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News Weekly

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Xavier Alumni Reunion

Shirley Randolph LaBranche
Miss Xavier 1941 (on right)

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November 24 - November 30, 2012 47th Year Volume 29 www.ladatanews.com

Battle on the Bayou



2012 Bayou Classic Special Edition

The Soul of New Orleans

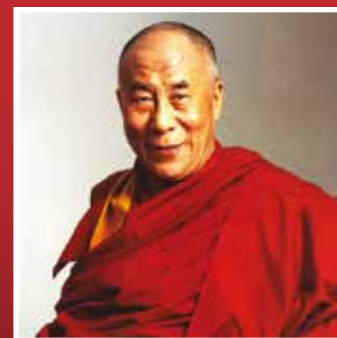
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Battle on the Bayou

The 2012 Bayou Classic Approaches, New Orleans is Ready



The Bayou Classic announced their official schedule of events today for the upcoming series of events beginning November 22nd. Each year, this weekend of events brings together family, friends and alumni of Grambling State University and Southern University to see one of America’s greatest college sports rivalries and celebrate football, family and the traditions surrounding Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The proceeds from the week-long series of events are provided to both schools for student scholarships; the two schools split \$1.32 million for scholarships last year.

This year’s schedule includes the fan favorite Battle of the Bands and Greek Show, occurring November 23rd, as well as several other events.

Fans can look forward to starting off their weekend with the Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade and concluding with the Bayou Classic House of Blues Gospel Brunch.

“We’ve put together our schedule of events focused on our goal of making this year’s Bayou Classic fan and family friendly,” said Dottie Belletto, President of New Orleans Convention Company, Inc., the management firm of The 39th Annual Bayou Classic. “From the Battle of the Bands and Greek Show to the House of Blues Gospel Brunch to the HBCU Institute: Empowerment Exchange, there is truly an event for every member of the family to partake in at this year’s Bayou Classic.”

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The schedule for The 39th Annual Bayou Classic

(all events are open to the public unless noted below)

Tuesday, November 20th

10:00 a.m.

Kickoff Press Conference (open to all media and others by invitation only)
Mercedes-Benz Superdome

Thursday, November 22nd (Thanksgiving Day)

3:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade
presented by State Farm®
Parade route from Mercedes-Benz
Superdome to the French Market

Friday, November 23rd

9:00 a.m.

Bayou Classic Golf Tournament pre-
sented by Cox Louisiana
Joe Bartholomew Golf Course

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

HBCU Institute: Empowerment Ex-
change Career & College Fair
Hyatt Regency Hotel

12:00 p.m.

Coaches Luncheon (by invitation only)
Hyatt Regency Hotel

2:00 p.m.

HBCU Institute
Hyatt Regency Hotel

6:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception (by invitation only)
Mercedes-Benz Superdome

7:00 p.m.

Battle of the Bands and Greek Show
Mercedes-Benz Superdome

Saturday, November 24th

10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Fan Fest
Champions Square

1:30 p.m.

The Bayou Classic
Mercedes-Benz Superdome
(Doors open at 12:30 p.m.; kickoff at
1:30 p.m.)

Sunday, November 25th

10:00 a.m.

Bayou Classic Gospel Brunch
House of Blues

About The Bayou Classic

The Bayou Classic features one of America's greatest college sports rivalries, bringing the fans and alumni of Southern University and Grambling State University to New Orleans for a celebration of football, family and the traditions and pageantry surrounding Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Last year, the two schools split \$1.32 million in proceeds from the series of Bayou Classic events. These proceeds provide support to the campuses' athletic programs and fund scholarships through the SU System Foundation and the GSU Foundation.

The Bayou Classic is supported by the following organizations for the 39th annual series of events –

State Farm®, U.S. Marine Corps, MillerCoors®, Toyota, The Home Depot®, The Coca-Cola Company, Louisiana AIDS (Louisiana Greater Than AIDS), Cox Louisiana, Entergy Louisiana, the French Market Corporation and Visit Baton Rouge.

Ticket Information

Tickets for the 39th Annual Bayou Classic and the Battle of the Bands & Greek Show are on sale now; Tickets for both events can be purchased at the following locations: the Bayou Classic website (www.mybayouclassic.com), Ticketmaster, the New Orleans Arena Box Office, the Grambling State University Ticket Office or the Southern University Ticket Office.



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Rickey Smiley HBCU Tail-Gate Tour Lands at Bayou Classic Pre-Game

For the first time the 2012 Rickey Smiley HBCU Tailgate Tour will be landing in at the Bayou Classic in New Orleans. Rickey Smiley is set to be a part of the Bayou Classic Fan Fest being held pre-game on Saturday, November 24, 10 am – 1:30 pm.

Smiley, who is best known for his comedic work as host of BET's ComicView, as well as appearances on HBO's Comedy Jam and Snaps, will be a new addition to the 39th Annual Bayou Classic in an effort to make the game and events more fan and family friendly. Smiley will be signing autographs and addressing the crowd at Fan Fest all in anticipation of his new radio show coming to New Orleans in January.

"We are excited to have Rick-



Comedian and Radio Show Host Rickey Smiley

ey Smiley join The Bayou Clas-

sic this year and we look forward to his appearance at Fan Fest," said Dottie Belletto, President of New Orleans Convention Company, Inc., the management firm of The 39th Annual Bayou Classic. "In addition to the numerous other adjustments we've made this year, such as reduced ticket prices and our newly-released website, Rickey Smiley will be a tremendous addition to our weeklong series of events."



Bayou Classic Launches Program to Host Visiting Band and Dance Team Annually

New Program Highlights the "Future of HBCU Talent"

Southern University and Grambling State University have launched a new program as part of The 39th Annual Bayou Classic to host a visiting band and dance team annually for the Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade presented by State Farm®. Launched this year, the "Future of HBCU Talent" program recognizes one high school band and dance team from outside of Louisiana and provides them the opportunity to attend the weeklong series of Bayou Classic events and perform as part of the Thanksgiving Day Parade.

This year's "Future of HBCU Talent" high school band is the Jacksonville Red Devils Marching Band from Jacksonville High School, a secondary public school located in Jacksonville, Arkansas. The award-winning marching band has been voted best band with the most spirit in Arkansas twice through a statewide poll.

This year's "Future of HBCU Talent" dance team comes to the Bayou Classic from Memphis, TN. The Divas of Olive Branch Majorette Team will travel to



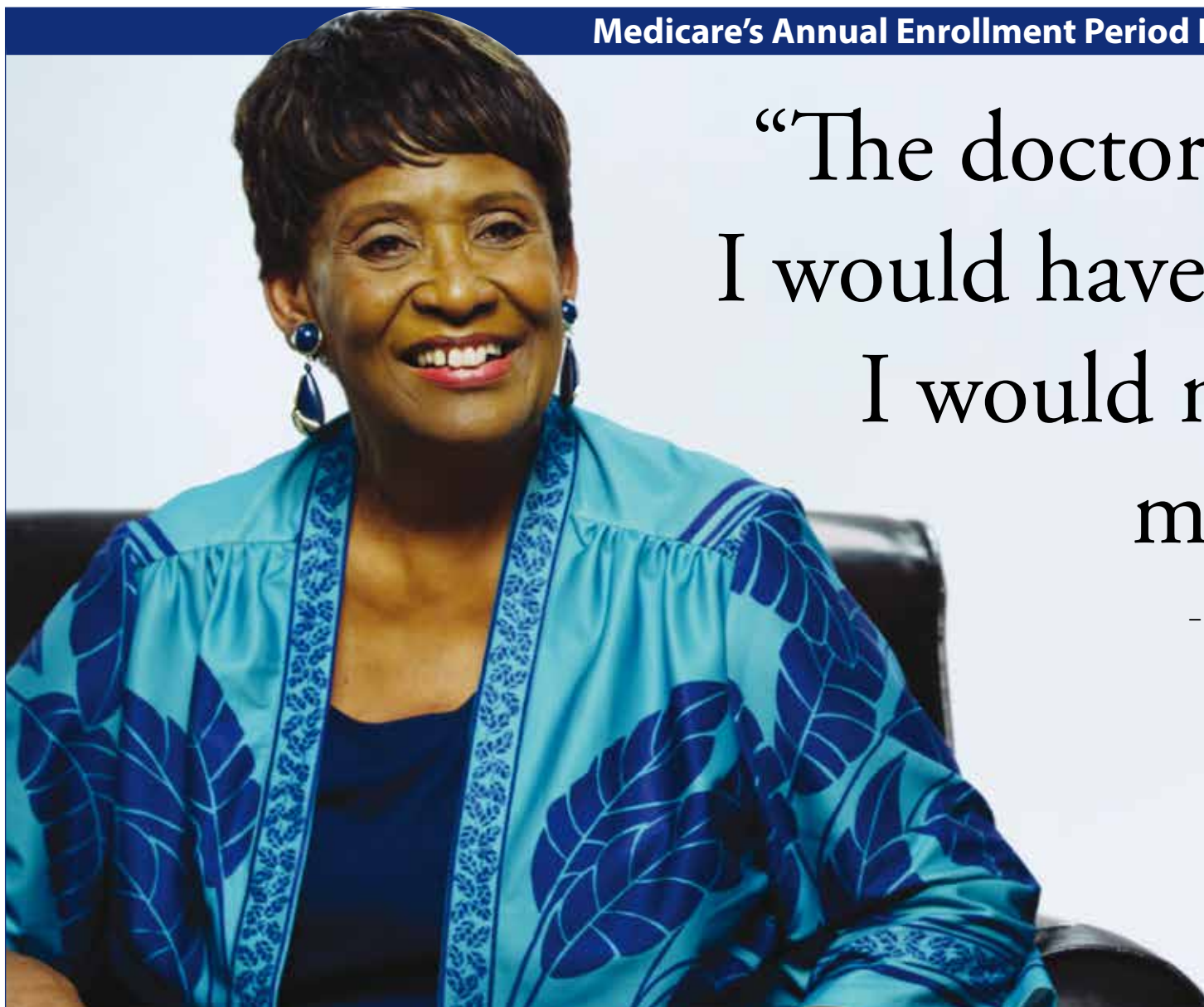
New Orleans to be part of the Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade. Though The Divas of Olive Branch have won the most first place trophies than any other majorette team in Memphis, the

main focus of the group is to give under privileged girls an opportunity to step away from their personal situations to learn teamwork, dedication, leadership, honesty, fellowship and showmanship.

The "Future of HBCU Talent" program was developed to recognize young talent outside of Louisiana. The program, launched in 2012, searches for outstanding talent to showcase their work as part of The Bayou Classic.

The Bayou Classic Thanksgiving Day Parade, presented by State Farm®, will take place on Thanksgiving Day (Thursday, November 22) 2012. The parade kicks off on Poydras Street at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome at 3:30 pm.





“The doctor said: ‘if I would have waited, I would not have made it.’”

– Mercedes Callahan,
Cancer survivor and
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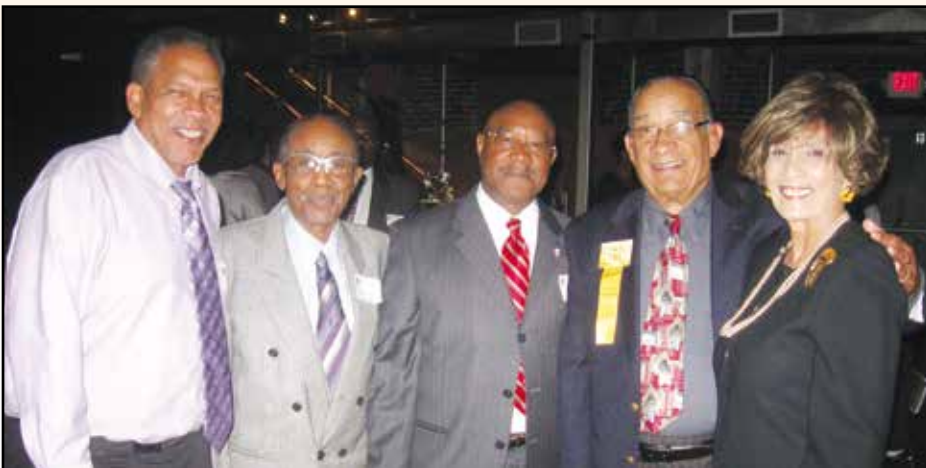
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Shoot Ya Best Shot!

Xavier Alumni Reunion

Photos by Terry Jones

Alumni from across the country gathered in New Orleans last weekend for the Xavier University Alumni Gala. The celebration drew a sellout crowd.



2012 Warren Easton Homecoming Court



Warren Easton Senior High Homecoming Court 2012

Warren Easton Charter High School celebrated Homecoming Day on November 2, 2012 with a Coronation on November 3 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Pictured is the Court at Tad Gormley Stadium the day of the parade.

Teresa B performs at Spice

Teresa B and the In Style Band performed at Spice Bar and Grill last Friday. She entertained the crowd with her sultry voice and upbeat style of music that had everyone on their feet dancing.



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A Black Thanksgiving



Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.

Millions of Black American families observed Thanksgiving this week. We have much to be thankful and grateful for. Yet we should also be cognizant of the challenges and struggles that lie ahead in the pathway to future economic empowerment and social sustainability not only in America, but throughout a changing world. In other words, this is a time for reflection, self-assessment, self-improvement, and collective development and progress.

I know that there are some cynics even among us who prefer to see the plight of Black Americans only from a pathological or from a continuously negative critique. It is true that unemployment in our communities, in particular for

our youth, remains devastatingly high. Prisons and jails across the nation continue to overflow disproportionately with Black American inmates and defendants. Abject poverty continues to have an alarmingly mortal grip on too many of our families and communities. Improving the systematic quality education of our children remains one of the highest priorities. Constructive criticism does have its place and value. But isolated and even well-intentioned criticism concerning the ongoing struggle to eliminate racism, injustice and inequality without a concomitant plan of action to advance the cause of freedom, justice and equality is just a nonproductive waste of time and energy.

A Black Thanksgiving this year and every year should be focused on taking the time as family, friends, colleagues, and simply as "brothers and sisters" to adequately assess and plan for further advancement of the interests, intelligence, and institutions of the Black American community. This is also a time for the elders of the freedom movement to share wisdom with our young emerging activists and leaders in spirit of acknowledging that every inch of progress that has been

accomplished over the past 400 years has come as a consequence of struggle and sacrifice.

This is not, however, the time for carelessly taking anything for granted. We all should be first and foremost appreciative for the very breath of life to be alive in this day and time. We have come a mighty long way, and yes, we still have a long way to go toward the fulfillment of the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the realization of the aspirations and prayers of past generations. A Black Thanksgiving is the time for us to affirm the importance of giving back to help our communities to better develop and prosper. This is the time for sharing what we have with those who are less fortunate. More than 40 million Black Americans now spend more than \$1 trillion annually.

"Thanksgiving" presupposes "Thanksgiving." Let's assess how we spend that much money every 12 months. How much is for our empowerment as a people? How much do we spend to educate our children? How much do we invest in our own businesses and institutions such as our Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)? How much do we give to our churches and chari-

ties that serve the interests of our communities? How much do we give back to Africa? We should at Black Thanksgiving be financially supporting the NAACP, SCLC, National Urban League, NAFEO, Rainbow Push Coalition, National Action Network, Hip-Hop Summit Action Network, Diamond Empowerment Fund, Georges Malaika Foundation, the NNPA and other organizations and institutions that continue to make a positive difference in the United States, in Africa and the world community. We should be particularly aware and supportive of the African Union and other Pan African organizations.

A Black Thanksgiving should show utmost respect and solidarity with our Native American brothers and sisters who still are struggling for self-determination, freedom and development. It is also important to note here that we should be more proactive in building lasting coalitions with our Latino brothers and sisters because we have mutual interests, anthropological and cultural roots, as well as sharing strategic political goals and objectives as just witnessed on Election Day. The future success of our advancement is dependent upon

our unity and solidarity with others who know from history and from the present day realities the importance of standing up, speaking out, taking action, and working tirelessly for the freedom and equality of all people throughout the world.

We are very thankful for the re-election of President Barack H. Obama. This election was triumphantly won by the massive voter turnout against the backdrop of voter suppression. The world is continuing to change for the better and the varied prospects for Black Americans to prosper going forward are significantly enhanced. We just have to stay focused and to avoid the regressive temptations of hopelessness and cynicism. Lastly, when you have an "undying love," respect and a sense of giving for the help of your own family and community, you are clear about the necessity to have love, respect and a sense of giving for the help of others. Thus, a Black Thanksgiving in the truest sense is a Thanksgiving for all people.

Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network and Education Online Services Corporation and can be reached at drbenjamin.chavis@gmail.com

Happy Thanksgiving

The Staff at Data News Weekly
Welcomes You to New Orleans
for the 2012 Bayou Classic

We Wish You a Very
Happy Thanksgiving!

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Now and for the New Year!



Leontine Dennis

The True Meaning of Thanksgiving

by: Edwin Buggage

Leontine Dennis is a woman whose life has been dedicated to giving. And to begin this holiday season, Data News Weekly bestows the honor of Trailblazer of the Month to a woman who has opened her heart, home and resources to enrich the lives of others. She is a woman rooted in her spirituality and believes with God's help anything is possible. Like Job in the Bible, she is a woman who's experienced her share of adversity and feels that it is the mechanism used to build her strength, character and the will to serve humanity.

"When you have been through something and overcome it, it feels good to be able to give back," says Dennis. Continuing she says, "I know what it is like not to have, so when God blesses you and puts you in a better situation, I feel it is your duty to help someone. And that's what I do in my life. I've never forgotten where I've come from and I am a strong believer in people finding a way, whether big or small, to make a difference in the lives of others."

Although everyday she gives thanks and works to better the lives of people in her community, Leontine Dennis especially reaches out to those in need by feeding the hungry during Thanksgiving. It is something she still does to this day, and during our conversation she harkens back to a time when she lived in Shrewsbury (part of Metairie). For 15 years during the Thanksgiving holiday, she fed people in her community and was the subject of a story covered by WDSU-TV. Speaking of those times she says, "For 15 years when I lived in Shrewsbury, although sometimes it stretched me out financially, I was committed to feeding people in my neighborhood. So much so that I went to Metairie Bank and opened up a Christmas Savings account and used the money to feed needy people for Thanksgiving and my children would help deliver the food to them. Over time I had volunteers and people of all backgrounds coming out to help. It was a good feeling to be able to put a smile on people's faces and showing them that some of us out there cares."



Ms. Dennis says she started this tradition after a life changing experience. Recounting this time in her life she says, "In 1975, I had a blood clot that went to my heart and lungs and the doctor said I wouldn't survive. That Thanksgiving my husband tried the best he could to cook, and no one came around to help, so I said if I ever get better, every Thanksgiving I am going to reach out to any and everybody and feed them and I still do that."

As the owner of Dennis Mortuary, she sees many young people's lives are cut short, something that gives her much pain, "It really hurts me to see so many young men lying in caskets, and I think if

I could talk to them I would say is it worth it? The loss of young boys with so much life ahead of them, sometimes I find myself crying although these children are not my biological children, but I feel when their lives are cut short we as a community suffers a loss in building our future." Continuing with the compassion and caring of a mother she says, "But sometimes what leads these kids to go down the wrong path is a sense of hopelessness and lack of opportunity and what's needed to turn them around is to restore hope in their lives; and allow them to dream and be able to choose different paths in their lives that will lead to them to being successful."

She is a woman who volunteers her time and embodies the spirit of "Blessed to be a Blessing." In an almost preacher like tone her words are uplifting as she talks about how giving back enriches her life, "I don't get paid in money for some of the work I do, but I am rich in knowing that I am doing God's work by helping people." Her plain spoken words are sage like in their undeniable truths as she advises those who want to help others saying that you should first help yourself. "Before you try to work on improving your community, you have to work on yourself and remember always put God first in whatever you do." And on this the beginning of the holiday season Leontine Dennis' life example is the definition of "Thanksgiving" something she does 365 days a year and for her commitment to serving her community we honor her with Data News Weekly's Trailblazer Award for November 2012.

JMJ
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at&t

Clarifying the Misconceptions About Orchids

By MG Calla Victoria
Data News Columnist

Orchids (pronounced orkids) are breathtaking plants and the blooms can last several months. The most common variety of orchids is phalaenopsis, those are the ones you find at the florist, big box stores, and girls get as a wrist corsage for prom. However there are hundreds of orchids most are epiphytes (meaning they don't require soil to survive), but a few are terrestrial. Most have no fragrance but a few have amazing strong aromas like vanilla. My favorite type of orchid variety is the Vanda. It has gigantic blooms almost three times the size of the blooms on the phalaenopsis, and the blooms, like with most orchids last for months. And Vanda orchids have these clusters of long white gnarly roots that hang down about fifteen or sixteen inches long under the plant.

The roots of an orchid are only there to anchor the plant; the or-



chid does not bring food up from its roots to the plant. Orchids have tiny scales all over them that catch water that nourishes the plant. Orchids like to be wet and then they like to be dry, they need daily misting and thrive in indirect sunlight. The best way to

understand a plant is to know its native habitat. Orchids originated in the tropics, and if you know about the tropics like say Hawaii, then you know there is a light shower every day. So yes spritz your orchid really well every day, or you can give it a good drink

of water daily but make sure the water drains off. Orchids do not like wet feet; which is why you find them in open weave baskets that allow water to immediately run off.

Misconceptions about orchids:

1. Orchids are delicate. Wrong, orchids are very rugged plants. I think we get the idea that orchids are delicate because we see exposed roots, or we imagine that long bloom spike is fragile.

2. Orchids don't rebloom. Surprise, surprise orchids do rebloom. Understand that when a plant blooms it is completing its life cycle. So if you remove the bloom the plant has to start the process over again. When the last flower drops on your orchid's bloom spike, cut your flower spike halfway down the stem (cut it just above a joint) and seal the cut with melted candle wax or cinnamon powder to prevent bacterial infection. If you continue to care

properly for your orchid a new bloom should appear shortly and flourish for 3 to 4 months. Some varieties of orchids do require a slight temperature change to force a rebloom, so know the variety of orchid you are dealing with.

3. We think that we need to repot orchids when we see their roots exposed. Wrong, orchids like to be pot-bound and should not be repotted for a couple of years. The natural habit of the orchid's roots is to grab onto something to anchor the plant, that is why the roots climb out of the pot, and they have some kind of suction on the roots to assist in stability. If you have ever tried to repot an orchid you had to pry the roots from the sides of the pot. Orchids in the wild grow attached to trees and rocks. Check out my "Tip of the Week" about orchids on my website at http://www.thegardeningdiva.com/Gardening_Tip_of_the_Week.html

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His Holiness The Dalai Lama To Speak In New Orleans

Conference and Talks Presented by Tulane School of Social Work

Details of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's visit to New Orleans in May 2013 were announced at a press conference this week. The Tulane University School of Social Work is presenting the visit, where His Holiness will participate in a conference and speak at two events. Tickets to the events will be sold at www.dalailamanola.com.

"After the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina, we learned a lot about the deep trauma that occurred among the city's population and the extraordinary resilience of the people of the Gulf Coast," said Dr. Ronald Marks, Dean of the Tulane University School of Social Work. "We feel that His Holiness' visit to New Orleans will contribute enormously to furthering the healing of our city's residents."

The conference, titled "Resilience: Strength Through Compassion and Connection," will be held May 16 - 18 at the Morial Convention Center. World-renowned author and speaker Margaret Wheatley and famed Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry Dr. Richard J. Davidson will speak at the conference.

In addition to the conference, His Holiness will speak at two events that anyone can attend with the purchase of a ticket. The first talk, titled "Strength Through Compassion," will be held at the Morial Convention Center on Friday, May 17. The second talk, titled "Strength Through Connection," will be held the following day, Saturday, May 18 at the University of New Orleans Lakefront Arena.

To commemorate the historic visit, Drepung Loseling monks will visit New Orleans. The monks are known for their multiphonic chanting, known as zokkay. They will perform at the beginning of each of His Holiness' talks.

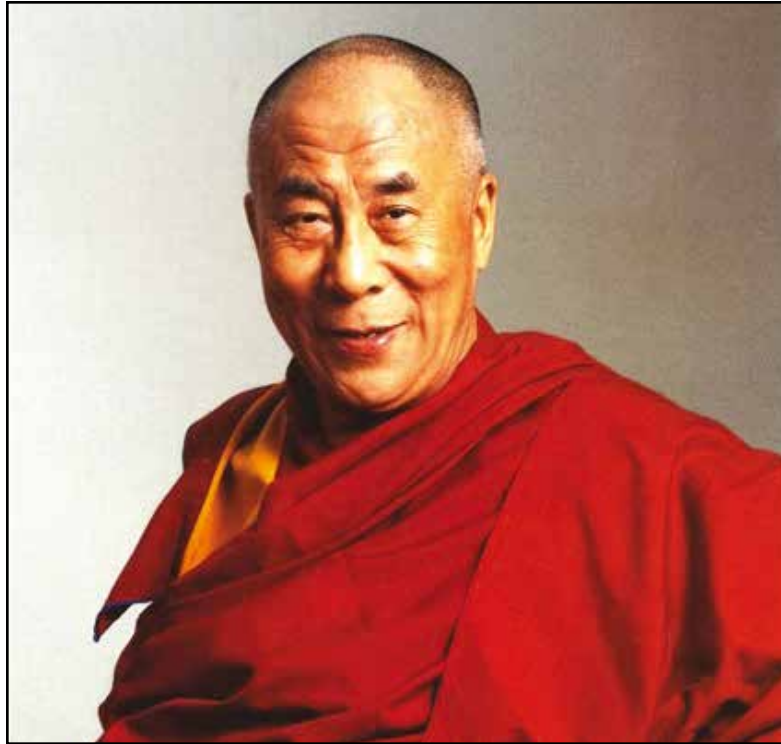
The monks will also create an elaborate sand mandala at the Morial Convention Center beginning Tuesday, May 14. The public is welcome to view the ancient tradition in progress free of charge between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. A

closing ceremony will be held on Friday, May 17 at 5:30 p.m. when the monks will lead a procession to the Mississippi River and disperse the sand into the flowing water.

The public is also invited to a Tibetan Bazaar where authentic goods will be sold. It will be held at the Morial Convention Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the conference through Friday, May 17 and at the UNO Lakefront Arena on Saturday, May 18.

Revenue generated from ticket sales will be used to underwrite the events. Any remaining funds will be donated to a nonprofit organization that will be selected with the Office of Tibet and publicly announced at a later date.

More at www.DalaiLamaNola.com



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