## Black social groups blown away by hurricane

for years. It v be less black 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 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

## Balloon for sinus blockage

Continued from page 1B

Continued from page 1B 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 sinue drainage and spur yet another infection.

In severe cases, doctors

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 physicianturned-medical device inventor frustrated by his own sinusitis, it's similar to the way doctors use balloons to bush 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 sinuplasty 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. Like 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 environment.

stresses.

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

ication.

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

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.

whose gleaming, newly repaired copper bell tower looms over wooden cottages in the Treme 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 member-ship was too low. The protests were long and loud. Some parish supporters barricaded themselves in the rectory for 19 days. On Saturday, the

it for 18 months to prove it can be viable
"This community has

"This community has drawn the line here," said Jacques Morial, whose family has been part of the church for generations. For him, losing St. Augustine means los-ing a hub of friendships— and a cornerstone of black New Orleans.

"Black people of modest income define the social fab-ric 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 values to assist in their transition from high school to college, while competing for service projects. This year the Charlotte Alumnae chapter will present 51 young scholarship money. 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 Voting, visiting children at Presbyterian's Hemby Children's Hospital, and participating in etiquette sessions. They participated in a series of workshops stressing personal development, self-confidence and family

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.

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



Valencia Able , Mr. & Mrs. cent Able



Jasity Adams



Briana Beamon Vance High School



Ash Lee Brannon West Charlotte



Jocelyn Brown Parents, Jeff & Joyce Brown



Ashleigh Bruton Butler High Parents, Theodore & Renee' Bruton



Cessenee Byers Garinger High Parents, Mr. & Mrs James Alexander



Davita Colclough



Jennifer Conwell West Charlotte Parents, Kenney & Vanessa Conwell



Debranna Cook





Marquisha Crosby Tierra Cunningham
East Mecklenburg
West Charlette



Jasmine Davis North Mecklenburg Parents, Jimmie & Marla Davis

Whitley Geathers Harding University



Rea Davis Butler High Parents, William & Dianna Davis



Alicia Fletcher Hopewell High Parents, Eddie &



Acqueline Flowers Harding University Parents, James &. Sharon Flow



Riana Frazier Phillip O. Berry

Brittany Hill





Schaccoa Hoover Phillip O. Berry Parents, Willie &



Randal Hughes North Mecklenburg arents, Tinsley Geor & Priscilla Hughes



Brionna Jackson North Mecklenburg Parent, Vallerie Dinks



Sharika Johnso



Cherita McNeal



Taelor Johnson



Tia Haygood

Brittany Kelly Harding Universit Parents, Nathanie

Afton Nivens





Danielle Phifer



Steffanie Lewis Zebulan Vance



Kamila Rankin



LaPorsha Lowery North Mecklenburg



Dainyetta Rodgers Hopewell High



Jasmine Maree North Mecklenburg Parents, Theodore & Renee' Bruton



Nicole Smith Northwest School Parents, Rev. Anton & Pamela Smith



Shamika Martin



Christina Thompson Hopewell High



Whitney Turner Northwest School



Justine Watson North Mecklenburg Parents Jasper &, Margaret Watson



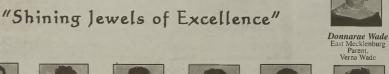
Christian Whatley
Zebulan Vance
Parents, Erroll & Dr.
Gloria Campbell-Whatle



Joseph a Clark



Kristen Williams Parent, Grace Unitenham-Mayfield





Kimberlee Wrigh