

Senior Citizens learn to save energy



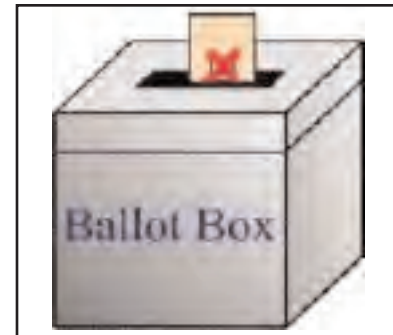
The Democratic & Republican Candidates



Barack Obama

John McCain

69 Days to making White House History



Register Now So You Can Vote in November

The Houston Sun

Vol. 25, No. 22 8 pages Section 1 August 19, 2008 • Houston's No. 1 Community Newspaper 713-524-0786 • f. 713-524-6786 • www.houstonsun.com • info@houstonsun.com

Boxing Champ gives TSU the BTS punch



New Texas Southern University students and guests surround President Dr. John M. Rudley (L-R: second row, second male) during the Summer Academy Amer-I-can program. More than 300 students participated in the program.

Special to The Houston Sun
By Eva Pickens (TSU)

Whether preparing for Back-to-School or the first time to enter college, preparation is essential. Former Heavyweight Boxing Legend and Houston businessman George Foreman delivered an inspirational speech to future TSU students who participated in the closing ceremony for the University's Summer Academy/Amer-I-can Programs. Foreman's "Don't Get Knocked Out" speech sought to motivate students by advising them to stay focused, telling them how to overcome obstacles, and to understand that "You don't have to necessarily fight with your fists, but you can also fight with your mind."

Texas Southern University recently adopted admissions standards that have changed the University's previous "open-admissions policy" by raising the bar for students upon acceptance. These changes will be phased in over the next year with the 2.0 grade point average and the required summer academic program going into effect for fall 2008 and SAT/ACT requirements phasing in by fall 2009.

For admittance to Texas Southern University for fall 2008, prospective students will be required to graduate

from high school with a minimum 2.0 GPA and take the ACT and/or SAT (no minimum score is required). Students who graduate in the top 25 percent of their class will be automatically admitted. Any student who does not meet the University's minimum requirements will still have the opportunity to enroll at the University after successfully completing a conditional summer academic program.

Texas Southern has developed summer academic programming to help those students in need of additional academic support. These summer programs give each student the unique opportunity to get a "jump-start" on their college career by establishing the strongest foundation possible in Mathematics, Reading, and Writing. Participants also receive interactive, student-centered instruction in Mathematics, Reading, and Writing in preparation for the THEA exam, which is administered twice during the program to participants with acceptable attendance. These programs were designed to help students obtain the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in college level coursework and beyond. Summer Academy helps to prepare students for college, provides academic assistance in preparation for the THEA exam,



Allyse Woods, a HISD graduate and Pre Pharmacy major stated finds confidence.

and helps ease the transition from high school to college with various "Getting Ready for College" seminars, including study skills, financial management, managing instructors, etc.



Tamara Tamara Thomas, lands job and tells her Texas Association of Future Educators (TAFE) story.

pact the problems our society faces today. I feel that the Amer-I-Can Program is, in many ways, a missing link that empowers those exempted from power and participation in the mainstream. We believe in and work effec-



George Foreman speaks to 300 students and tells them, "You don't have to necessarily fight with your fists, but you can also fight with your mind."

tors (TAFE). When asked why she chose to be a part of the Summer Academy/Amer-I-can Program, she stated, "I knew that these programs were important and that I had to be a part of it all." When asked to tell a little about her experiences in these programs her face lit up with excitement, "Where do I begin? The instructors really worked to build my confidence in math and English and shared their experiences with us - this helped me so much. The Amer-I-can Program has also helped me bridge the gap between high school and college and they taught me how to get rid of the homeboy and home-girl mentality." Upon her completion of the programs she is now TEST PASSED and focused.

Francisco Sifuentes, a 20 year old graduate from George Washington Carver High School and Business Administration major, stated that, "The Amer-I-can program helped me find my passion for business administration, and the courses helped to refresh my math skills, and enhance my writing and English skills." When Mr. Sifuentes came into the program he tested low on the writing portion of the practice THEA. After completing the eight-week program, he has successfully passed all three sections of the THEA and is now considered TEST PASSED.

Allyse Woods, a HISD graduate and Pre Pharmacy major stated that she was an introverted student during her high school years. Her greatest fear, she said, was making the transition from high school to college. Ms. Woods accredits the Summer Academy with helping her appreciate and understand people and all of their differences. "Amer-I-can has taught me that you can get more accomplished working as a team - People said that the program would be a waste of time, but now that I have participated in it, I would recommend this to all incoming freshmen!" As a result of her participation, Ms. Woods received the highest THEA scores to date in the Summer Academy program.

High school students, parents, TSU faculty and staff and the community were invited to the closing ceremonies with a special incentive - TSU enrollment application fees were waived if students sign up on the day of the ceremony. Classes for the fall 2008 semester begin August 25, 2008.

Other program participants included: Dr. John M. Rudley, President of Texas Southern University, who delivered a charge to the each student to be, "academically ready at all times." Terry Williams, Vice President of H.E.B., and Dr. Jacqueline Fleming, Director of TSU's GUAC.

George Foreman Tells TSU Summer Academy Students 'Don't Get Knocked Out'

Summer Academy students also received the benefits of the Amer-I-can Program, which includes the passion that NFL football Hall of Famer Jim Brown has developed for bettering the lives of today's young people. Brown says that, "The challenge of achieving our full potential is compelling.

This life-management skills training program is designed to empower us to do just that--to enable us to take responsibility for our own self-determination. The beauty of the Amer-I-Can Program is that it is applicable to all people, as it transcends race, age, gender, religion, and socio-economic status. My belief is that teaching and sharing the program concepts related to self-esteem could significantly im-

tively with those whom society disregards, contending that it is never too late to attain a full, meaningful life."

Three of the programs' outstanding students spoke out about their life experiences and their experiences during the program. The first student to tell of her experiences was Tamara Thomas, an 18-year-old MacArthur High School graduate and Education major. Her path to Texas Southern was not an easy one, but she did not let her personal situation take away from her goals.

Thomas has been awarded a teaching contract for Aldine ISD upon her graduation as part of her participation in Texas Association of Future Educa-

Bush: New Orleans still struggling after Katrina

By RICHARD LARDNER
Associated Press Writer

CRAWFORD, Texas (AP) _ President George W. Bush says he sees "hopeful signs of progress" in New Orleans three years after Hurricane Katrina's devastation, while acknowledging the city is still struggling to recover.

Bush travels to New Orleans and nearby Gulfport, Mississippi, on Wednesday after appearing at a Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Orlando, Florida. The White House on Tuesday released an advance copy of a speech he plans to deliver in New Orleans.

This latest visit to New Orleans will be Bush's 11th since Katrina's 140 mph (225 kph) winds pummeled coastal areas and caused hundreds of billions of dollars in damage.

The president's Gulf Coast stop comes nine days before the actual third anniversary of Katrina.

The Bush administration's bungled response to Katrina led to a torrent of criticism, especially from the black community, which claimed race was a factor in the slow pace of recovery operations.

The Katrina backlash came as sectarian violence in Iraq was escalating. The result was the lowest approval ratings of Bush's presidency.

In his speech, Bush says \$126 billion in disaster recovery aid has poured into the Gulf Coast, allowing schools, businesses and homes to be rebuilt.

"There is still a lot of work to do



President George W. Bush addresses his remarks at the historic Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, on the recovery of the Gulf Coast region three years after Hurricane Katrina. President Bush said, "I think the message here today is hope is being restored. Hope is coming back." White House photo by Eric Draper

before this city is fully recovered," Bush says. "And for people who are still hurting and not yet back in their homes, a brighter day might seem impossible. Yet a brighter day is coming and it is heralded by hopeful signs of progress."

Yet, the nearly dozen trips and the money hasn't erased the image of a leader who failed to react at a critical moment.

"It's defined him a great deal in the public's mind," said Thomas Mann, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, a Washington think

tank. "That, along with the war in Iraq, are really the pivotal events in his political demise," Mann said. "First impressions have ways of becoming lasting ones and certainly that was the case with Katrina."

Democratic Sen. Mary Landrieu said in an interview with The Associated Press that the recovery in New Orleans was far from complete and key projects won't be finished without more federal money.

"It's not the quantity of the visits; it's the quality of the visits," Landrieu

said of Bush's upcoming stop.

Landrieu accused the Federal Emergency Management Agency of being too tightfisted.

The agency acts "more like a supercharged comptroller's office than a supercharged recovery office," she said.

In New Orleans, Bush will speak at Jackson Barracks, the state headquarters for the Louisiana National Guard. The 100-acre (40-hectare) base straddles the city's Orleans and St. Bernard parishes, two of the areas hit hardest by Katrina, and has been undergoing a \$210 million reconstruction.

The property contains a large collection of historic buildings, including antebellum homes that overlook the Mississippi River.

Rebuilding the barracks was viewed as strategically important. The facility and the thousands of people who worked there are an economic engine for the city.

"If it's left abandoned, certainly that isn't helpful to the redevelopment of either of those heavily damaged neighborhoods that surround it," said Wade Ragas, a New Orleans real estate consultant.

The White House agreed this month to give Louisiana 30 years to repay \$1.8 billion for levee improvements in the New Orleans area. The money initially was to be repaid by 2011. But state officials said they needed 30 to avoid hurting a still-recovering economy.

Racial slur painted on northern Virginia black church

McLEAN, Va. (AP) _ Fairfax County police are searching for the person who painted a racial epithet on a historic black church in McLean over the weekend.

Parishioners at First Baptist Church of Chesterbrook found the word spray-painted next to the front door of the church Sunday morning. Police didn't say what slur was used, but WUSA-TV reports it was the N-word.

Police say they later discovered additional graffiti at Chesterbrook Elementary School. They believe the markings were made by the same person or group of people.

Destruction of property is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail.

Parishioners say they are shocked by the racist graffiti.

NAACP says probe of inmate's death taking too long

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP) _ The Prince George's County chapter of the NAACP and the family of an inmate found dead in his jail cell in June say an investigation of the death is taking too long.

Bobby Henry, an attorney for the family, says they want the federal government to take full control of the probe into Ronnie White's death. The 19-year-old was found dead June 29. He had been arrested on charges of killing county police officer Cpl. Richard Findley.

June White Dillard, president of the NAACP chapter, says the investigation is taking a long time and that people are losing faith in county officials.

Public Safety Director Vernon Herron says it's unfair to blame the county. He says county officials also are awaiting results of the investigation.

It's been nearly six weeks since the last significant update on the case. The FBI and Maryland State Police took control of the probe at the request of Prince George's officials.