

Black social groups blown away by hurricane

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for years. It will almost surely be less black.

A Gallup poll telephoned people who were back as of February and found that 52 percent were white and 37 percent were black. Many more blacks than whites said they were struggling to get back to work, jump-start their social lives and find someone to rebuild their homes.

No surprise for the people who once worshipped at St. Augustine, a 19th-century Roman Catholic church

whose gleaming, newly repaired copper bell tower looms over wooden cottages in the Tremé neighborhood. It was one of the nation's oldest black Catholic parishes, where jazz saxophones spiced

up Mass and the parish priest wore robes embellished with African Kente cloth.

Even though the building didn't flood in Katrina, the archdiocese closed the parish and removed the priest in

mid-March, saying membership was too low. The protests were long and loud. Some parish supporters barricaded themselves in the rectory for 19 days. On Saturday, the archdiocese agreed to reopen

it for 18 months to prove it can be viable. "This community has drawn the line here," said Jacques Morial, whose family has been part of the church for generations. For him, los-

ing St. Augustine means losing a hub of friendships—and a cornerstone of black New Orleans.

"Black people of modest income define the social fabric and culture here," he said.

Charlotte Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Presents the 42nd Annual Debutante Spring 2006 Cotillion "Shining Jewels of Excellence"

Delta Sigma Theta's Spring Cotillion is one of their longest running community service projects. This year the Charlotte Alumnae chapter will present 51 young ladies at the formal ball on Saturday, April 15, 2006, 6 pm at the Charlotte Convention center.

This select group of young women are high school seniors who have earned academic achievements, possess leadership abilities, and are involved in their schools, communities and churches.

The Debs enhanced their social skills by participating in various events that include: volunteering at Kid's Night, visiting children at Presbyterian's Henry Children's Hospital, and participating in etiquette sessions. They participated in a series of workshops stressing personal development, self-confidence and family

values to assist in their transition from high school to college, while competing for scholarship money.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. is one of the nation's oldest sororities, founded in 1913 at Howard University. A non-profit organization, the sorority has over 200,000 members around the world.

The Charlotte Alumnae Chapter was founded in 1942. Comprised of college educated professional women, its thrust is community and public service. Habitat for Humanity, voter registration/education and literacy are just a few of their ongoing community focused projects.

Brown Gibson, Melody Harris and Jo Ann Rogers are the cotillion chairpersons.

Balloon for sinus blockage

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tants or steroid-containing nasal sprays, but about a quarter are thought to get inadequate relief.

It's a vicious cycle. Each infection further narrows the already small drainage openings. Then the next cold or allergy attack that causes nasal congestion can be enough to block proper sinus drainage and spur yet another infection.

In severe cases, doctors snake special tools up the nose to enlarge those sinus openings by cutting out inflamed tissue and bone. It's highly effective—only about 20 percent of patients need repeat surgery—but is painful and can cause a week of swelling plus scar tissue that may reblock the sinus.

The new balloon device is snaked to the same spot, but there's no cutting. Instead, inflating the balloon aims to stretch that sinus opening back to its original size or a little bigger, letting air into the sinus to help antibiotics finally flush out infection and end the sinusitis cycle, explains Friedman.

Created by a physician-turned-medical device inventor frustrated by his own sinusitis, it's similar to the way doctors use balloons to push back clogs in heart arteries. Thus, the Food and Drug Administration cleared sale of Acclarent Inc.'s device last summer based mainly on a study of 10 people that found no safety concerns.

How well does it work? There's no research to tell, says Dr. David W. Kennedy of the University of Pennsylvania, who led an examination of sinusplasty for the American Academy of Otolaryngology—and complains that FDA should have required more evidence to back a procedure so different from standard sinus treatment.

Many patients have growths, called polyps, that a balloon can't get rid of. The balloon doesn't fit in every sinus. And despite surgery, it often requires general anesthesia to ensure the patient doesn't wiggle. And severe patients often have bone inflammation that must be removed, not just pushed aside, Kennedy stresses.

Doctors are anxiously awaiting results, due in September, of an Acclarent study tracking how more than 100 sinusplasty recipients fared. But to compare sinusplasty to standard treatments, Friedman, who has no financial interest in Acclarent, has begun a study that randomly assigns 80 sinusitis sufferers to surgery, sinusplasty or continued medication.

Even Kennedy acknowledges that sinusplasty, with less pain and scar tissue, may prove useful for milder sinusitis cases.

Even if the effects don't last as long as a surgical fix, "I would do this five times compared to having the other procedure done once," says Lynn Sawyer, a Graniteville, S.C., nurse.

Valencia Able West Charlotte Parents, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Able	Jasity Adams Weddington High Parent, Jennifer Bishop	Briana Beamon Vance High School Parents Ron & Kathy Beamon	Ash Lee Brannon West Charlotte Parents, Willie & Cynthia Brannon	Jocelyn Brown North Mecklenburg Parents, Jeff & Joyce Brown	Ashleigh Bruton Butler High Parents, Theodore & Renee' Bruton	Cessene Byers Garinger High Parents, Mr. & Mrs. James Alexander
Davita Colclough South Mecklenburg Parents, Wilbert & Sharon Gambel	Jennifer Conwell West Charlotte Parents, Kenney & Vanessa Conwell	Debranna Cook West Mecklenburg Parent, Pamela Jean Cook	Marquisha Crosby East Mecklenburg	Tierra Cunningham West Charlotte Parent, Joyce Cunningham	Jasmine Davis North Mecklenburg Parents, Jimmie & Marla Davis	Rea Davis Butler High Parents, William & Dianna Davis
Alicia Fletcher Hopewell High Parents, Eddie & Mitzi Simmons	Jacqueline Flowers Harding University Parents, James & Sharon Flowers	Riana Frazier Phillip O. Berry Parents, Ronnie & Vonda Frazier	Corinne Friday South Mecklenburg Parents, Boyce & Marilyn Friday	Alana Frost North Mecklenburg Parents, Ronald & Selena Frost	Whitley Geathers Harding University Parent, Carletta Geathers	Courtney Gray Hopewell High Parents, Myrle & Sandra White
Shacoya Guess North Mecklenburg Parents, Setonya Guess & Delores Harrison	Tia Haygood North Mecklenburg Parents, Todd Haygood & Georgia Haygood	Brittany Hill Zebulan Vance Parents, Rickie & Karen Cl Hill	Shacooa Hoover Phillip O. Berry Parents, Willie & Veronica Hoover	Randal Hughes North Mecklenburg Parents, Tinsley George & Priscilla Hughes	Brionna Jackson North Mecklenburg Parent, Vallerie Dinks	Sharika Johnson Zebulan Vance Parents, Ronald & Sandra Johnson
Taelor Johnson Northwest School Parent, Loretta Johnson	Brittany Kelly Harding University Parents, Nathaniel & Angela Kelly	Sarah Lewers Harding University Parents Calvin & Vera Lewers	Steffanie Lewis Zebulan Vance Parents, Arnold & Deborah Lewis	LaPorsha Lowery North Mecklenburg Parents, Ollie & Gloria Lowery	Jasmine Maree North Mecklenburg Parents, Theodore & Renee' Bruton	Shamika Martin Harding University Parents, Henry & Tammy Martin
Cherita McNeal North Mecklenburg Parents, Arthur & Cheri McNeal	Afton Nivens Zebulan Vance Parents, Moses & Sandra Nivens	Danielle Phifer Harding University Parent, Valerie Phifer	Kamila Rankin Zebulan Vance Parents, Dennis & Sharon Rankin	Danyetta Rodgers Hopewell High Parents, Danny & Marie Rodgers	Nicole Smith Northwest School Parents, Rev. Antonio & Pamela Smith	Christina Thompson Hopewell High Parents, Spencer & Patrice Thompson
Whitney Turner Northwest School Parents, Sonny & Cindy Turner	Alysen Wallace Harding University Parents, Lester & Alesia Wallace	Justine Watson North Mecklenburg Parents Jasper & Margaret Watson	Christian Whitley Zebulan Vance Parents, Erroll & Dr. Gloria Campbell-Whitley	Ciara Wiley Zebulan Vance Parents, Joseph & Cecelia Clark	Kristen Williams Zebulan Vance Parent, Grace Unitham-Mayfield	Davina Wright Olympic High

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