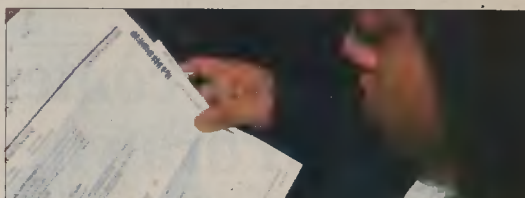
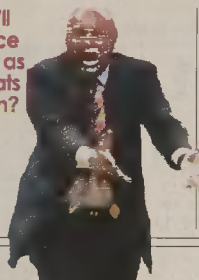




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Men critical to black family

Urban League study paints grim picture of crisis

By Hazel Trice Edney
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

WASHINGTON - The underachievement of black males is among America's greatest crises, according to a national survey.

"This state of underachievement, with its devastating and far-reaching ramifications, is the most serious economic and civil rights challenge we face today,"

Urban League President Marc Morial says in "The State of Black America 2007: Portrait of the Black Male," a 260-page document, released this week. "It's a problem with a major rippling effect. Not only does it impact individual black men. It also hurts their families and communities. It's not just a problem for the African-American community. It's a problem for everyone in this nation."

The report, an annual measurement of black progress, outlines egregious statistics:

- Black men are more than twice as likely to be unemployed as white men and make only 74 percent as much a year.

- Black men are more than six times as likely than white men to be incarcerated and their average jail sentences tend to be 10 months longer than those of white men.

- At the end of 2001, 16.5 percent of black males had been to prison compared to 7.7 percent of Hispanic and 2.7 percent of white men.

- Young black males between the ages of 15 and 34 years are nine times more likely to be killed by firearms and nearly eight times as likely to suffer from AIDS.

- Of single-parent black households in 2005, only 12 percent were led by men.

- More than two-thirds of black children live in one-parent households in 2005, the majority headed by women.

- More than 42 percent of female-headed black households with children were poor, compared to slightly more than 9 percent of married black households.

"The absence of the black man in the black family will only lead to greater poverty for our community as a whole," states Morial. "It helps exacerbate the disparities already existing between minorities and whites in the United States."

Target: Hip hop nation

Boosters and activists renew battle over lyrics and misogyny



By Brandi M. Woodson
THE CHARLOTTE POST

Is it misogyny or art?

In Charlotte, the reviews are mixed about whether hip hop should be held accountable for using words that got radio host Don Imus fired.

While hip hop icons like Snoop Dogg tries to define who rappers are referring to as hos, others are outraged by the longtime use of degrading words toward

black women.

"It's despicable, and we put up with it," said Johnson C. Smith University communication arts professor Cassandra Wynn. "They are presenting women in a way that is not acceptable. We should make a

Please see BATTLE/2A

ASSOCIATED PRESS VIA HARD ROCK CAFE

Hip hop star Nelly is one of several high-profile music artists who have come under fire for songs and videos that paint women in an unflattering light. Nelly's "Tip Drill," in which he is shown swiping a credit card between a woman's buttocks, is one of the most infamous.

Push for federal slavery apology

U.S. House panel considers vote on national legislation

By Herbert L. White

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The U.S. House of Representatives is considering an apology for slavery.

U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, (D-N.C.) is pushing for legislation that would acknowledge U.S. involvement in the slave trade. Several southern states, including Georgia and Virginia, have adopted resolutions. North Carolina's House and Senate have approved separate measures.

"An apology on the part of the federal government is important and long overdue, and there is a power in acknowledging an error and



Butterfield

"An apology on the part of the federal government is important and long overdue."

U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield

ers have signed on as co-sponsors and is

Please see HOUSE/6A

Sudan OKs peacekeepers for Darfur

By Edith M. Lederer

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

UNITED NATIONS - Sudan agreed Monday to let 3,000 U.N. peacekeepers deploy in Darfur with attack helicopters, opening the door to the first significant U.N. force to help beleaguered African Union soldiers who have been unable to halt the region's four-year war.

After five months of stalling, the government in Khartoum called for a speedy deployment and hinted it could approve an even larger U.N. force that has been demanded by the U.N. Security Council, the United States and others.

But experts were cautious about chances for creating that 20,000-strong force, noting Sudan's leaders have reversed course previously.

See DARFUR/2A

S.C. town braces for national spotlight of presidential debate

By Cheris F. Hodges

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ORANGEBURG, S.C. - South Carolina State University will be a part of election history next week.

The Democratic Presidential Candidates' Debate will be broadcast live from Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium on April 26 at 7 p.m., and will be produced by NBC News.

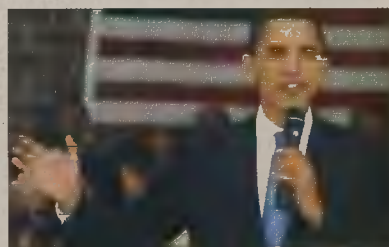
SCSU President Andrew Hugine Jr. said the debate is a sign that historically black colleges play a significant role in the political process.

"This will have a positive impact on South Carolina State and give people a greater knowledge of the university," he said.

MSNBC, which has intensified its focus on politics with non-stop political cov-

erage during the recent mid-term elections, will also preview the debate before the forum. The network's signature political program, "Hardball with Chris Matthews," will air live from Orangeburg with interviews and analysis. The network will also air comprehensive analysis after the forum.

It's the first time in SCSU Please see S.C. TOWN/3A



PHOTO/SCOTT LEWIS

Barack Obama, campaigning in Florence, S.C., last week, is among the Democratic presidential candidates scheduled to participate in a debate next week in Orangeburg.



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