

# The Paper

Medium For People Of African Descent

Volume 9 April 2007

"So We Stand Here On The Edge Of Hell In Harlem And Look Out On The World And Wonder What We're Gonna Do In The Face Of What We Remember"  
-Langston Hughes

## CCNY in NOLA

### Students Spend Spring Break Lending a Hand in New Orleans

By Easter Z. Wood

It is hard to believe that 2 years have passed since Hurricane Katrina blew through the gulf coast and left a devastating trail of destruction in its wake. Though talk of the category 5 storm that left hundreds dead and tens of thousands homeless has largely disappeared from the news and other outlets of popular culture, the effects have not disappeared and many, many people still stand in need of assistance with rebuilding their lives.

Despite what many consider a less-than-stellar response to the crisis and what has obviously been less-than-adequate handling of the disaster – which largely affected areas inhabited by African Americans, leading many to cry racism – the federal government has recently implemented a shocking mandate: rebuild or lose your property. Period.

Rather than offering financial assistance programs to help in rebuilding, the federal government has essentially decided that “enough is enough” and has decreed that any property that is not showing “signs of improvement,” vis à vis tearing out water-damaged dry wall and readying the property for rebuilding, will be confiscated. This decree comes despite the well-documented fact that many of the homes that were destroyed, or made uninhabitable, by the storm belonged to

people on the lower end of the socio-economic stratum who could scarcely afford to evacuate, let alone come up with the \$4,000 fee the city is charging to “gut” – i.e., strip down to the frame to

the government was not going to help any more than it already had, many of the citizens of New Orleans and the United States as a whole, decided to take the only other route they saw available:

band together and help each other. Several organizations were formed to recruit and organize volunteers from around the country to come down and gut the homes of those who would otherwise have their property taken from them.

One such organization, The Gulf Coast Relief Society, was formed right here at City College. The Society was the brain-child of Jewish Studies major, Karen Levit, and the group worked tirelessly raising funds throughout the fall semester to subsidize their volunteer trip to help the people of New Orleans. Ironically, they ran into a few other CCNY students who had taken the trip on their own.

Nine of the club's ten members spent their spring break working with 2 organizations, Katrina Corps ([www.katrinacorps.org](http://www.katrinacorps.org)) and The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN [www.acorn.org](http://www.acorn.org)), and the group assisted in gutting 1 business establishment and 3 homes in the 5 days they worked. If you're interested in volunteering, contact either of these great organizations at the email addresses listed above.



Members of the Gulf Coast Relief Society in front of a home they helped “gut” in New Orleans (back, l-r) Easter Wood, Heather Palenschat, Aalia Ali, Sumera Sharif, Charles Parker, Kebba Jallow (front, l-r) Hoi Chan, Karen Levit, Antonio Camacho

ready for rebuilding – damaged properties. Many people, both in and outside of New Orleans, have taken issue with the government's decision – particularly when billions upon billions of dollars, some of which could no doubt be helping the victims of Katrina, are currently being spent in what many consider an unnecessary and unlawful occupation of Iraq. Despite the opposition, however, the powers that be seem unwilling to relent.

When it became obvious that

#### INSIDE

Caribbean Beat  
page 4

Urban University  
Conference Highlights  
Students' Success  
page 6

Introducing Disney's  
First Black Princess  
page 7

In Perspective:  
CCAPP Counselor  
Constance Harper  
page 7

### MAPS Presents 2007 Socioeconomic Impact of Medicine Forum

By Maurice Selby

While controversies over health insurance, medical malpractice, and acute health disparities regularly dominate headlines throughout the country, there has been little mention of the problems created by health care professionals' lack of knowledge about the cultures and lifestyles of people they serve. As a result, many recipients of healthcare services suffer as their health care providers are unable to penetrate the cultural barriers that pervade the United States health care system.

The issue of cultural competency has yet to come to

the forefront of media attention. According to Shakira Stewart, Treasurer of the Minority Association of Pre-health Students, the issue has been “largely ignored” in the mainstream media and that is why her group decided to make it the focus of their annual forum this year.

On Thursday April 12th, the Minority Association of Pre-health Students (MAPS) hosted their Second Annual Socioeconomic Impact of Health Forum in the Faculty Dining Lounge. This year's forum focused on the issue of cultural competency and how it contributes to the ever expanding disparities in health care. Speakers at the forum included Dr. Dexter Mckenzie, Chair of the

Provident Clinical Society, and Dr. Daniel Laroche, the Director of Glaucoma Services at Saint Luke's Roosevelt Hospital. Dr. Muriel Petioni of Harlem Hospital and Touro College School of Medicine Director of Admissions Obed Figueroa were among the distinguished guests at the event.

MAPS Public Relations Officer Christian Bijoux served as the Master of Ceremonies for the evening and opened the event with a brief examination of the challenges Americans face in healthcare today. According to Bijoux, healthcare spending reached \$2 trillion

Continued on page 2

## 2007 Socioeconomic Impact of Medicine Forum

*Continued from front page*

in 2005 and will top \$2.9 trillion by 2009. With health care costs increasing year after year, and more than 45 million Americans living without health insurance this problem is without doubt one of the more pertinent problems facing the U.S. today.

Rachel Pierre, current President of MAPS, talked about alleviating some of the problems that cause disparities to arise in health care. Ms. Pierre stressed the importance of having culturally informed physicians and other healthcare professionals that are able to deal with people of various ethnicities and cultures. "Today, there is more cultural diversity in the United States than ever before, and if there are going to be movements to improve the efficient delivery of healthcare services to the people of this country, we must start by ensuring that our health care professionals are culturally competent and sensitive to individual patients' needs." While medical schools do encourage applicants to take classes that enhance communication skills and promote

cultural awareness, there aren't many schools that emphasize cultural competency in their curriculum. Upon graduating, many physicians go on to work in areas where they may encounter cultural groups that they've never dealt with before, and that could cause many problems.

In order to understand the complexities of the United States health care system today, one must understand its history as well. Dr. Dexter Mckenzie provided an in depth lecture on the evolution of health care and health policy in the United States, which made it easier to see when inequalities in healthcare began. In addition to that, he commented on the physician's loss of autonomy in recent decades due to the overbearing pressure of insurance companies and liability issues. Dr. Daniel Laroche concentrated on factors that contribute to the ever widening healthcare gap in black communities, one major issue being that the ratio of Black doctors to Black patients is much lower than the ratios of every other ethnic group.

In all, it was a very well-organized and informative conference on a subject that is too often left by the wayside.

## Here We Go Again

*By Lindsie Augustin*

Once again a public figure has gone off on a highly offensive anti-Black tangent, only this time the culprit wasn't a down-on-his-luck comedian but WFAN-AM morning host, Don Imus, and his slurs weren't directed to individuals heckling at a comedy club, but towards the Rutgers University Women Basketball team. During his April 6, 2007 Friday morning show, as Imus was recapping the previous games, he referred to the Rutgers women's team as "nappy headed hos."

Imus, who is known for his sharp tongue, took matters too far with his recent comments. His recent remarks not only just disrespected the team but also cost him both his TV and longtime radio show on Wednesday April 11th – a decision finalized only after losing major advertisers such as Staples Inc., Proctor and Gamble and American Express, costing him millions in revenue. Although Steve Capus, president of NBC News, claimed that the loss of advertisers was not the main reason for his termination,

Imus feels he has been victimized by the media stating, "I mean everyone knows me and knows what's going on."

While Imus may not understand the big controversy in his comment, others are not taking matters as lightly. Rev. Al Sharpton started, "when

we lower our walls, we invite more of this in." Whether Imus meant his comment in the racist context in which it was taken, means nothing. Such statements have no place in a society that claims to have evolved passed its demoralizing history.

With all the negative attention surrounding Imus he did apologize, however it was two days too late. "What I've said was repugnant, repulsive and a horrible comment...I did it without thinking," said Imus who is now determined to cut back on his "physical humor."

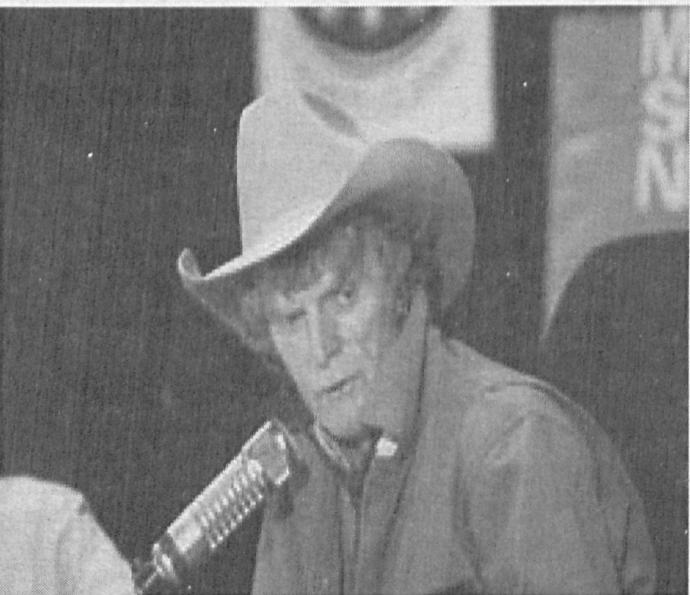
Imus' comment is one that will not soon be forgotten by all including the team. While they have publicly stated that they forgive Imus for his faux pas, Coach C. Vivian Stringer says: "We still find his statements to be

unacceptable and this is an experience that we will never forget."



*Above: The Rutgers Women's Basketball team*

*Below: Imus giving one of his infamous radio rants*



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*The Paper*

Wants to Hear from YOU!!

Articles and letters to the Editor are welcomed and can be submitted to *The Paper* for consideration. All submissions should be between 300-500 words. We look forward to reading what you have to say!

## OUR MISSION

For over thirty years *The Paper* has served as a medium through which students, faculty and members of the local community can communicate. As a publication for people of African descent, *The Paper* focuses on pertinent issues facing the Black and Latino community as well as issues that are of relevance to people of all races and ethnicities. In addition to that, this publication is a valuable resource for CCNY students and faculty alike as information on everything from scholarships to job opportunities can be in the newspaper. With increased membership and support of the student body, *The Paper* will continue to serve CCNY and the surrounding community.

## Commentary

## Oprah's Africa Help: Too Much? Wrong Place?

By Madi Ceesay

When Oprah Winfrey, the popular daytime television talk show host and one of the most successful black woman of the 21st century, spread her generous philanthropic tentacles to the African continent with the construction of a state-of-the-art leadership academy in the Republic of South Africa, fierce reactions erupted and a divide was formed between two main groups that I will call the anti-Africa camp and pro-Africa advocates.

In early January of this year, Oprah inaugurated her first-ever built school on the continent of her ancestors. Located on the town of Henly-on-Klip, forty miles from Johannesburg, South Africa's capital, this "free" academy for girls is positioned on a 22 acre plot of land and is comprised of 28 complex buildings with over size rooms complete with 200 thread count sheets, a yoga studio, a beauty salon, indoor and outdoor theaters, fire places, hundreds of pieces of original art and side walks speckled with colorful tiles. Dubbed "The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls," the school took five years and forty million dollars to complete.

While the anti-Africa camp vehemently criticized her benevolent gesture to the African continent, the pro-Africa group sees it as the greatest and wisest investment into the smart minds of the African girl child, ever made by an African-American of our time. Her critics, many of whom are Blacks, argue that Oprah, who is a living witness to the situation of many African-Americans living in poor neighborhoods, kids attending dilapidated and under-funded public schools staffed by teachers who know next to nothing and end up involved in violent crime and drug sales or abuse, why fly hundreds of miles away across the Atlantic to "throw" her wealth into the future of HIV/AIDS-stricken girls? Charity begins at home, they argue.

While those arguments are indeed valid, Oprah seems to possess the best answer for her critics: "When I first started making a lot of money," she tells Newsweek magazine, "I really became frustrated with the fact that, all I did was write check after check to this or that charity without feeling like it was part of me. At a certain point you want to feel that connection."

Well said Oprah! But, wait a minute! Do you mean to say you feel more of the "connection" to what you do for Black girls by building this school in South Africa than if you had done the same thing for the poor Black kids in the ruined neighborhoods of Chicago? I doubt it.

All it would take is being deeply involved in the whole project, from inception to completion, just as you had done in South Africa. Then you will start "feeling that it was part of [you]."

The anti-Africa camp further criticized this project as being too "extravagant." Again, Oprah has a justification for building this elitist school for the poor South African girl child saying: "these girls deserve to be surrounded by beauty, and beauty does inspire." Absolutely right! If as you said "beauty does inspire," then certainly these poor little girls have the biggest inspiration of their lives. They have at their disposal all the inspiration they need to succeed in life and become the new breed of leaders. Only that it

of millions each? A contributor to the opinion section of BBC website entitled "Have Your Say" had the best suggestion for mother Oprah: she should have built "40 schools with \$1 million each" rather than "one school for \$40 million."

Countering the "extravagance" question, Oprah's response was simply: "this is what I want to do." The question is not what you "want to do," but how you do it. The controversy over the school itself and, what some call, its unnecessary extravagance leads to a possible explanation for why the South African government pulled out of the whole project, folded its hands and performed the role of a spectator, hoping for the best results for its people.



Oprah's critics argue that her project is not only "too much" but it is in the "wrong place." Even those who agree with Africa as a locale for the school argue that, South Africa is considered the "powerhouse of Africa," both economically and politically, which provokes the question about the sense in building this academy in a country that is not the "neediest." Would it have been more appreciated and welcomed else where in Africa? Absolutely yes! Ghana, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Namibia and Ethiopia — just to name a few — are, to some, more deserving candidates than South Africa

since they are poorer. sounds rather unfortunate that with all the quality education that they would acquire, there would not be the Nelson Mandelas among them, since all the school's attendees are girls. Probably there would be the Winnies among them! However the fact that Oprah's Leadership Academy does not enroll boys makes some to cry foul for academic gender discrimination, because the lack of quality education in South Africa affects both sexes.

On the "extravagance" criticism, the pro-Africa camp sees it differently. "Oprah has her money and she would spend it anywhere and any how she wants," commented a reader of the Washington post.

When I discussed the issue of "extravagance" as well as the issue of the school itself an African friend of mine, asking if she thought building the school here would have been a better choice, she exclaimed "Hell no!" and continued, "Africa needs help, especially in girl child education and that's exactly what Oprah has done." Yes, I agree Africa needs help, but a \$40 million school for the poorest of the poor in one of the world's poorest countries where majority of the population live in less than a dollar a day? Investing \$ 40 million in South Africa's education sector is a smart move. But it could have been done in a smarter way. How about building several standard schools all across provincial South Africa with couple

Wherever one may stand on this issue, I think it is fair to give thumbs up to Mother O, for "helping the people of Black color," as one African journalist put it, for it is only through the combination of genuine educational assistance by the few powerful Black folks, like Oprah, and the efforts of "everyday people" that the Black community can regain their confiscated "BLACK POWER" and once again, become commanders of their destiny.

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# Events @ City

## 25 Most Influential Science Books of All Time

Date: March 12 – May 18  
 Time: 8:00 AM  
 Telephone: 212.650.7271  
 Address: Convent Ave & 138th Street/ NAC Building- Cohen Library  
 Admission: Free

Description: selected by the editors of Discover Magazine are presented with commentary by City College faculty members.

## CCNY Student Photography Exhibition

Date: April 16 – May 4  
 Time: -----  
 Telephone: 212.650.7411  
 Address: 160 Convent Ave/ Compton Goethals Rm. 133  
 Admission: Free

Description: Celebrate with the Art Department as we eat and drink to their success in the exhibition reception on April 19th, from 5pm to 7pm.

## Reading by Pulitzer Prize-Winning Poet

**Philip Levine**

Date: April 25  
 Time: 6:00pm – 8:00pm  
 Telephone: 212.650.7271  
 Address: Cohen Library Archives/ 5th floor  
 Admission: Free

Description: for the 10th Anniversary William Matthews Memorial Reading. Followed by reception

## Music Recital

Date: April 25  
 Time: 3:00pm  
 Telephone: 212.650.5411  
 Address: 138th Street & Convent Ave/ Shepard Hall Rm. 95  
 Admission: Free

Description: CCNY students Sophie Buchanau, piano, & Doron Schachter, violin, perform the works of Claude Debussy

## BFA Recital

Date: April 26  
 Time: 3:00 pm  
 Telephone: 212.650.5411  
 Address: 138th St. & Convent Ave/ Shepard Hall Rm. 95  
 Admission: Free

Description: Jesus Mansilla, guitarist, performs the works of various composers.

## "History and the Art of Making Documentary Films"

Date: May 2  
 Time: 5:30 pm – 6:30pm  
 Telephone: 212.650.7693  
 Address: 160 Convent Ave/ Shepard Hall Great Hall  
 Admission: Free/ RSVP: events@ccny.cuny.edu

Description: Director and producer Ric Burns, co-producer award-winning PBS documentary "The Civil War," presents The Samuel Rabin Lecture

# CARIBBEAN BE

By Martina Bailey

The islands of the Caribbean include Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Haiti Jamaica, and Trinidad just to name a few. These nations, along with many other islands and Guyana, which is on the continent of South America, make up the West Indies. Carib-Indians were the first inhabitants of Guyana and the islands of the Caribbean until 1492 when Christopher Columbus arrived. He named the islands the "Indies" because he thought he had reached Asia and the East Indies. Subsequently, the region was named the West Indies and its inhabitants have grown as a result of Columbus' arrival. After years of colonization and slave trading, the West Indies has become a culturally rich arena with people of African, Asian and European descent.

Those of us who are from the Caribbean, or are of West Indian descent may not be familiar with the history, or up to date with the happenings of our countries. This section is dedicated to keeping you abreast to the situations and politics of your country, while giving you portions of history from the West Indies.

## BARBADOS

Minister of the State, Reverend Joseph Atherly spoke out about human trafficking and child labor in Barbados. Persons from other Caribbean countries and Europe are being coerced into relocating to Barbados and engaging in prostitution. Children are also being forced to work for long hours at very low wages. Atherly stressed the immediate action that needs to be taken by law enforcement,

and he commented on the urgency for Barbadians to become more than what their forefathers were and reclaim and take ownership for what is theirs.

(Reported on April 4, 2007)

### A Little Bit of History:

Barbados is the most easterly island of the Caribbean. It was formed by the collision of the Atlantic and Caribbean plates. The island is comprised of volcanic rock and coral, and half the island is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, while the other half is surrounded by the Caribbean Sea.

## TRINIDAD

Public officers in Trinidad have received a 15 percent increase and taxpayers want to know if this increase will also mark an increase in their service to the community. Public officers generally need to improve their people skills and productivity. This is the opinions of the taxpayers and the Public Administration Minister, Dr Lenny Saith.

(Reported on April 4, 2007)

### A Little Bit of History:

Trinidadian chocolate became a high priced and highly coveted commodity during the nineteenth century, when sugar plantations gave way to the cultivation of cacao.

## JAMAICA

One of the oldest charitable organizations in the United States, United Way, has appointed Jamaican management consultant, Dr Henley Morgan to help make the United Way a better functioning global organization. Morgan is the first Caribbean person to be

appointed to serve the team. The United Way was established in Jamaica in 1985 and has aided heavily in eradicating poverty, developing communities and financing over 4,000 government agencies.

(Reported on April 4, 2007)

### A Little Bit of History:

When Christopher Columbus arrived in at St. Ann's Bay in Jamaica he named it Sancta Gloria because of the beauty of the environment.

## GUYANA

Alumni from the Novar Primary School in Mahaicony are making continued efforts towards the development of the institution. The group is based overseas but recently returned to Guyana to make donations and continue in their efforts on the Parent Teachers' Association. Prime Minister Samuel Hinds, who is also attended Novar, was present when the group returned and was eager to applaud them.

(Reported on April 4, 2007)

### A Little Bit of History:

Guyana was originally named Guiana by its first inhabitants, the Carib and Arawak tribes. The word Guiana means "land of many waters." Probably named for its location below sea level on the North-Eastern shoulder of South America, where the waters of the Atlantic Ocean are continuously raging.

If you're representing the Caribbean or if you're just interested in information about a particular country and would like to see its news and history from country, write us at thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu.

# SUDOKU

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Answer to March 2007 issue

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# Voices and views from new orleans

Photos by Heather Palenschat & Easter Wood

*For me, an emblematic moment of the trip was when I found a box of children's books in one of the houses. The books were scattered in the area and, though there were no walls, I realized that I was in a child's room. It was clear that this child had a love for learning, and some of the books looked similar to books I had as a child. It didn't seem fitting to dump them all into a bin full of debris. I can't quite explain why I went to New Orleans or what the experience was like; but whenever I found books or Christmas ornaments amongst the rubble it broke my heart to think that I couldn't do more.*

*New Orleans is captivating and absolutely haunting. It was a privilege for me to assist the city in whatever way I could.*

- Aalia Ali, Gulf Coast Relief Society



Volunteers in action gutting a house

*I've been in NOLA for 4 months and discovered that the longer you stay here the harder it is to leave. It's hard work, but I don't think I can be anywhere else. Though Bourbon Street is a tourist trap, NOLA offers so much more to visitors and volunteers. NOLA Volunteerism is a powerful force in the universe and the mysticism behind a disaster causes massive changes at so many levels in many lives. Karma gets a positive injection and people change, families change, communities and governments change. Maybe something will change here...*

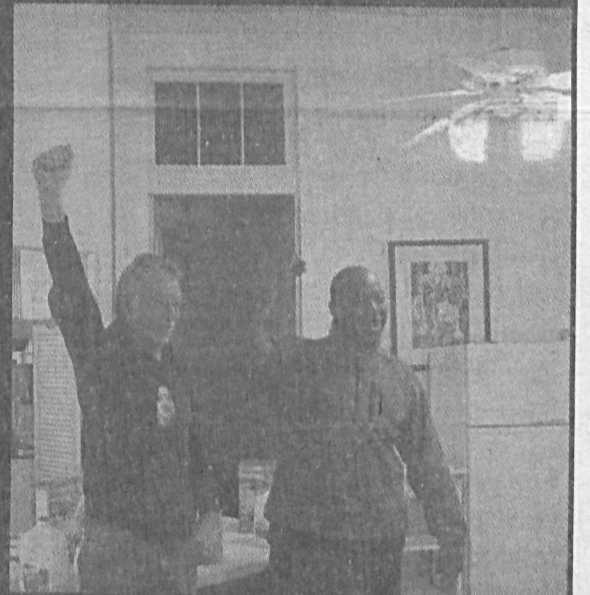
- Ray Thomas, Field Director, Katrina Corps



A storm-ravaged home with contents still inside

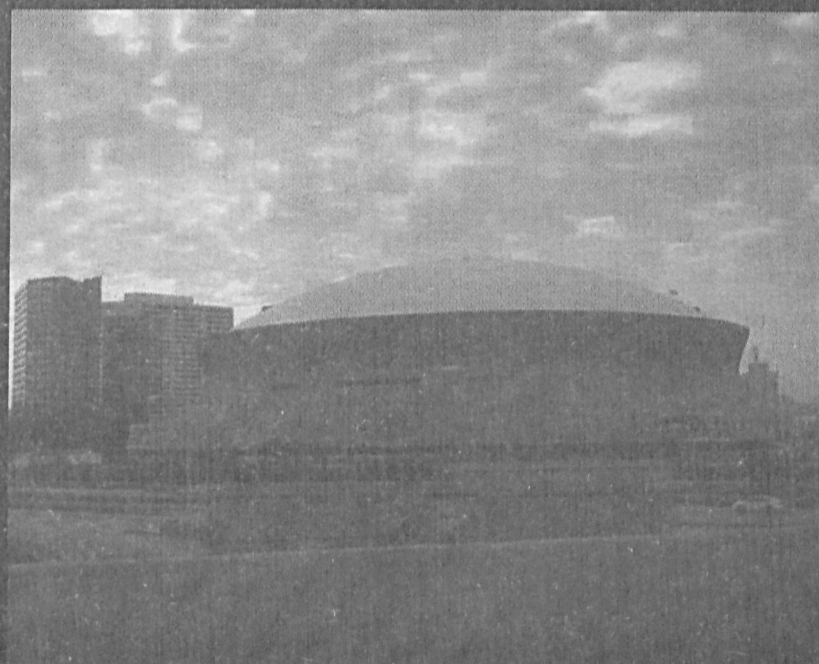
*It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the problem and undervalue the act of saving a handful of houses, but if you think about what our actions mean to someone who might otherwise have lost their property I think we've done something important. When all is said and done, we made a positive difference in people's lives, and I'd like to think that we learned more about ourselves, each other, and the world along the way.*

- Karen Levit, Gulf Coast Relief Society



Iver and Ray of Katrina Corps

*[The trip] was, for me, all at once discouraging and heartening: discouraging because it was evident that so much had not been done, so few homes had been salvaged. At the same time, watching our team work and meeting others who were down there to do the same thing made me feel that I was part of something much larger, and more positive than what I had expected after the initial shock of seeing just how devastated the city of New Orleans and her people still are.*



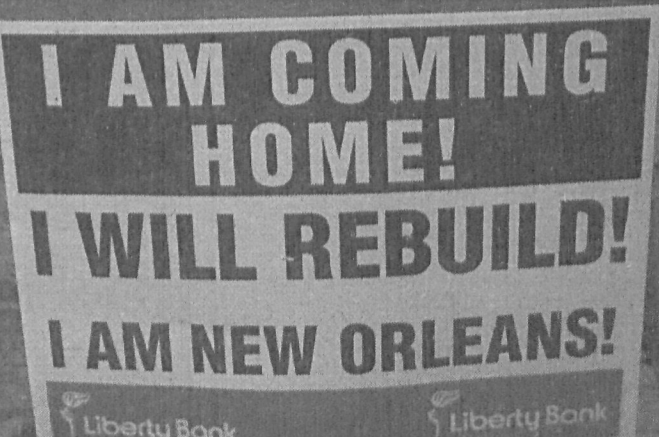
The now infamous New Orleans Super Dome

*Also, it was exciting to represent CCNY and I was so proud to find that other CCNY students had also taken the initiative to come down and volunteer their time. There was a tangible feeling of gratitude... every time someone drove by and waved ...you could just feel that they were saying "thank you" and showing deep appreciation in their own way.*

- Heather Palenschat, Gulf Coast Relief Society



Student Volunteers from Benjamin Banneker Academy  
Brooklyn, New York



A telling lawn sign in front of a gutted home

# Ghana at 50

By Kwadwo Ennin

At long last, the battle has ended, Ghana, our beloved country is free forever. However, the independence of Ghana is meaningless without the total liberation of the entire African continent." These were the words thundered out by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah to the millions of Ghanaians and Africans from other nations who gathered at the square in Accra to celebrate their independence from Britain. Led by the current President, John Kufuor, who stood on the same platform as did their legendary first President and charismatic leader Dr. Nkrumah, the people of Ghana, some with painted faces and bodies and others clad in the national colors of red, gold and green came in their numbers to celebrate the anniversary of the events of March 6, 1957. This is the day the nation finally broke free from the shackles of colonialism.

Five decades after this historic event, Ghanaians and dignitaries from other African

nations congregated at the same square to celebrate fifty years of self rule in the country that led the struggle which eventually led to the decolonization of most Sub-Saharan African states. Dignitaries such as Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary General, himself a prominent son of Ghana, South African President, Thabo Mbeki and Nigerian President, Olusegun Obasanjo were but a few of the international personalities present to grace the occasion. Also present at the celebration was music legend, Stevie Wonder, who sang a special version of his hit song "Happy Birthday" to commemorate the occasion — he also keeps a home near Cape Coast in Ghana. Prominent African-American political activist, Rev. Jesse Jackson was among the speakers at the ceremony which was inundated with choreographed performances by school children and Ghanaian fighter jets in the skies blowing fumes of red, gold and green.

Amidst all the jubilation, however, it is a time to pause and reflect upon the vision

of Africa that the founding fathers were so pregnant with. It has not been smooth sailing for the most beautiful continent on God's green earth with coup d'etats, epidemics and spurts of civil unrests, however, countries like Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa just to mention a few are showing that with its immense natural resources, Africa has the potential to settle as a major player in the global arena.

Certainly, it didn't surprise me when Ghana put on an excellently impressive run at last years soccer world cup, or when South Africa won the bid to host the competition (1st time on the continent) in 2010. All of these just attest to the fact that with stable sustained democratic practices and spot on leadership capabilities, Africa will rise to the center stage of world affairs. To our brothers and sisters from Ghana we say, "Happy Golden Jubilee," and let this occasion mark the resurgence of the African spirit and identity that embodied the freedom fighters of the homeland.

## Urban University Conference Highlights Students' Success

By Rasheen Allen

Presenting one's academic research in a crowded room of professors, college administrators, students, parents and total strangers can be both a delightful and a disconcerting assignment. But for student-researchers in the New York City-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (NYC-LSAMP), the technique of presenting research is an integral tool that they must gain mastery of. This spring, more than 200 LSAMP Research Scholars will display the continued research projects that they have performed under the tutelage of their dedicated mentors from the CUNY faculty.

The NYC-LSAMP of the City University of New York is research initiative, preponderantly funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), which taps the underutilized potential of underrepresented minority research scholars. These students gain hands-on research experience in their major of study and receive continual support and encouragement to pursue higher education.

2007 marks 15 years of the LSAMP program and ten years of Urban University Conference proceedings, and these two momentous milestones will be highlighted at the Tenth Annual Urban University Conference. The City College Great Hall will house this celebratory event teeming with speakers, presenters, best practice symposia and workshops on varied topics over the course of two days — Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28. The crescendo of the conference will be keynote speaker Dr. Edmund W. Gordon, the John M. Musser Professor of Psychology, Emeritus at Yale University.

The Urban University Conference will emphasize the continued excellence of young minority researchers and seek to galvanize the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians. Other notable conference speakers will include: Mr. Elliot Dawes, Director of the Black Male Initiative Institute of CUNY; Dr. Michael Nettles, Senior Vice President for Policy Evaluation and Research, Educational Testing Service; and Dr. Lea Ybaara, Executive Director, Center for Talented Youth (CTY), John Hopkins University.

For additional information, or to register for this conference, please call Dr. Claude Brathwaite at 212-650-8854 or visit <http://nyc-amp.cuny.edu>.

**15 YEARS OF ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**10th ANNUAL URBAN UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

**URBAN UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE SERIES 2007**  
 Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007  
 The City College of the City University of New York

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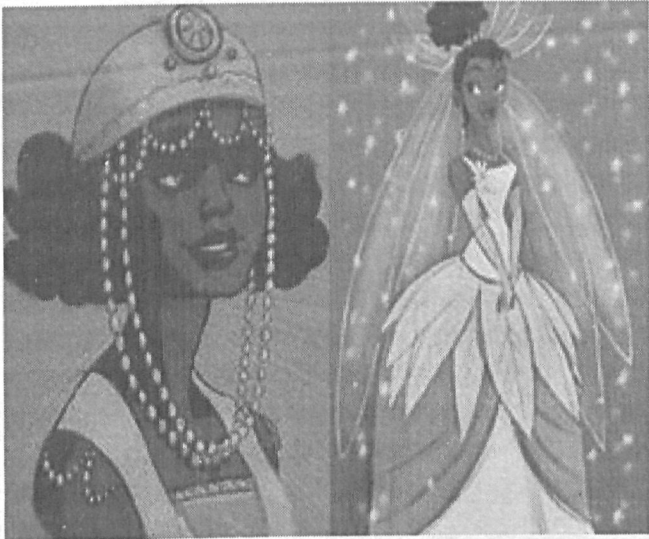
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## Introducing Disney's First Black Princess



By Lindsie Augustin

In this year's annual Disney shareholder meeting, the company announced the introduction of their first Black princess: Maddy. She is set to make her debut in 2009 in the forthcoming Disney film *The Frog Princess*, which will also make history in marking Disney's return to its more traditional format of filmmaking since its 2004 release of *Home on the Range*.

Maddy, the heroine of the New Orleans based fairy tale set to take place in the French Quarter, will join the ranks of the eight current members of the Disney Princess franchise, which includes Belle of *Beauty and the Beast*, Snow White, Princess Jasmine of *Aladdin*, and Pocahontas among others. The film will bring with it a musical score by composer Randy Newman and will feature the direction and writing of John Musker and Ron Clements, who also co-directed *The Little Mermaid* and *Aladdin*. *The Frog Princess* also promises Broadway-style musical numbers, which many are anticipating.

Disney's lack of a Black princess has not gone unnoticed in the recent years, so the announcement of Maddy's arrival has garnered a large number of leading ladies interested in voicing the princess, such as Alicia Keys and Jennifer Hudson and Anika Noni Rose of the 2006 release of *Dreamgirls*. Decisions regarding the film are still pending and have yet to be finalized.

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Student Government Elections

April 24, 25, 26  
NAC Rotunda

## In Perspective: CCAPP Counselor Constance Harper

By Orin Abel

The City College Academy for Professional Preparation (CCAPP) counselor Mrs. Constance Harper embodies a novel sort of college advisor. The advisor that's earnestly willing to help students through whatever issue confronts them, in spite of relative significance or magnitude. This trait was exemplified when I found myself without rubber boots en route to the Marshland Conservatory for a lab trip. Though seemingly insignificant, Mrs. Harper brainstormed and rectified the situation. This sort of aid, as every science student knows, is not unlike Mrs. Harper, who is willing to overstep the "independence" rhetoric and genuinely counsel students.

Mrs. Harper's start in counseling and advising came during her years at Lehman college. Following her degree in Liberal Arts, she counseled transferred student in the Admissions office. This desire to counsel students intensified with her move to CCNY in September, 1990. She has spent the last 16 years counseling science majors as part of CCAPP. At first CCAPP which presently comprises hundreds of students was much smaller. Over this time Mrs. Harper maintains that the department has diversified through the years; with this inflow of newer students, fresher opportunities and obstacles surface. Regardless of the problem, any science major can hold to the reality that CCAPP in general and Mrs. Harper in particular are there to help. Students are likely to feel a change from the abrasive advice generated from similar faculties in the active personalization of her service.

Mrs. Harper is in the fortuitous position whereby she meets and encourages young people of all races, striving to achieve a profession in science. Ms Harper states, "I will help them at any time." This zealotness was demonstrated last semester as Mrs. Harper, whilst stepping off the campus bus, sustained injuries to her leg, which placed her on leave. The incident did little to thwart the pervasiveness of Harper, who counseled eager students via email and the telephone. Although, she maintains that she does not make the distinction between Black students and White students, she asserts "it touches my heart to help my brothers and sisters, first."

Mrs. Harper says that there are Black men who have been successful through the program, but she feels that the lack of Black

men, in the program is due to the lack of fundamental bonding relationships. Unlike Black women, who create and maintain bonds, Black men in the science department are often fragmented, relying on themselves. Mrs. Harper believes that formation of mentorship bonds among Black men will improve enrollment and retention rates among them. Similarly, the Black Male Initiative (BMI) implemented last fall recruits Black junior level collegians to mentor incoming freshman. Additionally, Mrs. Harper states that students need to organize their schedules in order to achieve their best. Many students, particularly Blacks, have family or job schedules that conflict with their school schedules and thus, may be unaware of their slipping performance, which develops without the reinforcement that tutorials, mentorship and ample focus provides.

When it comes to the plight of such issues,



Mrs. Harper believes that it is on us a people, to take the responsibility of helping each other along. She states, "Each one, help one; bring someone else along. That's what I do. I will bond to you and then I push you." The assistance of Mrs. Harper and CCAPP is only possible with the compliance of science majors who need to keep in constant contact with the department. To date, Mrs. Harper has seen countless students matriculate onto prominent medical schools such as Brown, Harvard and Penn state, which she

has undoubtedly personally impacted.

In the future, Mrs. Harper believes that Black males can surely rise up by simply grounding themselves. She remains so willing and eager that she takes her lunch break in the CCAPP office that she may be available for the many students she aids. Amongst the college bureaucracy and systematic rhetoric, it's truly refreshing to find an advisor eagerly willing to listen to students. Mrs. Harper asserts, "I will answer any question at any time, for any reason." Black or White, all students can depend on someone like Constance Harper to help guide them through the college experience.

Have a poem or short story you want to share with CCNY?

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thepaper@ccny.cuny.edu

We look forward to reading your work!

*Upcoming Games*  
*(All games are subject to change)*

Men's Baseball			
04-22	Staten Island	TBA	(A)
04-25	Old Westbury	7:00pm	(A)
04-27	New Paltz	3:30pm	(H)
04-28	Lehman	12:00pm	(A)
04-29	Lehman	12:00pm	(H)
04-30	Mt. St. Vincent	3:30pm	(A)
05-05	John Jay	12:00pm	(H)
05-06	John Jay	12:00pm	(A)
05-11	CUNYAC	TBA	(A)
Championship @ CSI			
05-12	CUNYAC	TBA	(A)
Championship @ CSI			
05-13	CUNYAC	TBA	(A)
Championship @ CSI			
Men's Tennis			
05-01	CUNYAC	4:00pm	(A)
05-02	Quarterfinals CUNYAC	4:00pm	(A)
05-04	Semifinals CUNYAC	4:00pm	(A)
Championship			
Men's Track - Outdoor			
04-27	Penn Relays	9:00am	(A)
05-05	Kingspoint	9:00am	(A)
05-12	Invitational Last Chance Meet @ Icahn Stadium	9:00am	(A)
05-13	NY CUNYAC	9:00am	(A)
Championships			
Women's Track-Outdoor			
04-27	Penn Relays	9:00am	(A)
05-05	Kingspoint	9:00am	(A)
05-12	Invitational Last Chance Meet @ Icahn Stadium	9:00am	(A)
05-13	NY CUNYAC	9:00am	(A)
Championships			

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