

The Daily Tar Heel

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Two years after Hurricane Katrina:
a Daily Tar Heel special report, part 4 of 5
Friday: What you can do to help the Gulf Coast



A shed is all that remains on a piece of property on North Roman Street, in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, where a levee broke.

A region divided by race

Bitter schism
mars recovery

BY ERIC JOHNSON
AND JOSEPH R.
SCHWARTZ
SENIOR WRITERS

NEW ORLEANS — From the moment the first television images began to emerge from post-Katrina New Orleans, the racial subtext of the disaster became impossible to ignore.

INSIDE Students and businesses remember the Gulf Coast. **SCENES** Thousands of evacuees — most of them black, and most of them from the city's poverty-stricken neighborhoods — waiting for days on rooftops or freeway overpasses shocked viewers across the world.

Now, two years later, questions about the role of race in New Orleans' recovery still prompt startlingly raw responses up and down the Gulf Coast.

SEE RACE, PAGE 13

Greek rush set to start

Rush rules evolve through the years

BY BLAIR BYRUM
STAFF WRITER

As sororities and fraternities prepare for Labor Day week-end recruitment, potential new members already are learning the gamut of Greek rules.

Under the "No boys, no booze" policy initiated last year, Panhellenic Council sorority members and potential new members must refrain from consuming alcohol during recruitment week, which begins today.

GREEK RUSH Sorority members and prospective recruits also are prohibited from visiting fraternity houses and discussing recruitment matters with men.

"It's to have a more values-based recruitment," said Meredith Martindale, Panhellenic Council vice president of recruitment. "It forces recruitment to take place only in the chapter houses."

She said the rules are intended to level the playing field and give everyone an equal chance to get to know the personality of each house.

"The recruitment rules are aimed at providing potential new members the chance to openly participate in recruitment without having other factors guide or influence their decision," Martindale said.

She said this is also the reasoning behind the "strict silence rule," which states that women participating in recruitment cannot talk about their experiences at the houses with other potential new members.

"It allows each girl to really think about it on her own," Martindale said.

Like the Panhellenic Council, the Interfraternity Council also will conduct recruitment sans alcohol.

"Our formal recruitment has been dry for at least four years now," said Alton Wright, IFC vice president of recruitment. "That way, each individual recruit can get to know the fraternities and the brothers a lot better."

Wright said the process is

SEE RUSH POLICY, PAGE 13

Family finds reasons to stay in Lower Ninth

Miss Gertrude amid emptiness

BY JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ
SENIOR WRITER

NEW ORLEANS — Miss Gertrude's routine hasn't changed much at all. She still gets up every morning at dawn, sits on her porch and reads her Bible. She still prepares strawberries and cream for visitors and still calls home 1738 Tennessee St. in New Orleans' Lower Ninth Ward.

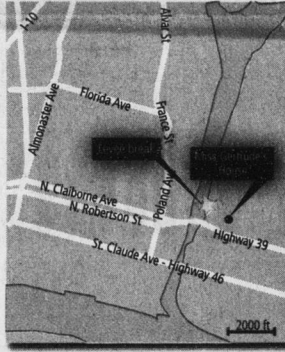
Miss Gertrude's routine hasn't changed much at all. But everything around it has vanished. Save for a group of Common Ground Collective volunteers who cut grass, cook and offer clothing in three restored houses, Gertrude LeBlanc, her daughter, Jennifer Landix, and her teenage granddaughter,

Leaura Landix, are the closest signs of life to the Industrial Canal levee break. They aren't hard to miss, usually sitting outside their FEMA trailer waving to tourists and telling anyone who will listen about their slow path out of tragedy.

They tell them about their historically black neighborhood that they moved back to four months ago, but which two years later still is only at 7 percent of its pre-Hurricane Katrina self. Sixty percent of the overall New Orleans population is back.

"I'm used to neighbors, so it's lonely, but with God, you're never lonely," Miss Gertrude says, surveying from her rocking chair the overgrown brush with signs numbering where families once thrived.

Katrina swept her three-bedroom home of 45 years across the street and left most of her



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS
DTH/ALLIE WASSUM

belongings resting atop a tree, when more than 12 feet of water rushed around, over and through the levee.

And despite being at the center of media attention, the Lower Ninth's scars still are in full view.



Miss Gertrude LeBlanc displays personal photographs of the destruction left behind by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Two years later, residents have been slow to return, and many of the 900 that have say they don't feel wanted.

"This is one part of the city they don't want you to see," says Miss Gertrude, who retired after 37 years with the U.S. Postal

Service. "Uptown? Yes. Down here? No, because the city isn't doing anything to help us."

"They could've rebuilt this whole subdivision with all the money we're getting, but they

SEE GERTRUDE, PAGE 13

BSM holds year's first meeting in historic room

BY SERGIO TOVAR
STAFF WRITER

The Black Student Movement found "love" and historical significance in their new meeting place Wednesday night.

The group held its first general body meeting of the year in the Upendo multipurpose room at the Student and Academic Services Buildings.

"This room basically represents integration," said Racine Peters, BSM vice president, as she opened the meeting.

The name of the room also means "love" in Swahili.

BSM President Derek Sykes said the group is excited to have a room to meet in regularly.

The room is convenient for meetings because it can serve as a large space or be divided into three smaller rooms.

The original Upendo Lounge opened in 1972 on the second floor of Chase Hall, said Archie Ervin, associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs.

"Over the years many of the groups or members of organizations like BSM used the room for meetings and functions," he said.

The lounge was referred to by some former students as the "Black Student Union" because it was used for more than just an organizational meeting place.

The room also served as a recreational center and a dance hall for the first black students at UNC, who were required to live in Hinton James Residence Hall during the first years of integration.

When Chase closed in 2005 as part of the University's master plan, BSM leaders asked officials to remember the legacy of the lounge, leading to the name of the SASB room.

The group approached the Division of Students Affairs to reserve the Upendo room for most of their meetings this year.

"There was a history of attachment," Ervin said.

Sykes reinforced the belief that the room is important to black history at the University.

"I'd love to come back 20 years from now and still see BSM in this Upendo room," he said.

At the meeting, BSM officials discussed opportunities of how to get involved in the organization and the community. More than 200 students attended the meeting.

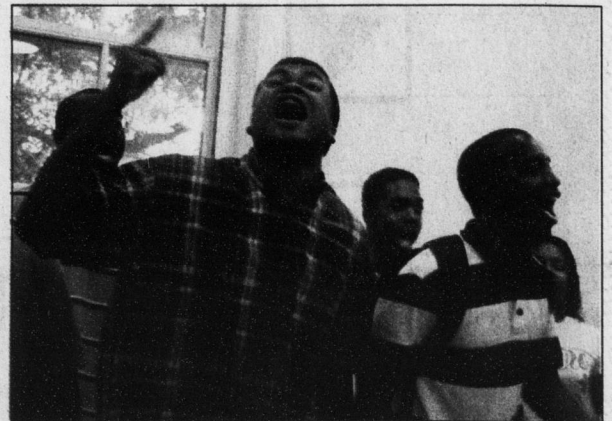
Sykes added that this year's focus will be on the celebration of the group's 40th anniversary during the week of Nov. 11.

The group's membership has grown exponentially since it first started. It is now the second-largest group on campus, with an annual membership of about 400, Ervin said.

Students who attended the meeting said they like the new room better than the old meeting space in the Student Union.

"A lot of us live down here, so it is more easily accessible," junior Jamie Pearson said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.



Cederick Moore sings with members of the UNC Gospel Choir at the first meeting of the Black Student Movement on Wednesday afternoon.

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STRIKE A CHORD

Go behind the scenes to see what it takes to make it through the audition process of a premier campus a cappella group such as the Loreleis or Clef Hangers.



diversions | page 5

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK

Students aren't the only ones who can jam out. UNC employees are making themselves known on the local music scene.

sports | page 13

KICKIN' IT

UNC senior kicker Connor Barth has had an up-and-down career at UNC but once again is riding high after being named to a preseason watch list.

this day in history

AUG. 30, 1995 ...

The Student Recreation Center remains closed after being flooded with more than 12 inches of rain four days earlier from Tropical Depression Jerry.

weather

Partly cloudy
H 93, L 66

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