \$25,000 a year Buick Scholarships

By Freddie Allen
NNPA Washington
Correspondent

ATLANTA (NNPA) – After attending a prestigious, pre-

dominately White private school, Ty'Quish Keyes yearned for a new cultural and educational experience. Keyes mother pushed him to excel in school and his community because she knew

that college was the best way out of their crime-ridden North Philadelphia neighborhood, that held few opportunities for young, Black men.

In 2011, Keyes visited Morehouse College and found students and faculty that supported Black excellence and self-motivated, young Black men. It was a perfect fit for Keyes.

Keyes earned enough scholarships to pay for his first fall semester at Morehouse College, but when his mother applied for a loan to help cover tuition and expenses for the spring semester of his freshmen year, she was denied. During the first weeks of the spring 2012 semester, Keyes scrambled to find scholarships and raise enough money to continue at Morehouse. He watched as some of his classmates in similar financial straits were forced to abandon their college dreams, and the North Philadelphia native wondered if he would be next.

"I was freaking out," said Keyes, recalling those nerve-

racking hours, weighing whether to study for tests or complete assignments for classes, unsure if he would make it to the next week.

Keyes learned about the Buick Achievers Scholarship Program through connections at Morehouse College and applied, thinking that he had nothing lose.

Under the program, students are eligible to receive up to \$25,000 per year to attend a four-year college. Every year the scholarships are awarded to 100 first-time freshman or existing college students and is renewable up to four years and one additional year for those entering a qualified five-year engineering program, according to program's website, BuickAchievers.com.

To qualify, applicants must also plan to pursue STEM-related (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) programs or a select number of design or business-related courses of study.

College majors available for the Buick Achievers scholarship

include: automotive technology, chemical engineering, computer engineering, computer information systems, mechanical engineering, automotive design, accounting economics, international business and business administration. The full list of eligible majors can be found at www.BuickAchievers.com.

The scholarship award process also gives special consideration to applicants who are the first in their family to attend college, minorities and veterans.

The funds for the scholarship come from the GM Foundation, not the General Motors Company, according to the scholarship's website.

Karen Nicklin, the manager of educational initiatives for the GM Foundation and Corporate Relations, said 3,300 students have received \$16.5 million to make their educational dreams come true. The Buick Achievers Scholarship Program has awarded \$4.7 million to nearly 450 Black students, nearly half of them the first in their family to go to college.

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Black Newspapers Reach Out to the Hip Hop Community Through Core DJs 10th Anniversary in Miami

(NEW YORK) The National Newspaper Publishers Association – The Black Press of America – and the Hip Hop Union will kick-off the 10th Anniversary of the Core DJs Worldwide Conference with a luncheon and panel discussion Saturday, May 3rd, 2014 from 11 am to 1 pm at the Holiday Inn Miami Beach, Fla.

NNPA, a federation of approximately 200 Black newspapers, and the Hip Hop Union, a governing body of businesses and entrepreneurs, has selected the largest DJ coalition in the world to launch a national campaign to bridge the generation gap in Black America.

"This is long overdue," said Cloves Campbell, chairman of the NNPA and publisher of the Arizona Informant, "There is so much each generation can offer the other, all for the betterment of our people."

The Black newspapers are sponsoring a national contest, "The Road to the Core," inviting all aspiring Hip Hop and R&B Artists to compete in a friendly song competition in their local communities to be judged by their peers, celebrities and executives.

The grand prize winner will perform live at the Core DJ's kick-off



Pictured above, Cloves Campbell, Chairman, National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA).

luncheon with an all-expense paid trip to Miami, and will receive coverage in Black newspapers across the country and on BlackPressUSA.com, the NNPA's primary digital platform.

In addition, there will be a Digi-waxx Media blast, a digital mixtape and a private one-on-one mentoring session with Jaz O, the man who discovered Jay Z. Second-place prizes include the selected song played at the Black Press Luncheon

and an article in a local NNPA paper and feature on the digital mixtape. 10 Third-place winners will be mentioned in local newspapers and featured on the digital mixtape distributed at the Core DJs 10th Anniversary Conference.

NNPA Chairman Cloves Campbell said, "The work that Tony Neal and his network of DJs are doing is transformative and we need to be a part of it."

At the Black Press luncheon,

"The Greatest Mix of All" will feature a panel discussion on how to mix the power of Hip Hop and the power of the Black Press for the betterment of Black America. The panel will be moderated by George E. Curry, editor-in-chief of the NNPA News Service, who moderated a session on the Business of Hip Hop at Rev. Jesse Jackson's Wall Street Conference in New York City hosted by the Hip Hop Union.

"I am excited about the collaboration between the Black Press and the Core DJs," said Jineea Butler, president of the Hip Hop Union whose Hip Hop column is syndicated by the NNPA. "This could be the gathering that solves the Hip Hop Dilemma and benefits everyone."

Submissions for "The Road to the Core" will begin on March 28, 2014 and end on April 8, 2014. The winner will be chosen April 30, 2014. Time is of essence so log on to www.hiphopunion.org for contest rules, prizes and details. To register for the Core DJs Worldwide 10th Anniversary Conference, go to www.coredjsworldwide.com. To find the local NNPA newspaper in your community, go to this link: <http://nnpa.org/about-us/nnpa-member-papers/>

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

depend on hurting millions of working and middle-class Americans to benefit the richest few.

I would expect that Rep. Ryan would be more conscious of the critical need to accomplish this, especially as this year's State of Black America report and the new Black-White Metropolitan Equality Index™ finds that three of the five least equal cities in America for unemployment and two of the five least equal cities for income are in his home state of Wisconsin (Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Madison; and Milwaukee and Minneapolis, respectively). With an equality index of 23.8 percent (on a 100-point scale), Madison ranked at the bottom for Black-White unemployment (18.5 percent vs. 4.4 percent). With an equality index of 40.3 percent, Minneapolis ranked at the bottom for Black-White median household income (\$28,784 vs. \$71,376).

The night before Dr. King's April 4, 1968 assassination, he said:

"The question is not, if I stop to help this man in need, what will happen to me? The question is, if I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?...Let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation."

We can start now by stopping the Ryan budget – and even more importantly, stopping its budget-cutting fever that threatens the economic health and recovery of our nation.

Marc H. Morial, former mayor of New Orleans, is president and CEO of the National Urban League.

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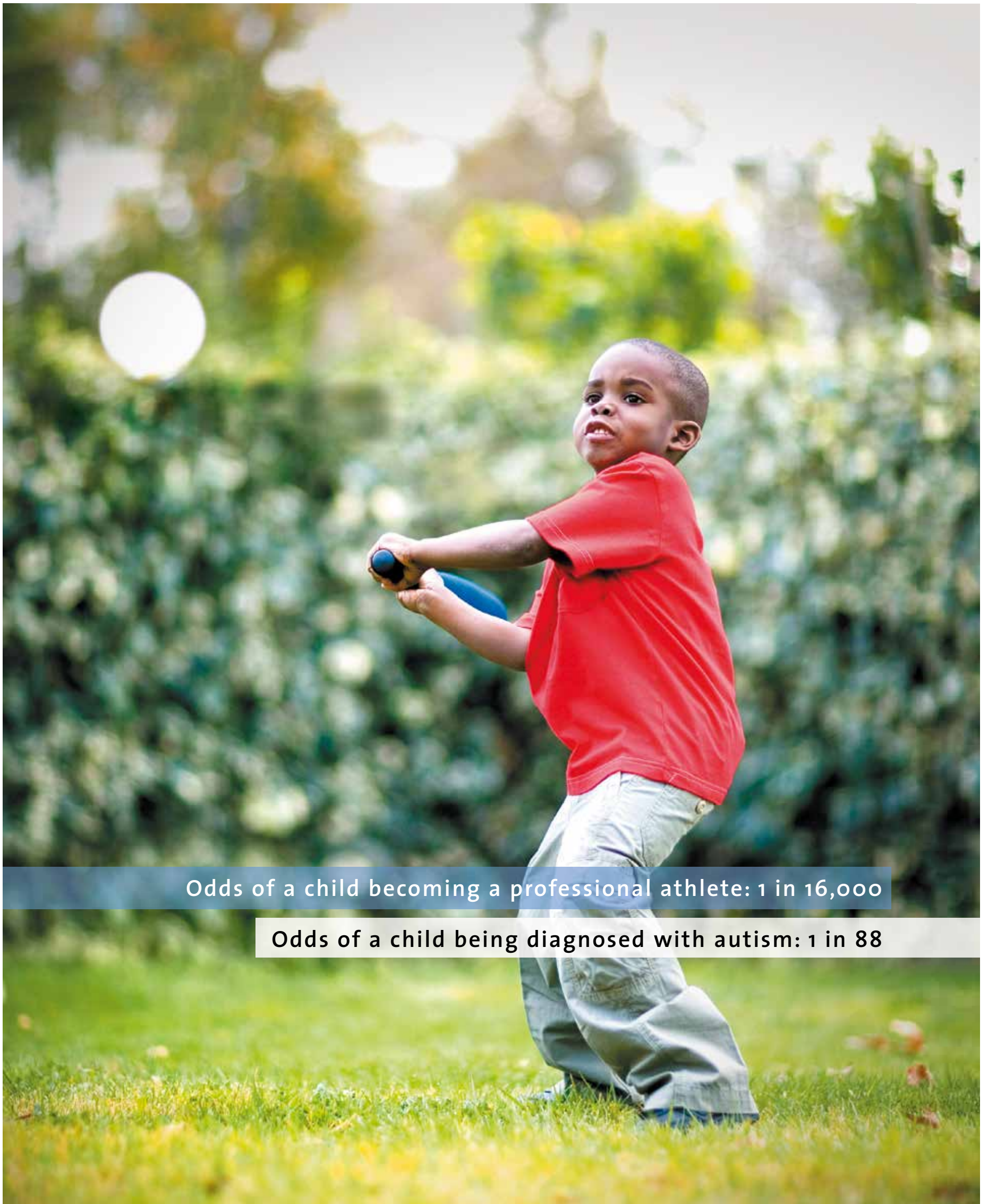
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