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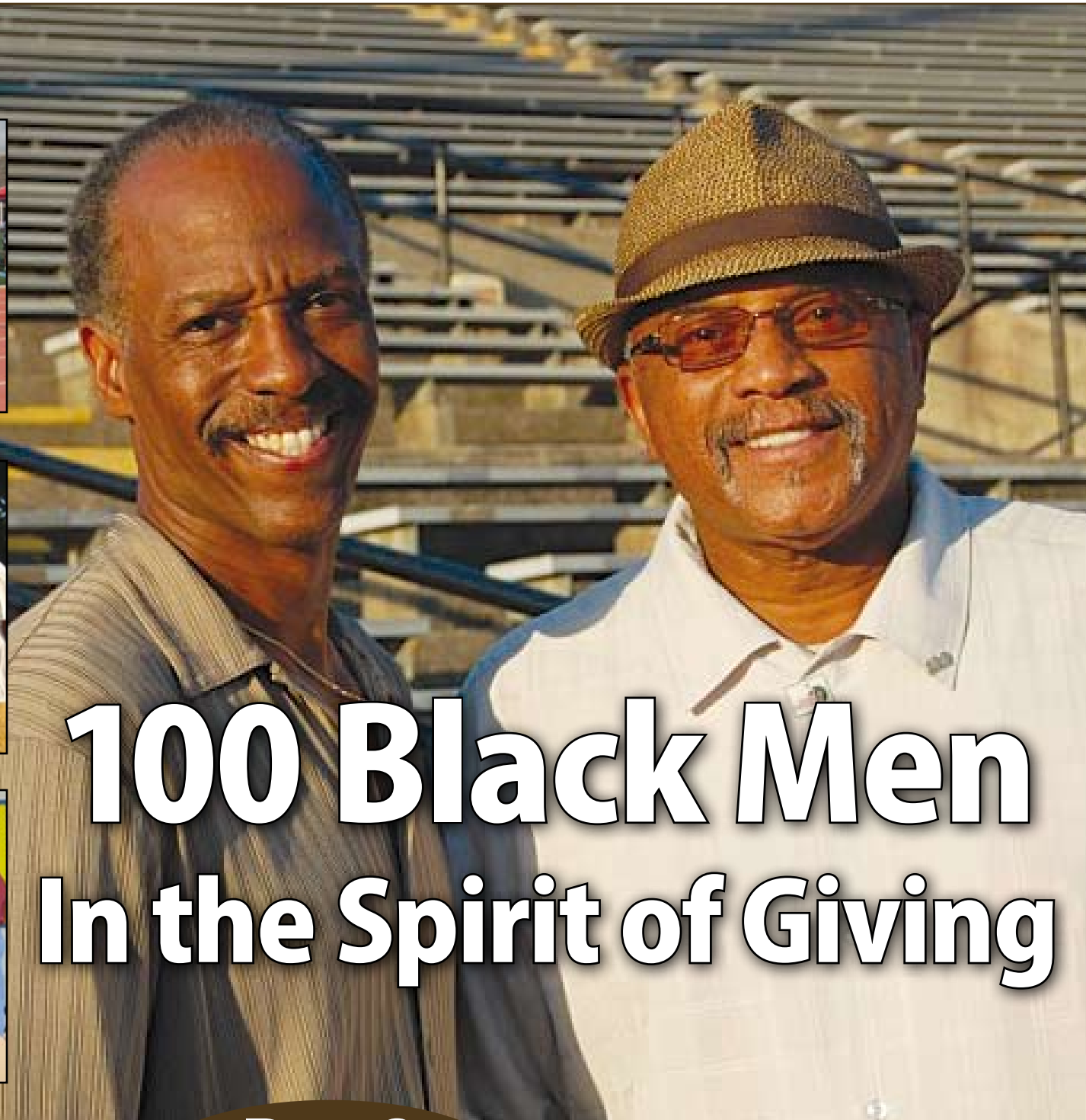
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Jay Z & Kanye Sitting on the Throne of Hip-Hop

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100 Black Men In the Spirit of Giving



The 100 Black Men of New Orleans sponsors the Tommie Smith Youth Track Meet. The program is named in honor of 1968 Olympic 200m Champion Dr. Tommie Smith. Pictured left are some of the youth participants in the 2011 Tommie Smith Youth Track Meet held at City Park and right are volunteers at the meet.

By Edwin Buggage

In the season of giving the 100 Black Men of New Orleans is giving back to the young people of the City. This is an organization that's mission is to mentor and provide support to the youth preparing them to become leaders in the City of New Orleans. "Our key role is that we mentor and provide hope and opportunity for our youth," says Gerald Brooks, Chairman of their Scholarship

Gala. Speaking of the event and how its changed lives he remarks, "Over 20 years we have given 200 students scholarships to college, we try to provide young men with options to the streets and a life of crime. We stress getting an education and establishing yourself in society and that's the way to be a success in life."

The organization has a rich history of uplifting and inspiring young people. 100 Black Men of America, Inc. was founded in 1963 and has more than 10,000 members worldwide with 115 chapters. Its mission is to improve the quality of life

and enhance educational opportunities for African-Americans. Members of The 100 continue to serve as a strong force in the world by overcoming the cultural and financial obstacles that have limited the achievements of some African-Americans, particularly young African-American males.

Kevin C. Hill, President of 100 Black Men of Metropolitan New Orleans commented, "Since the inception of our chapter, we have been a formidable force in serving New Orleans and the surrounding communities. We recognized early on during our tenure, that if our City was going to thrive, it was im-

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Cover Story, Continued from previous page.



Collegiate 100 Black Men of Dillard University and the 100 Black Men of Metro New Orleans came together to mentor at Miller McCoy.



Tommie Vassel of 100 Black Men and 1968 Olympic 200 Champion Dr. Tommie Smith



Kevin Hill is President of 100 Black Men New Orleans



Gerald Brooks is Chairman of the Scholarship Gala



100 Black Men of New Orleans Event volunteers at City Park for the Tommie Smith Youth Track Meet.

portant that we take a frontline approach in addressing some of the issues that plague our community. Education, mentorship, health and wellness and economic development have been our leading initiatives." Hill also added "Focusing on the youth is important now more than ever and we will continue to develop and implement programs that positively impact the lives of our youth and the citizens of New Orleans."

The 100 Black Men of New Orleans are also involved in sponsoring other events including the Tommie Smith Track Meet, "We had over 8000 young people come out to the event and we are glad to be involved in things that give our youth something positive to participate in," says Brooks.

As many problems plague young Black boys, the 100 are dedicated to righting the wrongs and directing young people to a brighter future. "We are very serious about enlightening our kids, we encourage them and show them how to dress appropriately, we show our youngsters how to carry themselves with dignity and respect," remarks Brooks. Adding, "We want to prepare them to go out in society

look, feel and be distinguished in their presentation and carry themselves with pride and be great examples in the community they represent."

While their work is having a positive impact they know that much more needs to be done, "We are doing our part by contributing, but we recognize that all hands need to be on deck for us to solve some of the problems in our community," says Brooks. Continuing he says, "We have kids that we may help, but then they may have a poor home life or other things that steer them in the wrong direction, this is something that has to stop, we cannot continue to allow our children not to have a chance at being successful, it is all of our responsibility to help our young people."


The 100 Black Men New Orleans Chapter has been in existence for over two decades and continues to be active in many civic projects around the City and continuing to grow its ranks, "We have many dedicated men in our organization, but we are always looking for positive foot soldiers to build our community and give our men another avenue of fellowship," says Brooks.

Today New Orleans is a City

that is resurrecting itself and the 100 is a positive force for change. Brooks says that many people are always talking about the problems but many do not offer solutions. He feels the time is now for people in the community to take responsibility for all the children and lend a hand in shaping the future of the City by giving them the things they need to contribute in a positive way to society.

New Orleans is a City known for its culture, and its great food and Gerald Brooks uses this as a metaphor when describing to the youth his recipe for a successful life, "Be dedicated, educated and believe and with these three things the flavor of your gumbo will be excellent because you will have everything you need to have a prosperous life."

The 100 Black Men continues the legacy of helping young people and inspiring them to reach higher and its record of success with its many programs and initiatives shows that with a little encouragement and nurturing the lives of our young people, the sky is the limit and they can reach their full potential.



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Tying a New Tradition

Wilbert "Chill" Wilson held Mr. Chill's Tie Tying: Tying a new tradition, where he brought men together from around the community with one goal in mind saving the next generation. **Photos by Glenn Summers**



Wilbert "Chill" Wilson addressing mentors and mentees at tie tying event



Nathanael Scales teaching mentee how to tie a tie.



Author, Educator and Motivational Speaker and event sponsor, Dr. Calvin Mackie giving advice to his mentee.



Kenya Smith and his mentee Matthew pose for picture during event.



Event Sponsor Rubenstein's General Manager Kenny Rubenstein demonstrating how to knot a tie.



G. Ben Johnson, President and CEO of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce talks to young people on how to become a success in life.

Zulu Holiday Basket Give Away

Photos courtesy of Ray Bonnee of Bonnefied Images, LLC





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Jay-Z and Kayne West Sitting on the Throne of Hip-Hop



By Edwin Buggage

As the state of the music industry is in free-fall it is also trying to figure out a way to sustain itself in the face of a changing marketplace. In recent times there have been only a few artists who have been able to sustain both critical and commercial acclaim. Two of these artists recently hit the stage in New Orleans as part of the Watch the Thone Tour.

Industry heavyweights Jay-Z and Kayne West took to the stage and amazed the crowd with a two and a half hour set that kept the people on their feet, pumping their fist and flashing their diamond signs all night. As this tour has been to many cities since beginning, many have reviewed both the album that bears its name and the show. So as to not be ad nauseum writing about the show I would like to use this space to write about the cultural impact of these two talented performers.

In his rise Jay-Z has come to transcend hip-hop and is a ubiquitous part of popular culture. Becoming a pitchman for products and additionally being praised for his business acumen; Meeting with the likes of Warren Buffett and his pairing with Superstar Entertainer and Businesswoman Beyoncé Knowles to becoming the power couple of the 21st Century. He has had a best-selling book Decoded and has even come to have a college course taught by Georgetown Professor and Public Intellectual Dr. Michael Eric Dyson analyzing his rap lyrics as social criticism and commentary.

Looking at his career in retrospect I would have never thought that the guy I interviewed early in my journalism career in 1995 inside a small crowded hotel room at the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street would be-

come the phenomenon he is today. Because then as he is now in a more modified form is a man of few words, seemingly shy and lacking any visible signs of the X-Factor, that is of course until he hits the stage where his charisma, swagger and undeniable talent takes charge. I remember his then business partner Dame Dash telling me Jay-Z and Roc-A-Fella Records is going to take over the industry. I read through his press kit and listened to the two songs on a cassette tape, Dead Presidents and Ain't No N***a featuring a then unknown female rapper called Foxy Brown. I thought yeah he has a nice flow and the songs were good, but at the time I must honestly say that I wouldn't in my wildest dreams think superstar, multiplatinum or the iconic almost cult-like status he enjoys today.

In my many years of writing about music and culture I must admit I've become cynical of fly by night artist who are here today gone tomorrow. Of those who capture the public's imagination with a hit record and then disappear into the where are they now category. Jay-Z and his partner in rhyme Kayne West have continued to stay relevant and make a statement with their music. Kayne West, who for some is controversial at times, is truly one of the most talented producer/artist of his generation. Making music for himself and creating hits for other artist, West is a hit making machine where most of the things he touches turns into not to gold but platinum.

In his decade in the industry since blazing upon the mainstream scene producing IZZO (H.O.V.A.) for Jay-Z, West continues to be an artist that has a global impact on music, fashion and culture that rivals Jay-Z. In his art he has married the best of old school hip-hop

production and given it a new school sensibility with his socially conscious intelligent rhymes that covers a range of topics from poverty, relationships, racism and classism and corporate greed.

He is an artist of courage who has not allowed the industry to place a muzzle on him in issues that matter to society. He grabbed headlines in 2005 during a Hurricane Katrina Telethon he made a statement that caused a firestorm in saying the President George W. Bush doesn't care about Black People for what he allowed to happen to people during the storm and its aftermath. West at his best, as many of the great artists of the past have used his art, gives voice to the voiceless.

Today the music industry and particularly hip-hop is at a crossroads, where it is fighting to stay commercially viable and culturally relevant. It is a time where artist have to ask themselves tough questions of themselves. For instance the balancing act of choosing to stay authentic while at the same time put out music that the people want? Both Jay-Z and Kayne West have been able to do both, put out work that is in the tradition of the essence of hip-hop challenging, analyzing and critiquing society from the perspective of the urban Black male. And also being successful doing work within a business structure that they have like no other generation of artists has been able to financially maximize on their respective talents. These two artists are examples of a new breed armed with talent, smarts and business savvy. It is a fact that in today's entertainment business talent alone is not the only measure of success, and for what Jay-Z and Kayne West have done individually and collectively they have earned their seats on the throne.



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“Occupy the Hood ... Now!”



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

Westlake Park in Seattle, the participants in Occupy events tend to be overwhelmingly young, White, and middle class. This is the case even though the ills the Occupy Movement have identified – income inequality and the corrupt and predatory actions of big banks – are hitting communities of color the hardest.

In pondering the potential reasons for this disconnect, I thought that maybe the stress of unemployment and lack of opportunities are so draining in the “hood” that there simply isn’t enough time or energy to join a rally. Or maybe with more of a focus on racism’s role in structural inequality more people of color would join. But then I thought about a woman named Oseola McCarty from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

In 1995 at the age of 85, Ms. McCarty, an African-American woman who earned a living wash-

ing and ironing other people’s laundry, donated her entire life-savings, \$150,000, to the University of Southern Mississippi to give Black children the chance she never had to attend the previously segregated university. Her actions inspired many and led President Clinton to award her the Presidential Citizens Medal. Osceola McCarty’s only wish was that she be allowed to attend the graduation of the first recipient of the McCarty Scholarship. She developed a friendship with that student, Stephanie Bullock, and died a few months after Stephanie’s graduation in 1999.

I tell that story because it reminds us of the legacy of community service and philanthropy that have always been at the heart of the Black community. There is no way we could have survived the hardships of slavery, Jim Crow, the Great Depression and the

Great Recession without leaning on one another – whether that meant assisting travelers on the Underground Railroad, or sharing food with an out-of-work neighbor. Giving back has always been front and center in the African-American experience.

The Black church has led the way. Community “Giving Circles,” where individuals collectively pool their resources and decide what projects to fund, are on the rise. And for years, philanthropic organizations such as the National Urban League, National Black United Fund and the United Negro College Fund, have been providing critical and in some cases, life-saving, assistance to millions of African-Americans. A new generation of African-American philanthropists is also making a difference – people like Oprah Winfrey, Bill Cosby, and Alphonse Fletcher are empowering the most vulner-

able to dream and create better tomorrows.

As we enter the holiday season, we should draw strength from that well-spring of compassion. And we should remember, while public protest has its place, African-Americans who have walked through the doors of opportunity and achieved economic success, as well as all of us, have an absolute responsibility to make a difference and to give back. You don’t have to be rich. You don’t have to be a college graduate. And giving back can be in the form of time and talent as well as money. “Occupy the Hood” with whatever gifts you have. As Oseola McCarty put it, “If you want to be proud of yourself, you have got to do things you can be proud of.”

Marc H. Morial is President and CEO of the National Urban League.

To Be Equal

“I just want to help somebody’s child go to college” Oseola McCarty, recipient of 1995 Presidential Citizens Medal.

The Black “Twittersphere” and “blogosphere” are abuzz with talk about ways to engage more African-Americans in the “Occupy” movement. There are even social networks forming under the banner: “Occupy the Hood.” From Zuccotti Park in Manhattan to

FAMU is Obviously Different from Penn State

By Lucius Gantt
NNPA Columnist

As a 19-year-old Georgia State University student, I became a member of my fraternity’s pledge club. As a pledge, I was beaten unmercifully, ridiculed, taunted and more, as was the tradition in a variety of campus groups.

Once I crossed “the burning sands,” so to speak, and became a founding member of the GSU chapter of the fraternity, I was elected founding president by my founding brothers.

One of my first acts as president was to prohibit hazing! Yes, my brothers put stress on future pledges, but more often than not we required them to wash cars, run errands, do homework, raise money or volunteer in the community, for instance.

Hazing everywhere

If you don’t know, hazing is a crime; despite that fact, hazing goes on essentially at every col-

lege campus in every state and in most cities.

You tell me the name of any former or current college student that has ever been a part of a fraternity, sorority, band, athletic team, military unit or secret campus society that has not been hazed or does not know if hazing exists! Hell, you don’t even have to be a college student to know that hazing possibly exists.

Earlier in 2011, a criminal act was allegedly committed at Pennsylvania State University, once it was learned that university officials and administrators were aware of suspicious acts involving possible crimes against a young person, the athletic director was fired, coaches were fired, assistant coaches were fired and even the President of Penn State University was fired.

‘Convenient’ termination

The only person fired so far in the aftermath of the FAMU hazing

tragedy has been the university band director. How convenient.

The band director almost immediately demanded his reinstatement on grounds that he went to proper administrative channels, informed university officials that hazing was taking place in the band. But the fired band director said no one sought to terminate hazing or suspend or expel students involved in hazing from the band or from the school.

Who is responsible in a court of law when hazing results in a death? Obviously the school and the state that operates the school are liable, but there is a limitation on damages injured persons can receive from the state. Any amount over the limitation must come in the form of a “claims bill” and be voted on by state legislators and signed by the governor.

Real money

The deepest pockets involved in universities most likely are the

pockets of the members of university boards of trustees.

What do trustees have to do with it? University faculty, staff and administrators must be trained on ways to protect students by preventing activities that could be criminal or harmful to the students that attend the school.

Seems to me, if university trustees vote on university budgets and part of that budget contains dollars for training, the trustees should have no problem discussing in court whether state-funded training dollars were used for the necessary and required training on how to recognize and stop hazing!

If hazing was allowed to persist because university employees were not trained on stopping hazing, perhaps the university trustees are personally liable for lack of institutional control of public taxpayer dollars or voting for training budgets when employees were inadequately trained. (Inter-

ested lawyers can review the 1992 Federal Case of *Brown vs. City of Oakland, Cal.*)

Crime ‘pecking order’?

If a crime has been committed and no one is liable or responsible for the death of a student, should we be concerned? Or is there a pecking order of college crime where some crimes are reported to police, some crimes are ignored, some are covered up and some are just bottled up for years by silent accomplices?

At Penn State, people with knowledge of possible criminal activity along with ultimate responsibility at the school, and those administrators that had the biggest university paychecks, were fired.

But not all schools are alike.

Buy Gantt’s latest book, “Beast Too: Dead Man Writing” on Amazon.com and from bookstores everywhere.

Vanishing Pearls The Oystermen of Pointe a la Hache, Louisiana

A documentary by Perspective Pictures



Vanishing Pearls shares the story of the Oystermen of Pointe a la Hache, Louisiana. This town of nearly 300 is struggling to survive following the BP Oil Spill that left their crop dead, finances in ruin and culture facing extinction.

This film follows the first year after the Deep Water Horizon catastrophe, as the Oystermen struggle to survive in the face of extreme adversity. Without attention, the Oil Spill could be the death blow to this community that historically has been neglected by State of Louisiana. This documentary resonates further than just Pointe a la Hache. Towns like this exist throughout Southern Louisiana and they supply the United States with the majority of its seafood. If we don't support these communities and demand they be protected, then Pointe a la Hache and the bayou towns of Louisiana that provide us all with so much will be one more treasure in a long list of cultural jewels that have vanished.

Please donate to this film so that we may complete post-production and the Story of the Oystermen can be told and can inspire the change needed to protect the environment, the industry, the fishermen and families of Pointe a la Hache.

90% of the film is complete. We have a year and a half worth of footage, original music and a first-hand look into the ramifications of the BP Oil Spill. Most importantly, we have documented a community that is barely known by the rest of the world. These Oystermen are 3rd, 4th and 5th generation fishermen who have an unbelievable knack for navigating the waters and love for fishing.

This film is being made independently. By the grace of God and a truly generous crew we have been able to complete the majority of the film. The funds raised here will help complete post production of the film. We need your help!

Nailah Jefferson is dedicated to producing media that brings a new perspective to what are thought to be conventional stories or ideas. Her mission is to use media as a tool to advocate on behalf of communities that are often voiceless and marginalized, especially those in her native Louisiana. She hopes that Vanishing Pearls will serve this purpose for the Oystermen of Pointe a la Hache who have faced unique struggles since the Deep Horizon Oil Spill.

- Perspective Pictures

Fair Housing Center Files Suit Against Landlord Over Sexual Harassment In Housing

On December 2, 2011, the Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center (GNOFHAC) and bona fide complainant "Jane Doe" filed a suit against Ore Duckworth, a landlord in New Orleans, LA for discrimination on the basis of sex, including severe, pervasive and unwelcome sexual harassment, battery and assault. The lawsuit stems from multiple incidents that occurred between December 2008-January 2010 in which Mr. Duckworth subjected Ms. Doe to unwanted verbal sexual advances, unwanted physical sexual advances, and conditioned the terms of Ms. Doe's tenancy on her submission to his sexual advances.

Under the Federal Fair Housing Act it is unlawful to deny a person housing or offer them different terms, conditions, or privileges because of sex. It is also illegal to interfere with a tenant's enjoyment of the premises due to coercion, intimidation, harassment, threats or interference.

The complaint was filed in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana. It alleges that Mr. Duckworth repeatedly harassed and discriminated against his tenant in the following ways:

Unwanted verbal sexual advances

Unwanted physical sexual advances

Propositioning Ms. Doe for naked photographs and /or sexual activity in exchange for Mr. Duckworth paying bills, forgiving rental payments, or making legally obligated repairs to Ms. Doe's unit.

Taking steps to evict Ms. Doe after she continued to refuse Mr. Duckworth's unwanted advances.

Duckworth's pervasive conduct created a hostile living environment that caused his tenant to live in fear for her safety and the safety of her children. The suit prays for relief in the form of compensatory and punitive damages.

During Ms. Doe's tenancy, Mr. Duckworth subjected at least three other female tenants to repeated sexual harassment and discrimination of a similar nature to that which Ms. Doe experienced. GNOFHAC staff believes that Mr. Duckworth might have engaged in this type of behavior with numerous female tenants over the course of several years. Other women who may have experienced sexual harassment in housing should call the fair housing center.

GNOFHAC Executive Director James Perry comments, "Everyone deserves to feel safe in their own homes. Mr. Duckworth's behavior is absolutely egregious and made Ms. Doe and her children feel unsafe at home. Sexual harassment in housing is a violation of civil rights laws and the fair housing center will do whatever it takes to make sure that Ms. Doe and any others who have experienced sexual harassment in their own homes can once again feel safe."

The Law Offices of Sangisetty & Samuels, LLC is serving as co-counsel in representing Ms. Doe on this matter.

Volunteer Photographers Needed For Jazz Fest 2012

The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Foundation Archive is seeking volunteer photographers to document the 2012 Jazz Fest.

As it has for many years, the Jazz & Heritage Foundation Archive will organize a team of volunteer photographers to document various aspects of the 2012 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival presented by Shell.

There are three categories for applicants: Student, Amateur and Professional.

The deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2011. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Apply online here. The number of applications we can consider is limited to 150.

The Volunteer Photographer Program is a community outreach project of the Foundation Archive. The goal is to provide Documentation of Jazz Fest for the Archive.

We're looking for images that go beyond the music onstage to capture the "internal

culture" of the festival: the food, art and especially the people whose fashions and customs are crucial in defining the Jazz Fest experience.

Volunteer Photographers must be able to manage and edit hundreds or even thousands of digital images. They must provide and be responsible for their own photography gear.

They also must understand that the work is physically demanding. Photographers often walk many miles a day around the Fair Grounds. There can be a variety of weather conditions, including rain, sun and heat.

The dates of the 2012 New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival are April 27-29 and May 3-6.

For more information, please contact the Jazz & Heritage Foundation Archive by calling (504) 558-6138.

New Orleans Corporations support our next-generation Entrepreneurs

A coalition of local companies this week completes a \$50,000+ contribution toward the development of aspiring students and artists for 2012. Last March, the Clayton-Royer Family Fund and Young Aspirations/Young Artists, Inc. (YAYA) called upon local corporations to invest in the professional development of local youth. Over 20 local companies answered the call, investing a total of \$54,000 in tomorrow's entrepreneurs and workforce through the programs of YAYA, Inc. The Clayton-Royer Family Fund has matched this investment with a \$50,000 contribution from the Fund.

Just Say YAYA, an Annual Fundraiser, will celebrate these contributions on December 8 at Blaine Kern's Mardi Gras World. "The incredible generosity of Paige Royer and Kerry Clayton has inspired companies across New Orleans to invest in the students of YAYA," says Kay Kerrigan, Just Say YAYA 2011 Corporate Chair. "It's an investment our City will feel the impact of, for years to come."

Cain's Presidential Bid was Asinine-Nine-Nine

By George E. Curry
TheDefendersOnline.com

NEWS ANALYSIS

Herman Cain's asinine campaign to become President of the United States is now toast. Not just toast – burnt toast. He officially flamed out Saturday on the heels – or, shall we say, high heels – of yet another woman accusing him of sexual misconduct.

The latest of five female accusers, Ginger White, claimed she and Cain had a 13-year affair and produced telephone bills and text messages proving that she and Cain had been in constant communication, sometimes at 4 a.m. Moreover, she said, Cain had lavished her with money and gifts and flew her to cities across the country where they rendezvoused at posh hotels.

"It wasn't a love affair. It was a sexual affair, as hard as that is for me to say and as hard as it is for people to hear it," White said in an interview with MSNBC.

Cain fought back against Sharon Bialek, the first woman to go public with allegations of sexual harassment. Cain supporters tried to contain the damage by asserting it was simply a case of "he said, she said." But a second woman Karen Kraushaar, came forward and before it was over, the total was five women and counting. "He said, she said," quickly became he said, she said, she said and so on.

After the initial story was published by Politico, Cain vehemently denied the two allegations of sexual harassment; he also subsequently denied two more charges and the assertion of a long-term extramarital affair with an Atlanta woman. But much of the public remained skeptical, remembering New York Congressman Anthony Weiner's week-long denial last summer and later confession that he had used his twitter account to send a nude photo to a woman who was not his wife.

Sex scandals are nothing new to politicians, including Weiner, President Bill Clinton, South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer, New Jersey Gov. James E. McGreevey, United States Senators Gary Hart, Bob Packwood, David Vitter and John Edwards, and Congressman Gary Condit.

A recent poll by the Pew Re-



Former Republican Presidential Candidate and Businessman Herman Cain was forced to suspend his campaign this week in disgrace from repeated allegations of sexual harassment and a long-term extramarital affair.

search Center for the People and the Press found that 46 percent of those interviewed said they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who had an extramarital affair in the past, compared to 49 percent who said it wouldn't matter and 2 percent who said they would be more likely to vote for the flawed candidate. A majority of Republicans – 57 percent – said they would be less inclined to vote for an unfaithful candidate.

While slightly more than half of the public expressed forgiveness toward infidelity, the problem becomes magnified for conservative candidates campaigning on family values and morality. And that goes double for someone such as Cain, an ordained minister.

Although it was White, the lone Black accuser, who sealed Cain's political fate, Cain's quixotic campaign had been fading for weeks, largely because his explanations became less believable by voters and his failure, in some cases, to directly deny the specific charges.

In a Republican presidential field known for flip-flopping, Cain proved he can switch positions with the best of them. On CNN, he said that in the case of rape,

a woman should make the decision about whether to have an abortion. But in an interview on CBS, he took a contrary position, objecting to abortion in all cases, including rape, incest or when the life of the mother is threatened.

Cain ran an unorthodox campaign to win the Republican nomination for president. When his competitors were crisscrossing Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina – the first states to hold Republican primaries or caucuses – Cain was promoting his new book in Alabama, Tennessee, Illinois, Texas and Indiana. In the week leading up to his withdrawal, Cain campaigned in Ohio, which has next to the last primary in the nation.

In addition to having a third-rate political operation, Cain simply wasn't ready for Primetime. He was a male Sarah Palin. In debates, his 9-9-9 tax plan seemed to be his answer to every question. He blamed the media, Democrats and Republicans for his various missteps. He pointed fingers everywhere except where they belonged – at himself.

Even when his camp tried to blunt the sexual harassment charges by presenting his wife,

Gloria, for a television interview, Cain overshadowed the story line by inviting himself to an editorial board meeting in Wisconsin – another state that does not vote early – and showing appalling ignorance about Libya, which was prominent in the news at the time.

At an editorial board meeting at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Cain was asked a simple question: Do you agree or disagree with President Obama on Libya?

A videotape of the interview shows Cain, leaning back in his chair, staring at the ceiling and asking whether Obama had supported the removal of Moammar Gaddafi. After saying he disagreed with Obama, he said, "Um, nope that's a different one." Looking at the ceiling again, he said, "I gotta go back, see, got all this stuff twirling around in my head."

Evidently stuff was twirling around in Cain's head during his visit to a Cuban restaurant in Miami. When asked how he liked his snack, Cain asked, "How do you say 'delicious' in Cuban?" Of course, Cubans speak Spanish. There is no such language as Cuban.

Ironically, the candidate who

sought to minimize the impact of racial discrimination in the U.S. said he was disliked by Democrats and the media because he was an "authentic" Black candidate. Cain said African-Americans were brain-washed into voting for Democrats. He predicted that he would receive one-third of the Black vote, proving that if Cain isn't brainwashed, he's brain-dead.

What Cain failed to realize was that conservatives weren't so much interested in supporting him as they were ABM – Anybody but Mitt. First, there was flirting by Donald Trump and, to a less extent, Sarah Palin. After the rapid rise and fall of Michelle Bachman, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Cain, Newt Gingrich, who has so much baggage that even Southwest Airlines charges him a baggage fee, is the flavor of the month. And much of Gingrich's rise has been at the expense of Cain, who will probably endorse him.

A month ago, a poll by the Des Moines Register showed Cain was favored by 23 percent of Republicans in Iowa. By the time the darling of the Tea Party exited the contest, his support had fallen to only 8 percent.

Cain may have gotten out of the race at just the right time.

It was hard to take Cain seriously. His ever-present fedora hat made Herman Cain, the presidential candidate, look like Big Daddy Kane, and the rapper. And some say his political journey was all about promoting the Herman Cain brand, which was non-existent before he entered the presidential race last May. He sold many books while pretending to be a serious presidential candidate. Getting out now, before he embarrassed himself in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina allows him to exit the stage without facing certain defeat at the polls. Closing one door at this time opens up other doors for yet more books, high-paying speeches and perhaps a network show on Fox.

That's not as asinine as you may think. Eliot Spitzer had a short-lived program on CNN and far more women have implicated Cain than the former New York governor. If that happens, it might not be the last time we hear Cain's trademark, "Awwwww, Shucky Ducky Now!"

On a Roll!



New Orleans Saints QB Drew Brees lit up the Mercedes Benz Superdome.

By Kingfish

The Saints are on a roll, getting hot just in time for a late season run to the playoffs. For two weeks in a row, the Saints have put together dominating wins over NFC opponents with winning records and in playoff contention. Beating the New York Giants on the Primetime Monday night stage when it was a must win game for The Giants. And then again this past weekend, returning to Primetime, when the NFL changed the game from a daytime game to the Sunday Night game. The Saints replaced the lowly Colts and Pats game that was originally scheduled for the Primetime slot. The Saints did not disappoint. Drew Brees lit up the Mercedes Benz Superdome for another three-plus yard game again this season in Primetime. That's three this year and counting. The Bears, Giants and Lions all have succumbed to the Saints Primetime theatrics.

The Saints are 6 and 0 at home this season and are on a four-game winning streak. Brees hit 26 of 36 passes for 342 yards and three touchdowns with no interceptions. The Saints, through running back by committee, ran for 100 yards with the rookie Mark Ingram getting the majority of the yards and carries going 16 for 54 yards. Brees is doing better seeing other receivers, especially Meachem. Earlier in the year I felt Brees was out of sync throwing the long ball specifically the deep post route and the fly pattern straight up the sideline. Those patterns require timing and practice with the QB and WR. Obviously that wasn't happening, as I believe the Saints were more focused on getting Graham and Sproles involved in the game plan. With that corrected, and the stats those two have gained in the first part of the year, Brees should open up the deep game. Not to mention the running game as well. Look I stand by all my comments this year if the Saints can't get the running game going consistently the Saints won't last in the playoffs. Do I Believe they have the talent to do so, yes, I do upfront on the line and in the backfield. But like anything it has to be used in order to work when needed, i.e., if you haven't used the running game don't expect to get that one-yard on third and one in the NFC Championship game in the fourth quarter with two minutes left in the game needing a score to win. IT WON'T HAPPEN!

That goes double for the Defense! If you haven't stopped anyone and have just been playing bend don't break football, eventually you

will break, and most of the time it's when you least want it. In the last two victories with dominant performances by the Offense, the Defense has given up over four hundred yards in both games. In the Giants game they gave up 406 to Eli Manning in passing and to Detroit they gave Stafford 408. Detroit also rushed for 87 yards, the Giants were held to under 50 but were blown out a lot earlier than Detroit and had to abandon the run.

These defensive open houses are inexcusable. This will be a short season if Defensive Coordinator Greg Williams doesn't plug the holes or get better plays from his unit.

The Saints Defense has a real challenge this week for three reasons. One, Chris Johnson is back to his old ways. This week he ran for over 150 yards and last week went for 199. Anyone that follows the NFL knows he is a beast. Two, it's a road game. The Saints are 3 and 3 on the road this year. To be totally honest the Saints are a totally different team on the road. When you lose to a winless team and you're winning your division that's a problem. In that loss to the Rams; Stephen Jackson made the Defense look like a college team and not LSU. Third, it's outdoors with the possibility of rain, meaning not an ideal situation for throwing and Matt Hasselbeck is their QB; the same QB that torched the Saints in last year's playoff game. I caution the Saints fans to not take this game lightly. This will be a battle as the Titans at 7 and 5 are looking to get in the playoffs.

Congrats to the LSU Fighting Tigers on a great season going a perfect 13 and 0. Wining the SEC Championship and place in the BCS Championship being held in the Mercedes Benz Superdome on January 9, 2012. LSU has played the roughest college schedule in the BCS area ever. If the Tigers beat Alabama ranked number two again they will go down as one of the best teams in NCAA history. Good luck to the Tigers, but I would like to send a special shout out to Jordan Jefferson. This young man has shown such strength in the eye of adversity that it should be noted, awarded and used as a how to for younger kids, especially African-American kids. I commend you young man and am very proud of you and the great support system you have in your parents, they obviously taught you well and you listened. GREAT JOB, now go get your prize!!!!

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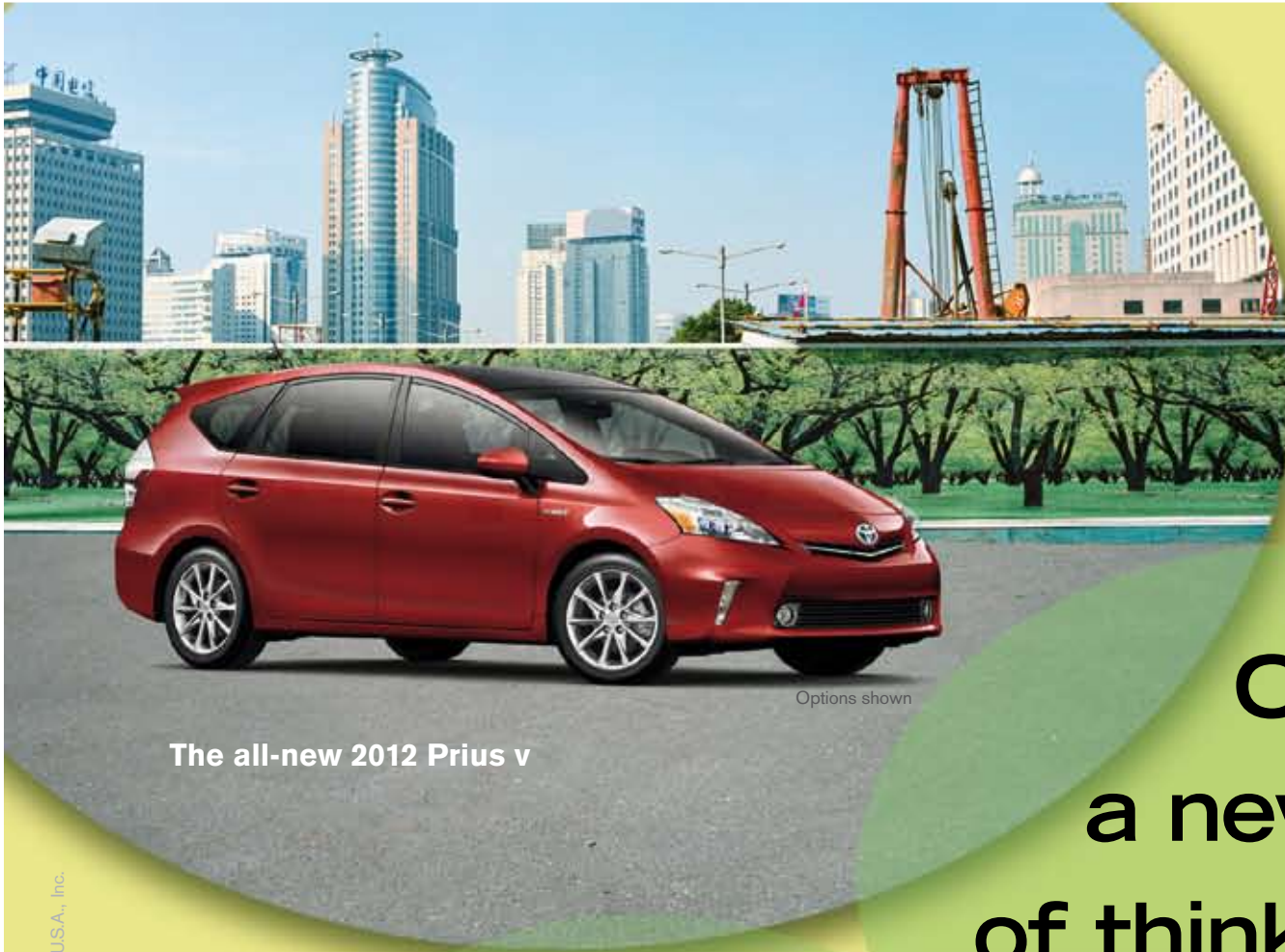
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