

# Cyclists ride for an MS cure

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not know when it will strike, what symptoms they will have, when it will get worse or better, or if they will become permanently disabled.

Valerie Saddler PhD, a communications professor at Winston-Salem State University for over 20 years, had no idea that she would be stricken with the disease.

"I found out that I was diagnosed with MS on Valentine's Day this year," she said. "It's very overwhelming. I was very independent and teaching my classes. Then you become dependent on other people. It is a real challenge and it has its up and down days. Going back to work after a year off has helped. I enjoy seeing the students and faculty," said Dr. Saddler.

MS occurs less frequently in African-Americans than in Caucasians, but African-Americans tend to have more aggressive forms of MS. A new study, supported in part by the National MS Society, found other differences as well. African-Americans are at higher risk for disability. They are also more likely to develop "optospinal MS," where the disease is restrict-

ed to the optic nerve and spinal cord, and "transverse myelitis", an acute attack in which the spinal cord loses its ability to transmit nerve impulses up and down, resulting in paralysis.

For more information on MS and how you can join the ride, visit [www.nationalmssociety.org](http://www.nationalmssociety.org). To learn more about the Cannonballs, visit [www.cannonballscycling.org](http://www.cannonballscycling.org).

# Condom touted as rape deterrent

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groups call the device "medieval" and "barbaric". They disagree with Ehlers that her device empowers women.

Chantel Cooper, Director of Rape Crisis Cape Town, believes "Rapex" may make women more vulnerable to violence and murder. "It's not progressive at all, this is like a chastity belt. We need to understand that the safety of women is

not an individual responsibility, but a societal issue," she said.

Beyond deterring incidents of rape, the condom will protect women from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV. South Africa has more people with HIV/AIDS than any other nation.

Ehlers expects to market her device next year. One condom will sell for 1 rand or approximately 16 cents.

# Storm survivors to fight insurers

By Roderick C. Willis

AFRO NEWSPAPERS

BILOXI, Miss. — Hurricane Katrina left thousands of people along the Gulf Coast of Mississippi homeless, jobless and with a sense of helplessness and abandonment.

Daniel Netter and his family are among them. The 87-year-old, now a patient in Biloxi Regional Hospital, is a veteran of World War II and was stationed in England, North Africa and Italy.

"I thought Hurricane Camille was bad," said Netter, referring to the 1969 storm that struck the coast. "I never thought I'd ever see a hurricane as powerful as that one, but Hurricane Katrina was a storm like no other. I'm glad to be alive and I'm glad my family is safe."

Last year, Netter's wife died. So his daughter, Sharlotta Evans, and her children moved in to take care at him. She also remembers Camille.

"Camille was a terrible hurricane, but this one was

worse. We lived in a four-bedroom brick home and Katrina destroyed everything. The first floor is about 12 feet to the ceiling and the water totally covered the house. We evacuated to one of my father's places past Jackson [Miss.] to escape the raging wind and the surge. When we came back to the house several days later, it looked like everything in the house had been turned upside down. We lost everything. The power of the wind and rain even cracked some of the bricks."

Hurricane Katrina also caused people to lose their lives and livelihoods. Two of Evans' daughters worked at one of the city's casinos, which are built on barges next to hotels. Katrina's 150-mile per hour winds, as well as a tremendous storm surge, lifted the casino from one side of Highway 90 to the other. Takiyah Brown, one of Evans' daughters, hopes she will be called back to work when they repair the casino, but no word has been given as to

when that might be.

"I'm frustrated at the level of help we are getting down here in Mississippi. We would be better off going to another state. People we know who evacuated to Texas, Florida and Georgia are getting help before we are," Evans said. "It's like the federal government has forgotten all about Mississippi and is concentrating only on New Orleans. Don't get me wrong; I know those people need help, too. But it looks like we got nothing."

She said seven days passed before they received food.

"The Red Cross was handing out ice and that's it. Senator Trent Lott is supposed to be a friend of President Bush, but nothing has happened. Bush came down here and made a speech, but whole towns are wiped out and people need help," Evans said. "People are waiting in the hot sun for hours for vouchers, only to be told they only had 400 for 2,000 people in line."

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