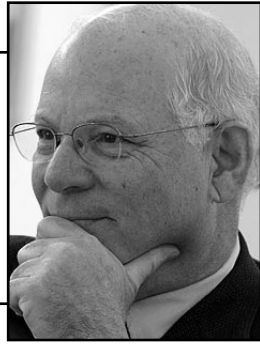


COMMENTARY

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S POST
A Community Newspaper for Prince George's County

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator for Maryland



March is Women's History Month

This month is National Women's History Month and the focus this year is on women's education and empowerment. Today, women have taken a dominant role in the ranks of higher education, comprising more than half the students enrolled in institutions of higher learning. Maryland women are faring even better: 58.8 percent of Marylanders enrolled in higher education are women and 54.6 percent of all higher education degrees in the state — which include associate, bachelor, master and doctoral degrees — are awarded to women.

I want to recognize a Maryland woman who I believe has been a real hero in the battle to bring gender equality to education. Dr. Bernice R. Sandler is known as the "Godmother of Title IX" for her work in creating and implementing the law that requires gender equity for boys and girls in every educational program that receives federal funding.

Dr. Sandler's activism in this area started in the late 1960s when she was denied a faculty position at the University of Maryland because her opinions and activism were deemed "too strong for a woman." Dr. Sandler did not give up; instead, she worked with the Women's

Equity Action League and members of Congress to lead hearings that documented acts of discrimination against women in employment and education.

These hearings led to the passage of Title IX in 1972, a landmark piece of legislation banning sex discrimination in schools. Dr. Sandler is included in the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame in recognition of all she has achieved.

Title IX in its original form was intended to end discriminatory hiring and employment practices in federally financed institutions. The implementation of Title IX regulated educational activities, including athletic programs, and has been instrumental in opening up opportunities for women and girls in traditionally male-dominated programs.

Education is the stepping stone to success in our nation. Dr. Sandler understood that and courageously fought for equality and fairness in institutions of higher learning. We owe much to Dr. Sandler and to those who fought for Title IX, and we must always remember that America's potential can only be realized when all of its citizens, regardless of gender, have equal access to educational opportunities.

To Be Equal
Marc Morial, President and CEO
National Urban League



Congressman Donald M. Payne

"New Jersey has lost a noble public servant, and the world has lost an amazing human being."

Statement from the office of Donald M. Payne

One of the highlights of our annual trip to Washington for the release of the National Urban League State of Black America report is a chance to meet with our many friends and supporters in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Unfortunately, our arrival in the nation's capital last Tuesday was greeted by the news of the passing of one of the giants of the CBC, 12-term New Jersey Congressman and past CBC Chairman, Donald M. Payne.

Congressman Payne was a steadfast champion for the rights of those in need, both here at home and abroad. Since becoming the first African American Congressman to represent the state of New Jersey in 1988, he had been a tireless advocate for the issues that matter most to his 10th Congressional District constituents and all working class and middle class Americans — jobs, affordable healthcare and improving public education. I am personally grateful for his partnership and for the many times the National Urban League fought side-by-side with him on behalf of urban communities. Congressman Payne was especially supportive of Newark's Urban League of Essex County and the other Urban League affiliates throughout the state.

A native of Newark, Payne attended the city's public schools and was a graduate of Seton Hall University in nearby South Orange. He taught in the Newark public schools for 15 years before becoming the first African American president of the National Council of YMCA's in 1970.

On the international stage, Congressman Payne was the highest-ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights. He used that platform to protect human rights and provide humanitarian aid to developing countries. He was one of the first public officials to denounce the atrocities being waged by what he called the "pariah government" of Darfur.

Since his passing, tributes and condolences have poured in from around the world. President Obama said Payne "made it his mission to fight for working families." Newark Mayor Cory Booker described him as "a humble hero who lived an extraordinary life" And CBC Chairman Emanuel Cleaver said, "As the first African American Representative from the state of New Jersey, Donald Payne was a shining example of what hard work, determination, and intellect can accomplish in public service."

In an era in which public discourse is too often characterized by insults, over-heated rhetoric and divisive language, Congressman Payne was a model of the power of decency and civility. He had a way of bringing people of all races and ideology together to get things done. This was most evident during his legendary boat rides at the conclusion of the annual CBC weekend that brought together world leaders, New Jersey politicians and neighborhood constituents for fellowship, dancing and fun on the Potomac.

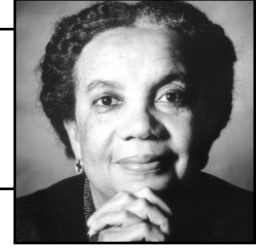
By action and through example, Congressman Donald M. Payne exemplified what it means to be a leader and a statesman. He will be sorely missed. Our hearts and prayers go out to the Congressman's family, friends and colleagues.

Open to the Public

NATIONAL COLONIAL FARM & PISCATAWAY PARK

Founded in 1957 to protect the view from Mount Vernon across the Potomac River, the Accokeek Foundation, an educational nonprofit, became one of the nation's first land trusts. Today, the Foundation stewards 200 hundred acres of Piscataway National Park in Accokeek, MD, where visitors can hike a network of trails winding through wetlands, visit a native tree arboretum, and observe an award-winning forest restoration project. The Foundation also runs the National Colonial Farm, a living history museum that depicts a Maryland middle-class family farm on the eve of the American Revolution. Through our heritage breed livestock and seed saving programs, nearly extinct heirloom crops and animals are preserved for future generations. The Foundation's organic Ecosystem Farm emphasizes the future of agriculture as farmers learn the tools of a new trade and practice sustainable use of natural resources. "Shares" of the farm's organic produce are sold to area households. The park's beautiful grounds, trails, and programs are open to the public year 'round.

Child Watch
 by Marion Wright Edelman



The American Promise: The Right to Vote

Every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. There is no reason which can excuse the denial of that right. There is no duty which weighs more heavily on us than the duty we have to ensure that right... The command of the Constitution is plain. There is no moral issue. It is wrong—deadly wrong—to deny any of your fellow Americans the right to vote in this country. There is no issue of States rights or National rights. There is only the struggle for human rights.

—President Lyndon Johnson, "The American Promise," March 15, 1965

These words are from the well-known televised address President Johnson gave before a joint session of Congress urging members to move forward without delay on what would become the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The speech and legislation came after the entire nation had spent days transfixed by events in Alabama. On March 7, 1965, John Lewis and Rev. Hosea Williams set out with a group of 600 on a planned 50-mile peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery. Instead, state troopers brutally attacked the nonviolent protestors on the first day at the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The televised images of "Bloody Sunday" and the injured marchers—including Lewis, whose skull was fractured—were a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. They roused great sympathy for the protestors and reminded all Americans that these marchers had to put their lives on the line for what should have been considered a basic American right: the right to vote.

On March 4, 2012, marchers returned to the road from Selma to Montgomery—but not just to revisit that moment in history that changed the course of our nation. They are marching again because in 2012, voting rights are once again under attack.

As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said to the crowd of thousands (I was among them) who finally completed the original march to Montgomery two weeks later: "The Civil Rights Act of 1964 gave Negroes some

part of their rightful dignity, but without the vote it was dignity without strength... The confrontation of good and evil compressed in the tiny community of Selma generated the massive power to turn the whole nation to a new course. A president born in the South had the sensitivity to feel the will of the country, and in an address that will live in history as one of the most passionate pleas for human rights ever made by a president of our nation, he pledged the might of the federal government to cast off the centuries-old blight." In August 1965, the Voting Rights Act became law.

But right now many states are attempting to put new voting restrictions in place that parallel all the old tricks and turn back the clock on civil rights to the days when voting was used as a tool for political control and exclusion. The "centuries-old blight" now has a twenty-first century disguise. The latest restrictions include strict photo identification requirements limited to certain forms of government-issued ID, cuts on early voting and absentee voting, and new requirements for registration that make it much more difficult for voters to prove citizen-

ship and residency and register to vote at all. The changes threaten to disenfranchise millions of people, and studies show young, minority, and low-income voters and voters with disabilities will be most affected. "It's no coincidence that a nationwide rollback in voting rights for America's most vulnerable citizens is happening just as elected officials mount unprecedented campaigns to slash investments in education and economic development," said National Urban League president and CEO Marc Morial, as his organization launched their Occupy the Vote campaign on March 7. "[A] coordinated effort is underway to exclude from the political process the very citizens whose futures hang in the balance."

Of course, our true most vulnerable citizens—children—have no vote and no voice. And all parents and adults concerned about the future have a responsibility to them to vote and make our own votes count. But when powerful forces start to chip away at the right to vote for some Americans, they threaten the American promise for all Americans. No American

See WATCH, Page A8

The Prince George's Post

The Prince George's Post
 P.O. Box 1001 15207 Marlboro Pike
 Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3151
 Phone 301-627-0900 Legal Fax • 301-627-6260
 Editorial Fax • 301-627-8147
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Publisher Legusta Floyd	Subscriptions Anna Curry
General Manager/ Legal Advertising Manager Brenda Boice	Editor Legusta Floyd
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BUSINESS

Governor Martin O'Malley Submits More than 130 Regulations to be Repealed, Revised or Streamlined

By PRESS OFFICER
Office of the Governor

Recommendations to be submitted to the AELR Committee

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 9, 2012) – Governor Martin O'Malley submitted 131 state regulations to be repealed, revised or streamlined to the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review Committee. On October 17, 2011, Governor O'Malley signed an Executive Order requiring all State agencies to conduct a comprehensive review of their regulations in order to identify those that could be modified, streamlined, or repealed in order to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on Maryland's businesses and promote economic growth and spark faster job creation.

"Making it easier to do business in Maryland – making it easier for businesses to add to

their payrolls - remains a top priority," said Governor O'Malley. "Because of the tough choices we have made together over the last six years, unemployment is down to a three year low, we have recovered 45 percent of the jobs lost during the recession and Maryland's businesses are creating jobs again. But better is not good enough. Together, we can create more jobs, as our economy – both nationally and here in Maryland – shows very real signs of improving."

Throughout the review process, the Governor's Office solicited input from partners in the business community and established a public comment forum on the Maryland Made Easy website to solicit comments from the general public. The Governor's Office received more than 350 comments via the website, all of which were monitored and distributed to the appropriate



FILE PHOTO
Governor Martin O'Malley submitted 131 state regulations to be repealed, revised or streamlined to the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review Committee.

agencies for review and consideration.

Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown remain committed to creating jobs. In addition to the Executive Order, Governor O'Malley hosted the Maryland Made Easy 2012 Symposium on Job Creation in December to solicit input from business leaders, educators and

industry stakeholders on how the state can make it easier for businesses to grow and thrive in Maryland.

The attached spreadsheet is the culmination of our regulatory review process, with suggestions for repeal, streamlining, and revision.

Business Exchange

by William Reed



Not Just Another Empty Suit

Seems that all America's Black Ladies' Clubs have banned together to "boycott Donald Trump until he admits that President Obama was born in the U.S." Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice" television show, his casinos, office buildings, and hotels, have been put in economic peril by little gray-haired Black ladies.

The Little Ladies' boycott may be "on hold" since President Obama put out his long-form Birth Certificate. Basically Trump is blowing smoke to inflate his television and presidential poll ratings; but the theory that Obama is not a naturally-born citizen and consequently ineligible to serve as President continues to built in size and strength. Birthers' doubts about Obama go to the core of his signature appeal: his life as an example of "a multicultural ideal". The "Obama legitimacy question" and the Black Ladies' Clubs' "Hate on Trump" campaign is headed for overtime. Record say that Barack Sr. and Ann Dunham married in 1961; but many wonder whether it was a marriage in anything but name or whether there was a marriage at all.

Trump's legitimacy to be President of the United States is in question too. Trump talks more game than he's got. It's said in business circles that "The Donald" begged Forbes to list him as a billionaire, but – to no avail. Trump's claim to fame is more that of a celebrity than businessman. Father Fred Trump built the real estate empire, the rest is a play were the 65-year-old Donald John Trump portrays the role of a prominent American business magnate, author, and television personality. He is the Chairman and CEO of the Trump Organization, a US-based real estate development company. Trump is also the founder of Trump Entertainment Resorts, which operates numerous casino and hotel properties across the world. Trump's extravagant lifestyle and outspoken manner have made him a celebrity for years most recently with his NBC reality show, The Apprentice (where he serves as host and executive producer). Most African-Americans ultimately don't take Donald Trump's presidential candidacy seriously. But, they should understand and accept the "he's not one of us" position and culture.

Bottom-line, the Little Ladies have a tiger by the tail. The "birther" issue is part of a definite and dedicated movement to make Barack Obama a one-term President. Trump's candidacy message may fall on deaf ears among African Americans, but Herman Cain represents the kind of "American success" bona fides the Little Ladies might like to hire in Obama's place. There is no question that Cain's "one of us. A 66 year-old successful businessman and radio talk show host, Cain is an "equal opportunity poster child". He a former chairman and CEO of Godfather's Pizza, former deputy chairman (1992-94) and chairman (1995-96) of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. A "Morehouse Man," Cain joined Pillsbury in 1977 and rose to vice president level. A successful company man, Cain took poor performing units and made them profitable. Pillsbury then appointed him President and CEO of Godfather's Pizza in 14 months Cain returned the company to profitability. In 1988, Cain and a group of investors bought Godfather's where Cain continued as CEO until 1996 when he resigned to become CEO of the National Restaurant Association where he had previously been chairman concurrently with his role at Godfather's.

A 2012 election campaign with Cain on the ticket would be the type of "hope and change" Americans thought they were getting in 2008. If Cain couples his candidacy with a focus on race issues, the tactic could put many Blacks on the Republicans' rolls in 2012. Cain's conservative credentials could enhance his taking a principled approach to the race issue; and could jeopardize Obama's and Democrats' ability to continue getting 95 percent Black voter support. Only such a candidacy as Cain can mount could get the millions of Little Ladies to see how issues of Black economic development and chronic unemployment are being overlooked at the expense of the symbolism of keeping Obama in office. Herman Cain may be "the truth" in these matters.

William Reed CEO, Black Press International
Business/Economic Feature
BUSINESS EXCHANGE

(William Reed is available for speaking/seminar projects via BaileyGroup.org)

Sprawl from A1

dominated county, there could be some black households that decide that they don't want to live in a black-dominated community, so they move out to Howard County ... or out to Charles County," Marsh explained.

Encouraging racial diversity in public schools should make Charles County "a model for integrated communities," Kelly said.

"Our kids are modern," Kelly said. "They don't see color. They don't see differences. They don't see ethnicities. They're all just kids growing up together."

Despite efforts to diversify, Humbert sees a county that is more segregated than Kelly would suggest.

"You've still got a bit of a separation, I think," said Humbert. "It's either a habit or it's a comfort level. But I think that'll change eventually."

Humbert, who does business throughout Southern Maryland, said many of his black clients tend to want larger homes of the sort being built in St. Charles and Waldorf, while many white clients are attracted to more rural areas around Bryans Road, across the Potomac River from sparsely developed Mount Vernon in Virginia.

Housing prices in Charles County remain low, which Humbert said is a major draw.

"A condo in the District, I mean ... right downtown, it's gonna cost you seven-\$800,000," said Humbert. "Now, \$700,000 in Charles County gets you three acres and a nice home."

Charles County's infrastructure appears nearly new. In contrast to the potholed and worn roads common in Prince George's County, Charles County's thoroughfares are wide and mostly smooth, with bright white and yellow lines.

St. Charles Towne Center and other recent mall developments have been deliberately planned, unlike the older, dilapidated strip malls seen in Prince George's County communities.

"We've got the most successful mall around," Humbert boasted of St. Charles Towne Center, the commercial anchor of the St. Charles development at Waldorf's southern end. When he was young, he added, "We used to go up to the malls in Prince George's. Then they all closed down. ... Now (Prince George's County residents) all come down here."

Aubrey D. Thagard, a Prince George's economic development official, said the county is working to revitalize the retail sector, bolster public safety and reform high housing costs and an underperforming school system, which he acknowledged spurred migration out of the county last decade.

"We're not just hoping to improve them, we are improving them," Thagard said. "What we hope to do is continue to market the county as an attractive option for people from all walks of life."

Between Montgomery County, one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, and Frederick County to its north, the differences are less apparent.

Montgomery County's population swelled with new immigrants, rendering it a minority-majority county last decade. At the same time, IRS data indicates a significant number of its

residents fled to Frederick and Howard counties.

Even at the height of the recession in 2009 and 2010, new homes were being built in Frederick and nearby small towns like New Market.

The president of the Frederick County Board of Commissioners, Blaine R. Young, said Frederick County's 19.5 percent population growth last decade was fueled by its open spaces, low crime, less taxes, good public schools and cheaper housing -- the same forces at work in Charles County.

"We have an incredible quality of life to offer in Frederick County," said Young. "We're a very welcoming community, and we're a safe community, and we've got a great school system, and we're doing well economically."

Frederick County's population grew about twice as quickly as the national average last decade. At the same time, the proportion of non-Hispanic white county residents declined more than 10 points.

"Obviously, it brings a lot more diversity, which is a good thing," Young said. "We have seen businesses that have opened up that do cater to certain residents from certain origins of country, and we have seen a lot more diversity in the kinds of events that we do."

Increasingly, Kelly said, Charles County is becoming a D.C. suburb. She said most county residents now commute across the county line for work.

The picture is similar in Frederick County, where Young said about 40 percent of full-time workers have jobs outside the county.

A common theme regionally

is that pockets of greater minority population locate along arterial roads linking the suburbs with the District, including in upper Charles County.

"We've had an influx of citizens ... (who have) more in common with suburban and metropolitan areas," said Kelly, who led Charles County to full membership in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments last year. "We get the benefit of families moving from Prince George's County, (including) professionals."

The migration to Charles County, while substantial, has been hampered by long commute times and a lack of public transportation.

"In order to move forward with economic development, we have to have better transportation," said Kelly.

The terminus of the Washington Metrorail's Green Line at Branch Avenue lies 13 miles north of the county line. Humbert said he would like to see the line extended south to Charles County.

"It would be a marvelous thing for our community," Humbert said. "Southern Maryland is the only place (in the state) without any sort of mass transit."

Calvert County, which is considered by the census as part of the Washington metropolitan area, also experienced major growth last decade, surging 19 percent from 74,563 residents in 2000 to 88,737 residents now. But Board of County Commissioners President Gerald W. Clark expressed an entirely different attitude toward growth than his counterparts in Charles and Frederick counties.

Our season runs from March – July. All candidates are required to pass a Sexual Offenders Registry background check. Free training is provided. Interested? Email fwill@mail.com, visit our website www.fwill.webs.com or call us at 301-567-9799.

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OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S
IN THE DARK

Movie Review "John Carter"

"JOHN CARTER"

C+

Rated PG-13 for action violence.

2 hrs., 12 min.

Much has been made of the fact that "John Carter" was going to be called "John Carter of Mars" before someone at Disney decided the "of Mars" part would lessen the film's appeal to girls, who presumably aren't interested in science-fiction. Just imagine if they'd gone with the title of the Edgar Rice Burroughs novel the film is based on: "A Princess of Mars." Not only is that more intriguing than "John Carter," it's also a better reflection of the movie, which has a strong, charismatic princess character and a bland John Carter character.

It's a shame that Burroughs' work, which influenced so much of the 20th century's science-fiction, would be turned into a movie that feels like a weak imitation of 20th-century science-fiction. There's a similar paradox in the fact that while this is the first live-action movie from animation whiz Andrew Stanton (who directed "Finding Nemo," "WALL-E"), it feels shallower and more cartoonish than anything he did at Pixar. By all rights this ought to be a smashing sci-fi adventure, not a second-tier throwaway.

John Carter is played by Taylor Kitsch, a hunky brooder who beguiled many a lady on TV's "Friday Night Lights" but who, as an action hero, has the



From filmmaker Andrew Stanton comes John Carter—a sweeping action-adventure set on the mysterious and exotic planet of Barsoom (Mars). John Carter is based on a classic novel by Edgar Rice Burroughs, whose highly imaginative adventures served as inspiration for many filmmakers, both past and present. The film tells the story of war-weary, former military captain John Carter (Taylor Kitsch), who is inexplicably transported to Mars where he becomes reluctantly embroiled in a conflict of epic proportions amongst the inhabitants of the planet, including Tars Tarkas (Willem Dafoe) and the captivating Princess Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins). In a world on the brink of collapse, Carter rediscovers his humanity when he realizes that the survival of Barsoom and its people rests in his hands. -- (C) Walt Disney

screen presence of a dirt clod. Carter, a Civil War veteran roaming the West in the 1870s, is a man without a cause now. His wife and daughter were slain during the war; Carter has had enough of fighting. But he finds something new to believe in when he's transported to Mars, where a battle among that planet's various races may benefit from his assistance. You will recognize the archetype from "Dances with Wolves," "Avatar," "The Last Samurai," and plenty of others (many of which, again, can at least partially trace their roots back to Burroughs).

How does Carter know which side deserves his help? It's the side with the beautiful princess, obviously. She is

Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins), a fierce warrior whose father, Tardos Mors (Ciaran Hinds), is going to make her marry the arrogant Sab Than (Dominic West), a prince from the opposing side, in order to maintain peace between the kingdoms. While these two groups grapple for dominance, a third species, the tall, green, four-armed Tharks, live on the frontier with primitive weapons and an ancient code of honor. Carter falls in with the Tharks first, before finding his true calling with Dejah and her people.

There are also beings called Therns that are immortal and can shape-shift. You can tell the Therns are bad news because one of them is played by Mark Strong.

I have a hard time mustering enthusiasm for anything about the movie, which is too long and episodic. But I can't work up the energy to actively dislike it, either. The action sequences whizz by at an acceptable clip, the dialogue is generally serviceable, and the Martian world looks nifty in a way that would probably seem even niftier if I were 8. The abundant CGI is flatly unconvincing; the humans and their non-human surroundings never feel like they're actually sharing the same space. More than anything, "John Carter" resembles the "Star Wars" prequels: busily adventurous, packed with exotic creatures and boys-in-the-sandbox playfulness, and altogether kind of fake.

The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

Big Pimpin': Peyton Manning and the loyalty double standard

Professional athletes, we are constantly told, are disloyal souls. They're ungrateful. They're selfish. They don't care about the team, the fans, or the community. They are only out for themselves. The perpetual prime example of this egomaniacal archetype is the person author Scott Raab called "The Whore of Akron": basketball player LeBron James. The Ohio-born James left his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers for the Miami Heat and overnight became the Sports World's number one villain. Well, if LeBron James is the Whore of Akron, what does that make Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay?

On Wednesday, Irsay released his future Hall of Fame quarterback, 35 year old Peyton Manning. In Manning, we have a player who exemplifies everything we say we want in athletes. He revered the tradition of the franchise. He involved himself in the community. He even built a hospital, for goodness sake. At the press conference announcing his release, he started to cry when talking about how much he'll miss the equipment manager at the team's practice facility.

This is someone who led his team to an NFL record 115 wins and nine straight playoff appearances over the last decade, while winning four most valuable player awards. This is someone who started 208 straight games. This is that rare player, like the Yankees' Derek Jeter or the Lakers' Kobe Bryant, who is almost impossible to imagine in another uniform.

Despite this remarkable record of accomplishment, Manning, in Irsay's eyes, was seen as expendable. No loyalty. No humanity. Just business. But you aren't seeing sports writers, commentators, or bloggers ripping Irsay apart for his lack of fidelity. No one is burning their Colts jerseys in protest. Those kinds of brutal character assaults are reserved for the LeBron James's of this world. Instead we hear that while Manning's release might have been tough decision, it had to be done. As Andrew Brandt wrote at SportsIllustrated.com, "In the end, Irsay's decision to part with Manning is an understandable business decision, ruling from his head rather than his heart. Organizations must evolve. Leaders must respect the past, but not be controlled by it." Brandt's words have been echoed as the conventional wisdom across the sports landscape.

Yes, Peyton missed the entirety of last season with a neck injury, but that's not stopping suitors across the league from drooling at his door. Yes, Peyton was due a massive signing bonus from the team if they didn't release him, but this pales in comparison to the cash he has put in the owner's pocket. This includes the hundreds of millions of dollars Irsay received in the construction of the publicly funded Lucas Oil Stadium which can be fairly called "The House that Peyton Built." But Jim Irsay, in an action that should brand him as the Newt Gingrich of NFL owners, cast Peyton aside for a younger, prettier option. Peyton's injury sank the Colts this season landing them the coveted number one draft pick and the opportunity to select shiny rookie Andrew Luck from Stanford. Not personal, just business.

Whenever owners release star players, the media applauds with somber respect. But the Lebrons of the world, despite their commercial value and cultural capital, are treated less like business people than ungrateful wards of the state. It's a deeply condescending and highly racialized dichotomy that reaches back to Major League Baseball player Curt Flood's perilous efforts to win free agency. If you play a children's game, then the media and fans expect you to act as grateful and loyal as a child. If owners like Irsay are praised for "ruling from his head rather than his heart", we never grant players that same respect. But even when a player comes along like a Peyton Manning, who meets every expectation and satisfies our every unreasonable demand, it's still not enough.

Never talk to me again about what players "owe" their teams. Never ask why athletes aren't more grateful to the people who sign their checks. Never refer to Lebron as "The Whore of Akron" unless we are willing to call owners like Jim Irsay out as the pimps that they are.

[Dave Zirin is the author of "The John Carlos Story" (Haymarket) and just made the new documentary "Not Just a Game." Receive his column every week by emailing dave@edgeofsports.com. Contact him at edgeofsports@gmail.com.]

Sugar Gliders Rising in Popularity in Maryland

By MARIKO HEWER
Capital News Service

COLLEGE PARK - When Kristin Foster wants to spend time with her pets, she doesn't go for a walk or play fetch with them. Instead, the 22-year-old from Maugansville puts her two sugar gliders, Gizmo and Jumping Jack Flash, in a fleece pouch and hangs it around her neck, carrying the two animals with her everywhere she goes. Sugar gliders, small marsupials native to parts of Australia, Tasmania, Papua New Guinea and Indonesia, have recently become popular as household pets in North America. While sugar gliders were originally imported, private owners and some small companies have begun to breed them in Maryland and other parts of the United States. "Gliders have been around for the last 15 years, (but) they're just taking off now," said Mercer Smith, 42, who breeds sugar gliders in Baltimore. Because sugar gliders are exotic animals, breeders face more confusing and complex standards than people who breed traditional household pets like cats and dogs. Although most states allow individuals to own sugar gliders, some of those states do not allow breeding or selling. Maryland allows both. Sugar gliders are classified as small exotic animals under the federal Animal Welfare Act and breeders are regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Every state has the authority to regulate

the animals within that state," said Dave Sacks, a USDA spokesman. But if the state allows breeding or selling, "Then you would need to apply for a license with us at the USDA. Our regulations have to stretch across the board." Nikki Levin, 27, has owned sugar gliders for approximately two-and-a-half years and has been breeding them for two years. She is the only USDA-certified breeder in Maryland. "You get someone that ... comes out every six months, does an inspection and lets you know if you pass or not," Levin said. "A vet ... checks all your gliders for stool (samples) and bacterial infections and makes sure they're healthy to breed." Levin owns 30 sugar gliders, all of which are breeding. Each of her females has approximately four litters per year, each litter containing one or two "joey's." She advertises them on websites like www.hoobly.com, which allows users to post free classified ads online. Five or six people interested in buying sugar gliders contact her each week, she said. "I kind of call it my adoption process," Levin said. For pet owners accustomed to dogs and cats, sugar gliders take some getting used to. Although roughly the size and shape of hamsters, they are very mobile. Elastic membranes that extend from their bodies allow the animals to glide from one spot to another. In the wild, they can cover long distances between trees easily. In captivity, they enjoy

jumping from one piece of furniture to the next, often scaling curtains to achieve a better vantage point. Besides needing ample space to maneuver, sugar gliders also require a great deal of attention. Because the animals are not completely domesticated, owners must spend as much time as possible with them when they are young to build trust. The fleece bonding pouch helps sugar gliders adjust to their owners' smell and keeps them warm. "The bonding is the hardest part, because you love them so much but you have to wait for them to warm up to you," Foster said. "If my schedule permits, they sleep in their bonding pouch with me for a few hours a day." Smith, the breeder from Baltimore, has been breeding sugar gliders since the early 2000s and is applying for a USDA license.

The first imported sugar gliders were "beige grays," said Smith, but breeders are starting to create new color combinations like cinnamon, albino and caramel. Smith said it is important for buyers to consider the source of their sugar gliders. "There's a lot of people who are saying they are breeders but they'll go and buy (gliders) from a fish store. You'll know right off the bat (where it came from) by how tame a sugar glider is," he said. Besides determining the tameness of a sugar glider, potential buyers must consider several other factors. Unlike gerbils, whose average life



PHOTO FROM Ipzoo.org

The sugar glider is a small gliding possum, a native to eastern and northern mainland Australia (as well as being introduced to Tasmania, Australia) and is also native to New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago.

expectancy is four to five years, sugar gliders can live eight to 12 years in captivity. Although sugar gliders do not require regular veterinary care, finding an exotic vet can be difficult and the bills can be higher than those for common household animals. A five-day intake program for a sick sugar glider at Stahl Exotic Animal Veterinary Services in Fairfax, Va., can cost at least \$1,059 and a one-night emergency room stay at VCA Alexandria Animal Hospital can cost at least \$407. Levin, Foster and Smith also stressed the impor-

tance of daily interaction with the gliders.

David M. Brust, an exotic animal veterinarian and president of the Association of Sugar Glider Veterinarians, said the top drawback of owning a sugar glider is having to spend time with them every day. "Even if they're well bonded and well trained, if you put them in the cage and don't mess with them (for a while), they'll turn wild again," Brust said. Dr. Scott Medlin, a resident veterinarian at Stahl Exotic Animal Veterinary Services, said he recommends daily interaction. "(It's) the best way to get these guys to interact and be comfortable and be at their best health. As with all animals, you build a web of social interaction that keeps (them) mentally healthy," he said.

Calendar of Events

March 22 - March 28, 2012

Spring Jazz Series: Dick Morgan

Date and Time: March 23, 8 pm
 Event Description: Morgan returns with his group for another fine evening of jazz standards impeccably played by this Virginia native and longtime Washingtonian. This concert sells out early, so don't delay.
 Ages: All ages
 Fee: \$20 per person. Call for information about purchasing a series subscription.
 Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Information: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Scout Wings Day

Date & Time: Saturday, March 24, 12 noon-4 pm
 Description: Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of all levels are welcome to explore the history of aviation and science of flight with a variety of fun, educational activities that count towards badge requirements. Pre-registration is required.
 Ages: All ages
 Cost: \$4/participant
 Location: *College Park Aviation Museum*
 1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park 20740
 Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

Easter Eggstravanga

Date and Time: Saturday, March 24, 11 am-1 pm
 Description: Join us for an Easter egg hunt! The afternoon includes entertainment, face painting, light refreshments, and a picture with the Easter bunny! Participants must provide their own baskets. Pre-registration required.
 Cost: Resident \$6; Non-resident 48
 Ages: 2-12
 Location: *Largol/Kettering/Perrywood Community Center*
 431 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro 20774
 Contact: 301-390-8390; TTY 301-218-6768

Spring Jazz Series: Ron Kearns and Paul Wingo Quartet

Date and Time: March 30, 8 pm
 Event Description: Saxophonist Ron Kearns returns to Montpelier with guitarist Paul Wingo and their quartet. Kearns and Wingo are world-class instrumentalists and bring their swingin' rhythms to the arts center.
 Ages: All ages
 Fee: \$20 per person. Call for information about purchasing a series subscription.
 Location: *Montpelier Arts Center*
 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel 20708
 Information: 301-377-7800, 410-792-0664; TTY 301-490-2329

Concert: The Jive Five

Date and Time: Saturday, March 31, 8 pm
 Event Description: From Brooklyn, the Jive Five was one of the last doo-wop groups to have a national hit and one of the few to make a successful transition to the soul era. The group's biggest doo-wop hit was "My True Story" in 1961. Other hits include "These Golden Rings," "What Time Is It?" and the R&B smash hit "I'm A Happy Man." Today's Jive Five lineup includes original lead singer Eugene Pitt, Casey Spencer, Beatrice Best, Frank Pitt, and Herbert Pitt. They perform in sold-out venues on the doo wop circuit and are considered one of the most popular doo wop groups today.
 Ages: All ages
 Fee: \$30/general admission; \$25/seniors & students
 Location: *Arts/Harmony Hall Regional Center*
 10701 Livingston Road, Ft. Washington 20744
 Information: 301-203-6070; TTY 301-203-3803

Flea Market

Date & Time: Saturday, March 31, 7-10 pm
 Description: You can find treasures where you'd least expect! Visit the Hillcrest Heights Flea Market and find your treasures.
 Cost: FREE
 Ages: All ages
 Location: *Hillcrest Heights Community Center*
 2300 Oxon Run Drive, Temple Hills 20748
 Contact: 301-505-0896 ; TTY 301-203-6030

Fort Washington Little League, Inc. Baseball/Softball

Registration for girls and boys 4-18 years of age living within Accokeek (P.G. County), Camp Springs, Clinton, Forestville, Fort Washington, Morningside, Oxon Hill, Suitland, Temple Hills and Andrews Air Force Base. Participation fees vary with division of play. New players must provide a copy of their birth certificate and everyone must show proof of residency. Uniform Hold Check required. For more information call 301-567-9799, visit our website www.fwll.webs.com or send an e-mail fwll@mail.com.

Baseball/Softball Registration

Fort Washington Little League, Inc. is looking for qualified, energetic Volunteer Managers, Coaches and Volunteer Umpires to associate with our baseball and softball program. Our season runs from March - July. All candidates are required to pass a Sexual Offenders Registry background check. Free training is provided. Interested? Email fwll@mail.com, visit our website www.fwll.webs.com or call us at 301-567-9799

Baby Bunnies at Baden

Date and Time: Saturday, March 31, 10 am
 Description: Children will enjoy crafts, snacks and special egg prizes. Don't forget to bring a basket!
 Cost: Before Mar. 27 \$3/child; After Mar. 27 \$5/child
 Ages: 6 & under
 Location: *Baden Community Center*
 13601 Baden-Westwood Road, Brandywine 20613
 Contact: 301-888-1500; TTY 301-203-6030

EARTH TALK .. Cuba's foray into offshore oil drilling

Dear EarthTalk:

Cuba just began drilling for oil not far from U.S. shores and hopes to become a major exporter. What ramifications does this have for the environment?

Cuba recently began drilling exploratory oil wells 30 miles off of its northern coast—and just 60 miles south of the Florida Keys. Earlier this year the Scarabeo 9 oil rig finished up a long slow journey by sea from the shipyard that birthed it in China to Cuba's territorial waters off the capital city of Havana (the 50-year-old U.S. trade embargo on Cuba forbids such equipment going from or through the United States).

Geologists estimate that the rock formations off Cuba's northern coast could yield anywhere from five to 20 billion barrels of oil. American foreign policy experts are concerned that Cuba's inexperience with off-shore drilling could lead to a spill in sensitive waters not unlike the 2010 BP oil disaster. They're also worried that Cuba could yield more political and economic power if it becomes a net exporter of oil.

Although Cuba is reportedly using state-of-the-art equipment and is working with experienced international drilling contractors, some U.S. environmental groups are still troubled: "A major oil spill in Cuban waters could devastate both coastal Cuba and the United States," reports the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). "Florida's \$60 billion tourism and fishing indus-

tries—as well as the Dry Tortugas marine sanctuary and deepwater corals in the Southeast Atlantic—are at stake."

Today Cuba imports half of the 200,000 barrels of oil it consumes each day from its friendly neighbor to the south, Venezuela. The other half of Cuba's oil comes from its own two existing on-shore oil facilities. Finding significant off-shore reserves could end its dependency on Venezuela and turn Cuba into an oil exporter, possibly even thawing relations with a still oil-hungry U.S. Indeed, if the find is big enough, U.S.-based oil firms may want in, and who knows how that will affect the U.S. embargo on trade with Cuba.

Given the environmental and political implications of Cuba's foray into offshore drilling, EDF led a delegation to the island nation in September 2011. The goal of the delegation, which included co-chair of the BP oil spill commission and former EPA Administrator William Reilly, was to assess Cuba's plans and to share lessons learned about the risks of offshore drilling with officials there. "The trip put the spotlight on the lack of dialogue between the United States and Cuba on how to prepare and respond to an oil spill in Cuban waters," says Lee Hunt of the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC), one of the trip's organizers. EDF, IADC and others would like to see the Obama administration initiate direct negotiations with Cuba to ensure that sufficient environ-



CREDIT: WIKIPEDIA/HAAKMAN
Finding significant off-shore oil reserves could turn Cuba into an oil exporter, possibly even thawing relations with a still oil-hungry U.S. Pictured: The Scarabeo 9 oil rig while still under construction in China in 2009. It is now 30 miles off of Cuba's coast and just 60 miles south of the Florida Keys.

mental and safety standards are in place.

"It's a sensitive political issue because if there were a spill, U.S. technology might be prevented from being quickly deployed due to the long-running U.S. embargo of Cuba," reports EDF. "The United States has more than 5,000 wells in its territorial waters in the Gulf. But none are nearly as close to the Florida coast as the proposed sites off Havana."

But with the test drilling already underway, Cuba isn't waiting around for U.S. input. No doubt, if the exploratory wells are a success, Cuban oil will become a huge political

issue.
 CONTACTS: EDF, www.edf.org;
 International Association of Drilling Contractors, www.iadc.org.

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First Lady from A1

A small delegation from National Cathedral School in Washington had a table as well. From the United Kingdom, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School in London sent 12 girls.

Michelle Obama spoke briefly before introducing Brooke D. Anderson, chief of staff to the National Security Council, and Cristeta Comerford, White House executive chef.

"We're very proud of all of you, because all of you have shown a level of dedication ... a level of leadership," Obama told the students. "Love you guys. Have fun."

Obama left Anderson to

explain the contours of the "special relationship" between the United States and the United Kingdom, a term she said originated with Winston Churchill, who served as the latter country's prime minister for much of World War II.

"There really are few nations that do so much together and have so much in common," said Anderson, heralding the countries' joint efforts in combat, diplomacy, business, science and education. "These visits are really an incredible opportunity to do important business."

Anderson, who previously served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Security Council, said she was reassured during her time at the United

Nations by the presence of three women -- Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice, and herself -- leading the U.S. delegation to the global body.

"Back when I was your age, I never, never imagined I'd be working at the White House," Anderson said. "You can achieve anything you put your mind to."

Comerford, who became the first female White House executive chef in 2005, expressed her pleasure at having broken that "incredible" gender barrier.

"When I see you, I see myself when I was that age," Comerford said, responding to a British student's question about who inspired her. "Just that drive, that fascination with the

world."

Anderson, discussing career pathways with one of the Elizabeth Seton students, promised to help her get in touch with someone at the Office of Management and Budget, where the student said she hopes to one day work.

Sister Ellen Marie Hagar, Elizabeth Seton's president, said the students who were selected were chosen "for their ability to be ambassadors" for the school, as well as for their academic achievement and level of interest.

"They do the right thing all the time," Hagar said. "And this is just an occasion (for us) to say, 'We do notice, and we are very proud of you.'"

Football from A1

American coordinator; the other is Clemson.

The hires were significant as well as novel. Few African-Americans hold head-coaching jobs, and those positions are often filled by promoting coordinators.

Edsall, for example, got his first head-coaching job -- at Connecticut -- after completing the 1998 season as the defensive coordinator at Georgia Tech.

"It's the infrastructure in place," said Fitzgerald Hill, a black former head coach at San Jose State and longtime assistant at Arkansas. "(Locksley) was a coordinator at Illinois, and I'm certain he wouldn't of gotten the head job at New Mexico had he not been the offensive coordinator at Illinois first. There is a totem pole order to get a head coaching job."

Stanford is the only FBS college that has two African-American coordinators -- Derek Mason and Pep Hamilton -- in addition to a black head coach, David Shaw.

Four other FBS schools -- New York at Buffalo, Middle Tennessee State, Houston and Pittsburgh -- employed two African-American coordinators in 2011, but those pairs did not survive offseason staff changes.

"I got hired a week or two prior to [Stewart] and didn't

think about it until you brought it up," Locksley said. "Obviously it speaks volumes to the character of coach Edsall to not even think about that and just hire the two best coaches, which I think he's done."

Edsall has set a high bar for other coaches across the country in hiring African-Americans as coaches. His Terps' football staff of 10 coaches now includes five African-Americans.

The hiring of two African-American coordinators represented progress being made in racial diversity in the coaching profession, said Floyd Keith, executive director of Black Coaches and Administrators.

"When we see these opportunities increase, there's a definite positive trend," said Keith, who was the head football coach at Howard and Rhode Island before taking over the BCA in 2001. "There aren't very many institutions that have two (African-American coordinators)."

According to the BCA, there were 19 coaches of color at the 120 FBS schools in 2011, including 17 who were African-American and six who were new hires. Eight of those coaches were at schools in elite Bowl Championship Series conferences like Maryland's ACC, up from five in 2010. The BCA reported 31 African-American coordinators in 2011 at FBS

schools, or 11.9 percent of 240.

Despite the recent progress, Keith said work remained to be done. There have been only 42 African-American head coaches in the history of college football, he said, and in recent years African-American coaches complained they were passed over for head-coaching jobs due to race.

In 2009, then-Florida defensive coordinator Charlie Strong told The Orlando Sentinel he believed he was not offered a head-coaching position because he was African-American and his wife was white. Strong helped lead Florida's defense during both of its national championship seasons, but did not receive a head-coaching job until 2010 at Louisville.

"Still, the numbers aren't proportionate," Keith said. "The numbers of [black] head coaches are not consistent with the number of [black] participants on the field, nor are the number of coordinators. But the progress over the last three years is very noticeable. We're headed in the right direction."

The NCAA reported recently that 45 percent of college football players are black.

After 25 years of research, Hill, who is currently the president at Arkansas Baptist College, wrote a book scheduled for release in March 2012 on the obstacles African-

Americans face in landing major college football coaching positions.

He argued that a true breakthrough will not occur until an African-American coach wins a national championship. He pointed to what happened after John Thompson Jr. won the NCAA men's basketball championship with Georgetown.

"That is, unfortunately, because black coaches are evaluated collectively and white coaches are evaluated individually," Hill said. "When you have someone successful, then everyone thinks we can do this because it becomes a proven fact."

Unlike Keith and Hill, Stewart said he doesn't spend much time thinking about race or looking at the number of African-American coaches across the country. But he said he understands the significance of being hired alongside Locksley.

"I just look at it as me ... being an African-American coach that has to represent myself in a certain way so that young African-American players look at me and see me as a good leader and a good person and mock some of the qualities they see in me," Stewart said. "I think that you look at the content of a person, the content of their character, and not the color of their skin and go from there."

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tures are taking a second look
at some of these changes as the
presidential primary process
continues and the 2012 elec-
tions grow closer—and so the
time to take action against new
voter suppression laws is right
now. As Representative John
Lewis prepared to participate
in the Selma to Montgomery
march, he said, "Forty-seven
years ago I spilled a little blood
on that bridge but that was
nothing compared to those
who died so that we could live
in a better America. We march
today for what we did 47 years
ago—for what is fair, what is
right and for what is just." The
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